

# Edgar County Genealogical Society

**Volume XXVVI**  
**Number 1**

**August 2014**

## *Special points of interest:*

2014 Annual Meeting &  
Edythe Stephens Family History Award

Illinois: Land of  
Opportunity!

2015 Dues - if you haven't paid, this is your last issue!

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## Edythe Stephens Family History Award Presented

During the annual meeting that was held Monday, June 2nd, 2014, the Edythe Stephens Family History Award was presented to Phyllis **Sutton**, pictured below with Linda **Cary**, presenter.

"The Genealogical Society started giving this award in 1990, as a tribute to a person/persons for outstanding service in the preservation of local family histories and archives. The recipient name and year is engraved on the plaque, which hangs on the wall of the Genealogy Library, and the

recipient is given a framed certificate.

The award for 2014 is being given to a special person who has been a big help in the Genealogy Library, is a family researcher, photographer of tombstones and gave a lot of her time to the abstracting of the 1940 U. S. Federal Census. She is also a member of the Edgar County Genealogical Society.

It is my honor to announce this years' recipient - Phyllis Sutton."



## Coming Events

All events in the Historical Annex at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted

### *Monday, September 8th, 2014*

Local resident, Larry Soberg will give a presentation on his recent genealogical research trip to Norway.

### *October 24th -25th Illinois State Genealogical Society 2014 Fall Conference*

See page 4 for more details.

Check our Facebook page anytime for the latest updates!

## Society Information

### Society Officers 2013-14

President

Sharlynn **Kraemer**

Vice President

Jenny **Barkley**

Program Chair

Secretary

Teresa **Pennington**

Treasurer

David **Neal**

Newsletter Editor

Debbie **Wilson**

Director (2nd year/3 yr term)

A. Joyce **Brown**

Webmaster

Teresa **Pennington**

### Membership:

**Individual \$20 annually**

**Single Life \$150**

Annual Year: July 1 - June 30

Newsletter published:

August, November,

February & May

Each membership receives one volume (four issues) of the Newsletter annually.

Fees received after March 1st will be applied to the coming year, unless you state otherwise on membership application.

### Meetings:

The Society presents four programs yearly, including the Annual Business Meeting in June. Those are announced in the Newsletter, the Paris, IL Beacon News, on our website and Facebook pages.

### Queries:

Each member is entitled to at least one query published annually in the Newsletter, more as space permits.

Non-Members are charged \$2 per query.

Please limit each query to 10 typed lines, including your name and address. A query should provide at least 3 items: name(s), date(s) and location(s).

### Address Changes:

If your address is changing for any reason (moving or 911 address change) ECGS must be notified. We ARE NOT responsible for lost copies of the Newsletter. Replacement cost is \$3 per issue if you joined after July 2014, you will have to pay \$1.50 extra to receive the past Newsletters. If you joined after October 2014, you will need to add \$2.00 extra. And if you joined after January 2015, you will need to add \$2.75 extra to your annual dues. **All past Newsletters must be mailed separately.**

ILLINOIS STATE  
Genealogical Society  
#361R27  
Founded in 1984

*The Society welcomes **Ancestor Charts** from ECGS members for publication. Charts must be typed or clearly printed on 8 1/2" X 11" paper. A letter, signed and dated by the submitter must be included with the charts, giving permission to ECGS to publish the charts in the next available Newsletter issue.*

*After publication all charts will be places in the files of the Genealogy Library for reference by other family researchers. Please be sure to include your name, address (snail and email) and current date on each chart.*

## ECGS Annual Meeting

On Monday, June 2nd, the Edgar County Genealogical Society held its annual meeting. The nominating committee presented the following as the proposed slate of officers for the 2014-15 year.

President: Sharlynn **Kraemer**

Vice President: Jenny **Barkley**

Treasurer: David **Neal**

Secretary: Teresa **Pennington**

Webmaster: Teresa **Pennington**

Newsletter Editor: Debbie **Wilson**

A vote was taken and all were elected to the positions.

