



The Genealogy Society of Southern Illinois

c/o John A. Logan College, 700 Logan College Road, Carterville, IL 62918-2500

www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ilgssi

NEWSLETTER

Volume 42, # 8

November 2014

Next General Meeting

Saturday, December 8, 2014

John A. Logan College Library

1:00 - 3:30 p.m.

The JALC Library and the GSSI Genealogy Collection will be open for research on December 6 beginning at 1:00 p.m. The Governing Board will convene at that time to conduct routine business and accept the Report of the Nominating Committee. The slate of candidates for office in 2015 will be voted on by the membership at the General Meeting, which will begin at 2:00 p.m. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.

Annual Meeting and Election of Officers

2:00 - 2:30 p.m.

Also on the agenda for the Annual Meeting are two Amendments to the 2007 GSSI Constitution that were approved by the Board at its October Meeting. The recommended amendments are as follows, with changes of wording or numbers in red italics.

- Article IV, Section 2. The officers shall be elected at the *Annual* Meeting to serve for a term of one year, except the directors. Two Directors shall be elected each year and each shall serve for three years.
 - *Rationale: The current constitution calls for the election of officers in December, but last year the December meeting was cancelled because of wintery weather, and the election had to be postponed until January. This amendment changes the election to the Annual Meeting, which henceforth will be held in late summer or early autumn during the Family History Conference.*
- Article VIII, Section 1. A quorum at any general meeting of the membership shall consist of at least *16* members, and *5* elected officers.
 - *Rationale: This changes the quorum required to conduct business at a general meeting of the Society from 31 to 21 because total GSSI membership is smaller than in 2007.*

Please plan to attend this very important meeting. A two-thirds vote of the membership present is required for these amendments to take effect. We value your voice and your vote.

Program on December 6
Edward O'Day,
"Internet Archive: Gateway to Free Digitized Books and Documents"
2:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Following the voting, **Ed O'Day** will present a program on the Internet Archive and FamilySearch, which together offer access to millions of digital images of books and documents free of charge. Internet Archive <Archive.org> has been building a digital library of texts, films, audio recordings, and music since 1996. Its Open Library project, launched in 2006, contains searchable texts of one million older public domain books, many of them very useful to genealogists. Links to digitized records at the National Archives and several research libraries offer documents not found for free elsewhere on the internet.

The Family History Library in Salt Lake City began digitizing its microfilm and book collections in 1998 and now counts over 1 billion images in its collection, among them a Digital Book Collection with 150,000 family histories. These images are freely accessible at FamilySearch.org, although not all of them are yet indexed. After a brief introduction to the Internet Archive and FamilySearch websites, O'Day will illustrate how to navigate both sites successfully.

O'Day is an Emeritus Professor of History at SIUC, a Past President of GSSI and he currently serves as Webmaster for the Society. He began his family history research in the 1970's and has been an invited speaker at many genealogy conferences in the Midwest and abroad, most recently at the GSSI 2013 Family History Conference.

October Meeting

Sue Glasco presented a program on the "Myths and Mysteries in Cherokee Heritage" to some two dozen attentive listeners at the Harrisburg Public Library on Saturday, October 18. "Princess Otakhi," daughter of Chief Jesse Bushyhead, who was among the thousands of Cherokee who crossed Southern Illinois on the Trail of Tears in 1838, was part and parcel of the myth.



Sue shared a photo of the memorial erected to her memory in 1961 in Missouri and explained the fallacies that it contains. As evidence, she also produced a letter from Jess Bushyhead, a 3rd great grandson of Rev. Jesse Bushyhead, which said in part "There are not - and never have been any 'Cherokee Princesses.' This is a romantic, inaccurate and patronizing figment of the white man's imagination. The sooner this silliness is vanquished, . . . the sooner we can see 'Princess Otakhi Bushyheadi' for whom she must have been - not royalty, not a noble savage, but a human being."

Responding to questions from the audience, Mrs. Glasco also spoke briefly about Priscilla, a slave girl purchased from a Cherokee chief at Jonesboro by Barzilla Silkwood of Franklin County. She is credited with bringing the first Hollyhock seeds to Mulkeytown. And in response to a query about advice that she would give to a beginning genealogist, she recommended talking to as many family members as possible, but cautioned about accepting everything they say.

Queries

Researching **Hardesty, Cross, Porter, McKinzie, McMurtry.**

Richard Hardesty rhardest@tampabay.rr.com

Researching James D. **Rhymer (Rymer)** of Southern Illinois.

Peggy Roberts proberts45@att.net

Other News

St. Louis Genealogical Society

The next scheduled meeting will be Saturday, the **8th of November 2014** at St. Louis County Library Headquarters in the auditorium at 10 a.m. Archivists Nick Allen and Mike Everman will present "Details of a Probate File: Gone but not Forgotten." Probate estate files often contain information that can assist genealogists. Learn about these valuable records and how to access them.

Forgotten Chicagoans Rediscovered

The names of over 8000 people who may have died penniless or without family in the long forgotten Cook County Cemetery have been rediscovered and are now available free to the public. The Cook County Cemetery was located at what is now the intersection of Irving Park Road and Narragansett Avenue on Chicago's Northwest Side between 1861-1922. Its name changed over the years, finally becoming the Chicago State Hospital Cemetery (c. 1912), on the grounds of the institution commonly called "Dunning". Over 38,000 bodies were interred in Cook County Cemetery. The Read Dunning Memorial park was built in 2001 on a portion of the cemetery.

Those buried there comprised the poor, the insane, the young, victims of violence, Civil War veterans, and many simply were unknown. 117 were identified as those who died in the Chicago Fire of 1871. Only a few fragments of grave markers endured. Now the Cook County Cemetery at Dunning [database](#), compiled by Barry Fleig, may be able to give back some dignity to those that remained forgotten for so long.

- with thanks to [Barry A Fleig](#)

Upcoming Meetings

March 14, 2015, Cairo Public Library, "The Irish in Early Cairo."

August 8, 2015, John A. Logan College. Annual Family History Conference and Book Fair.

Renew Membership for 2015 by Mail or On-line

Members may renew either by completing and mailing the form below or by using PayPal at our web store. <http://ilgssiorg.ipage.com/store/page2.html>.

All Memberships are for the calendar year, and include four print issues of *The Saga of Southern Illinois* and regular electronic issues of the *GSSI Newsletter*. Please note that there is an added charge of \$10.00 to cover printing and mailing for those members who wish to receive a print Newsletter by mail. Other fees apply to late payment (after March 15, 2015) or for foreign postage.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & RENEWAL FORM FOR 2015

STATUS: New Membership Renew Membership Rejoining Member

DUES: - Individual or Family Membership - -----\$25
 Sustaining Membership - -----\$35
 Supporting Membership -----\$50 or More

ADDED FEES for SPECIAL SERVICE

: Late Renewals (after March 15-----\$5.00
: Printed Newsletters by Mail-----\$10.00
: *Saga* delivered to Address outside U. S.--\$10.00

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP+4: _____ - _____

EMAIL: _____ PHONE: _____

Total enclosed: _____

Make check payable to: Genealogy Society of Southern Illinois and mail to:
Membership Chair, Genealogy Society of Southern Illinois,
c/o John A. Logan College, 700 Logan College Road, Carterville, IL 62918-2500

Surnames and locations you are researching:

Query to be published in the Newsletter:
