

WHAT IS THIS?

Your Membership Card! -----

(If you have paid your dues --

WHEN? July 21, 1972

Otherwise, a nearly-blank space!)

WHAT? NEWSLETTER # 1

FROM? Mrs. Florence Hutchison, President
Jacksonville Area Genealogical Society
P. O. Box 21, Jacksonville ILL 62650

JACKSONVILLE AREA
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
P. O. Box 21
Jacksonville, Ill. 62650

Welcome aboard the Good Ship "J-A-GENEAL-S" with its 100 passengers & crew!
And what fruitful passage of Time - 6 short months, in which we have had 6 night and 6 day meetings to the credit of the 21st Genealogical Society to be organized in the 21st State in the Union. Total attendance 305.
How's that for a good start?

Prior to January 26, 1972, there was no Genealogical organization in west central Illinois near Jacksonville, except societies in Sangamon and Brown-Schuyler counties. An idea was exchanged between two people - Florence Hutchison inquiring of Past President Lowell Volkel how to become a member of the Illinois State Genealogical Society. During the conversation Lowell said, wishfully, "Some day we want to try to organize a Society in Jacksonville."

Florence, inspired by the thought, secured the Illinois Power Auditorium for the night of January 26th, put notices in several newspapers in Jacksonville and surrounding counties, and prayed that there would be no snow-storms.

The "First-Nighters' Honor Roll" was established for persons interested in such an organization by attendance, sending cards, or telephoning the Membership committee if they were unable to be present. There are 70 persons listed as "FIRST-NIGHTERS", 50 of them in attendance on January 26th.

And then the eventful night came - clear, cold, and beautiful. First the courtesy committee of the Jacksonville Woman's Club, under the chairmanship of its President, Mrs. Helen Hierman, enticed visitors with tasty coffee and cookies.

Mrs. Florence Hutchison, temporary chairman, welcomed the visitors from FIVE Counties, and explained the purposes of the meeting. She introduced Lowell Volkel, the first President of the Illinois State Genealogical Society when it was chartered, who inspired the listeners with his views of the advantages of such a Society in the preservation of our records and our heritage. He in turn introduced Mrs. Henrietta Jesse, second President of the state society, currently Chairman of the Guidance Committee for Forming New Societies.

Henrietta asked the audience two important questions:

Do you want to be an organized Society?

Do you want to elect a permanent slate of officers this evening?

Upon unanimous affirmative answers by the persons present, she called for nominations. The following officers were subsequently voted upon, and duly elected;

Mrs. Florence Hutchison, Jacksonville, President;

Mr. Robert Dalton, Jacksonville, Vice-President;

Mrs. Emily Sievers, Jacksonville, Recording Secretary;

Mr. John Griswold, White Hall, Treasurer;

Mrs. Gail Eck, Alexander, Corresponding Secretary.

Mrs. Janet Coble, Jacksonville, was appointed Publicity Chairman later.

Among several names, JACKSONVILLE AREA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY was selected, since our desires were to serve people interested in preserving their family heritage over as wide an area as possible.

And soooo - from January 2nd to July 26th -- we have expanded from
AN IDEA to 100 CHARTER MEMBERS!

It is such a privilege and a pleasure for your President to extend her greetings to you members and friends - wherever you are - over 8 Illinois Counties, and 5 States, including Arkansas, Connecticut, Indiana, Missouri, & Nebraska!

The story of this fantastic growth is better than Cinderella's fairy tale. We should have named this Society "ENTHUSIASM UNLIMITED!" - judging by the reactions of our "eager-beaver members".

Charter memberships in this "up-and-coming Society" are still available to the other members of your family - to your friends - to your relatives residing elsewhere in the world. (As the President stated at one of the meetings, "The world is our domain.")

Dues are \$4.00 per person, plus \$1.00 each for a spouse or child living in the home. Junior memberships for young people in school is also \$1.00.

Along with your check, send your name and mailing address.

Wives should include, with her social name, her given and maiden names.

The name of each child membership should be included.

Each person will receive a membership card.

Send dues to: John Griswold, 264 South Main, White Hall ILL 62092,

or to: P. O. Box 21, Jacksonville ILL 62650

How about doubling our J-A-GENEAL-S population by December 26th (or before). If any person desires a Charter Life Membership for \$100.00, this would be very acceptable. So far, no one is listed in this category. Who wants to be the first?

Instead of publishing a Journal, we decided to send NEWSLETTER # 1, under first-class postage, to every family represented in our files, along with the membership card stapled to the top of the first sheet - for those who have paid their dues. This way we can test our mailing list for accuracy.