The audit committee will consist of : Linda **Cary** and Teresa **Pennington**.

The Edythe Stephens Family History award was presented to Phyllis **Sutton**, see article on page 1.

The meeting was adjourned and refreshment were served.

Due to the Labor Holiday, it was decided to move the next meeting of the ECGS to Monday, September 8th. Check our website and facebook page for program details.

# Edgar County Genealogy Library

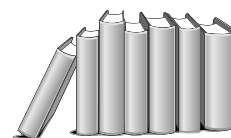
Dear ECGS Members and ECGL Patrons,

Wish all of you could enjoy the cool summer weather with some nice showers along that Edgar County has been having.

Although patrons coming into the Library have slowed down considerably, new resources are continually to our collection. Most recent additions include: **GISH**; *Footprints in the Sand of Time* by I. M. Gish, 1970; *Civil War History of Terrence **Clark** and Charles A **Clark*** by N Reed, 2012; *First United Methodist Church, Paris, IL*, 2008; **Ashley Family** by M J Martin, 2014; **Brownlee & Smith** by C S Tovar, 2013; *Mother Mary Ann **Brown Newcomb**, Civil War Nurse* By L H Ruholl, 2013; **Patten-Griffith** by Mrs. G. A. Patten Crawford [1813-1931].

Volumes I, II, IV, V, VII, VIII of *The **Tingley*** by M M Fry, beginning in 1907 have been donated to ECGL by Dwight Vidito. The most recent is J A. Reid's *Brochure of ...Paris, Illinois... With Sketches of...Marshall, Kansas, Chrisman* [& Terre Haute, Indiana with] *Birds Eye View's* and histories by J E Longmuir.

A. Joyce Brown



408 N Main  
Paris, IL 61944-1549

217-463-4209

Hours:  
Wednesday,  
Thursday & Friday  
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Closed all holidays

Call for appointments during off hours or during inclement weather



Among the  
many photos in the  
above brochure: the  
*Edgar County*  
*Courthouse* in 1913

## **Librarians:**

A. Joyce Brown  
Linda Cary  
Fred Delap  
Norm Carroll  
Linda Barrett  
Jenny Barkley  
Phyllis Sutton  
Judy Cash

# Illinois State Genealogical Society Fall Conference

## Illinois: Land of Opportunity

October 24th and 25th - O'Fallon, Illinois

This conference, open to ISGS members and non-members, is being held in O'Fallon, Illinois at The Regency Conference Center with accommodations at the Hilton Garden Inn.

Featured speakers include J. Mark Lowe, full-time professional researcher & educator. He researches for clients including *Who Do you Think You Are?*, *African American Lives* or Biography's *unexplained*.

Tony Burroughs, founder and CEO of The Center for Black Genealogy. Tony is Vice-President of the Illinois State Genealogical Society.

Patricia Walls Stamm teaches at St. Louis Community College and is a research trip leader for Washington, DC and Fort Wayne, Indiana.

LaDonna Garner has an M. A. in Historic Preservation focusing in nonprofits and cemetery preservation.

Gwyneth Podeschi is Reference Librarian in the Printed and Published Department of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and is the library's liaison to the Board of the ISGS.

Among the many programs are African American Genealogy Basics, Black Migrations, Preservation of Midwest Pioneer Cemeteries, Early River Towns, Researching Pullman Porters: Railroad records for African Americans, What is IRAD?, Southern Illinois Genealogical Research Facilities, Farmers, Tenant Farmers, and Share Croppers, Journey Along with Our River and Canal Ancestors and ISGS Prairie Pioneer and Military Certificate Projects, along with many other programs.

There will also be several opportunities to browse the many vendors that will be at the conference, the ISGS annual meeting and awards program, a reception dinner and many more activities during this 2 day conference.

To learn more about the annual conference, becoming a member or about the services offered at the ISGS, visit the Illinois State Genealogical Society at <http://ilgensoc.org>.

Just a few of the things you will find on the ISGS website include: monthly webinar series information, newsletters, military & death certificates, Prairie Pioneers and free databases. If you haven't ever visited the site or it has been a while, please take a few minutes and see what the Illinois State Genealogical Society has to offer you!

## Where Edgar County Gets Its Name

The following article was printed in the Paris Beacon-News Saturday, January 18, 2014 in the “100 years ago” column.

Edgar County was organized on January 3, 1823. It perpetuates the name of General John **Edgar**, whose greatest service to his country was that he saved Vermont and, in all probability, New Hampshire and Maine from becoming a part of Canada.

He was the greatest landholder and the wealthiest resident of Illinois, in his day.

Born in Ireland, John **Edgar** commanded a British vessel on Lakes Huron and Erie when the American Revolution began. He espoused the cause of the colonies, was arrested August 24, 1779 by the British in Detroit and served over two years in prison.

He had married a cultured woman in Boston, and it was her influence as well as his Irish love of justice that prompted him to turn against King George III.

In September 1781, General **Edgar** learned of a plot to betray Vermont to the enemy. He told his story to Governor George Clinton at Albany, N. Y. General Clinton sent him with a letter to the New York delegates in Congress, which then was sitting in Philadelphia. The conspiracy was foiled as a result of General Edgar's information, and three states were saved to the young nation.

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More information about the history of our county comes the “*The History of Edgar County*” which is available at the ECGL.

When Illinois was admitted into the Union as a State, in 1818, it was composed of fifteen counties. One of these, Crawford, included what is now Edgar County. The influx of immigrants to the northern portions of Crawford County, in 1819 and 1820, led to the formation of Clark County, which, by a similar manner, in the spring of 1823, suffered a division, and Edgar County was the result. In pursuance of the act of organization, an election was held in the spring of 1823, when John B. **Alexander**, Elijah **Austin** and Charles **Ives** were elected County Commissioners.

The first settlement made in Stratton Township is supposed to have been made by Daniel **Lane** in the spring of 1818.

Edward Purcell was probably the next to locate in this township. He was born in Knox County, Ind., and came to Edgar County in the fall of 1818.

William **Van Houtin**, James **Farnham**, Chancy **Adkins** and John **Van Dewson** came from New York, and settled in this township in 1818-19. **Van Houtin** died years ago, but has two sons, Benjamin and Thomas, who are still living here, enterprising men of the community. James **Farnham** was a son-in-law of **Van Houtin**.

Isaac **Sandford** settled in the south part of Stratton, and was the richest man in the neighborhood. He came also from New York in the fall of 1819.

For more information about the formation and history of Edgar, visit the Edgar County Genealogy Library and ask the Librarians about “*The History of Edgar County*”.

## Civil War Photos

The following photos were donated to the Edgar County Genealogical Society by member Carolyn **Stone Pennington** from Montgomery, IL. Thank you Carolyn for these wonderful pictures!

(Right)

William Harrison **VanSickle**

(1842-1884)

Civil War, Union Soldier

Private/Sergeant Co. K, 54th Reg. IL Inf.

Residence listed at Bloomfield, IL

William was the great-great grandfather  
of Carolyn.



(Left)

Harmon **Lamb**

(1844-1919)

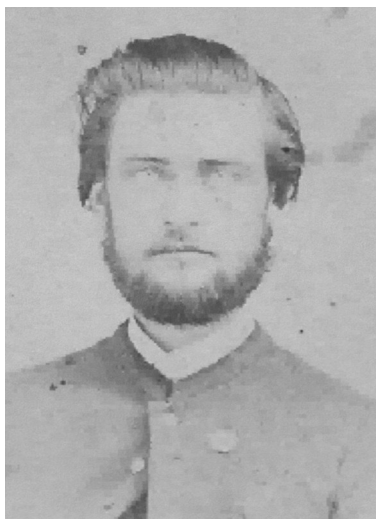
Civil War, Union Soldier

Private - Co. G, 70th Reg., IL Inf.