We have had quite a time composing our membership list, since our officers are scattered in 3 towns. Being human, we are subject to mistakes. Sooo, if you have paid your dues, and did not receive your membership card with this letter - please inform your Treasurer or President as to method (cash or check) - to whom paid - and when. We are proud of every member who has chosen to ride with us on the Good Ship "J-A-GENEAL-S", and do not want to miss a single passenger!

In lieu of publishing a Journal, due to lack of experience - and finances we are preparing a SURNAME INDEX, and hope to print it before the Illinois State Genealogical Society Annual Fall Conference, September 29 & 30, at Hotel St. Nicholas, in Springfield.

Be sure to attend this conference -- it's going to be good!

The enclosed INFORMATION SHEET gives you the format for our SURNAME INDEX. We hope to use the Ohio system, whereby more information is given:

SURNAME	GIVEN NAME	B I R T H YEAR STATE	SPOUSE'S NAME	YEAR MARR.	YEAR DIED	STATE BUR'D
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Fill in as much information as you have available. If a married couple submits surnames, put on separate pages. Be sure to keep a copy for reference in your files. If more than 1 sheet is needed, you can send for more, or make a facsimile. We would like married couples to list their address as i.e., Harry and Mary (Jones) Scarbrough - which identifies the maiden name of the wife.

DEADLINE: for sending SURNAME INDEX SHEETS -- August 30, 1972. But sooner, - if possible - so that our committee chairman, Mrs. Virginia Gordon can start compiling information. Send them to P. O. Box 21, Jacksonville ILL 62650

Your President would also appreciate a letter from you, along with the SURNAME INDEX - if you care to write - offering suggestions for the betterment of our Society - asking questions - giving us ideas for programs - sharing good ideas, or references, - offering assistance for which you have talents - anything of benefit to the continued growth of our flourishing Society! --and, names of persons you think would be interested in our organization.

Most of all, we would like copies of cemetery listings in your possession.

Your President has just uncovered several Morgan, Scott, Cass county cemetery listings - made in 1929 by Sarah John English, not included in her books at our Public Library, and Illinois State Historical Library indexed under her name. In her published books you will find many Bible records, and family genealogies.

We have zeroxed 93 pages, so far, as a basis for starting Cemetery Reference Notebooks for use of our members. We have also located a List of Cemeteries for Morgan and Greene Counties compiled in 1954.

We are so thankful for the contributions on Greene County cemeteries sent to us by Mr. and Mrs. John W. King of Carrollton, on those hard to reach, and some quite old. Among them are Admire, Mills, Mayberry, Mulberry (King), Fry, Clendenin, Varble, Old Catholic, Erwin, Elm Dale, Gernigan, Carter & Hopewell or Morfoot.

And soooo- one of our major projects for this year: *to gather as many cemetery listings for Morgan and nearby counties as possible!*

Perhaps we can later publish an Index of these holdings, and make available, for the first time, tombstone inscriptions from many cemeteries in west central Illinois.

Won't you please contribute to this project?

BUT: please describe the location of the cemetery as best you can - its name - County - and your name and address - so that we would know with whom to check.

If you have QUERIES, send them to our Corresponding Secretary, MRS. GAIL ECK, P. O. Box 72, Alexander ILL 62401.

Follow the pattern of our Illinois State Genealogical Society - no more than 50 words - no abbreviations - double spacing - each query on a separate page. We do not know when these will be published - free to members - perhaps some might be included in the Surname Index - depending upon its size and format.

With no precedence or experience to guide your officers - we do not know what our capabilities or talents are in the publishing field.

None of your officers have had previous membership in a genealogical society - everything is new to everybody; but we do not let newness to the subject dim our bright views for accomplishment thus far, nor hopes for the future.

We meet monthly, through the summer, on the SECOND THURSDAY AFTERNOON at 1:30 p.m. at the Jacksonville Public Library.

We meet monthly, through the summer, on the FOURTH THURSDAY EVENING at the Illinois Power Auditorium. We are so grateful for the great service Illinois Power renders to Jacksonville by letting groups such as our Society use their lovely Auditorium at 1900 West Lafayette. While meetings start at 7:30 p.m., we encourage members and visitors to arrive much earlier (doors open at 6:30), and engage in conversation with new-found friends. Won't you join us? and get acquainted with some mighty fine people.

At our next monthly meeting Thursday evening July 27th, we will discuss cemetery records. Bring any you can share with us. We shall appreciate copies for our Cemetery Reference Notebooks. We want to cross-check each listing, and bring them all up to date, discover and correct any errors in reading or typing.

Space is gone! My special thanks to all officers and committee members who so faithfully "work behind the scenes". Adieu J-A-GENEAL-S, Florence Hutchison, Pres.