Full Corporal - Co. K, 54th Reg. IL Inf.

Residence listed as Paris, IL

Harmon was the 1st cousin 4 times  
removed



of Carolyn

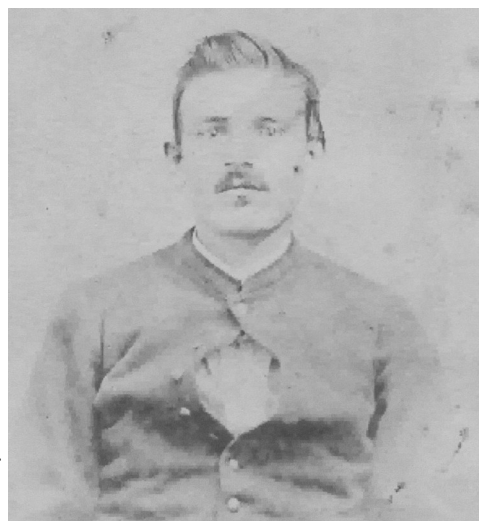
(Right)

Ike J. **Lamb**

(1846-1908)

Civil War, Union Soldier

Private/Full Corporal



## Gleanings from local newspapers

Paris Daily Beacon-News (Thursday, April 5, 1928)

The funeral of Ellis **Brill**, 83 years old, was held at 2:30 o'clock Tuesday afternoon in Redmon, Ill., where he died Sunday morning following an illness due to general debility and complications.

Mr. **Brill** was born in Guernsey County, Ohio, April 30, 1845, the son of Solomon and Mary A. **Foraker Brill**, natives of Ohio, who came to Illinois in 1870, locating in Edgar county.

In February 1864, Mr. **Brill** enlisted in Company D, 60th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, in which eh served as corporal until the close of the war. He was wounded in the engagement at Petersburg, Va.

On September 26, 1867 he was married to Lurilla **Dillon** and in 1870 came to Edgar co. His wife survives.

He was a member of the M. E. Church, The Modern Woodmen and Odd Fellow lodges.

Paris Daily Beacon-News (Saturday, January 9, 1897)

Few people have any adequate idea of the extent of the combination sale business, originated and built up in this city by Geo. H. **Augustus**. It occurred to a BEACON representative recently to ask Mr. **Augustus** for some figures showing the growth of his enterprise and he very cheerfully complied with the request. We cannot do better than to quote his own utterances which were as follows:

"I commenced business in a wagon yard in the spring of 1895, conducting three sales in march and April of that year; then feeling that the success of the venture was assured, I commenced in June, the construction of the present barn and sale yard which were completed the following September; the first sale in the new barn being held on Sept. 19th, 1895. On Dec. 31st, 1896, I conducted the 34th sale, the last of a remarkably successful year's business. You will appreciate this more fully when I tell you that the aggregate business done in the thirty-four sales, amounts to \$161,087.33, an average of \$4,737.83. The last ten sales have amounted to \$87,968.04, an average of \$8,796.80. These sales were held during the last five months of 1896 and show a substantial growth of business notwithstanding the general stagnation, wrought by the excitement of the campaign and the uncertainty attendant thereon. I feel very thankful to the citizen of Paris and Edgar county for the patronage and encouragement they have constantly given me and will do all in my power to continue to merit their good will. I try to conduct my sales in an honorable and business like way and it is my constant aim to give our good citizens reason to speak kindly of them. I trust in them to make the **Augustus** combination sale a permanent market which will be a source of honor and pride to our city and county."

The next sale will be conducted on Thursday, Jan. 14th, and will afford some rare bargains in hogs, horses, cattle and milch cows. There are 180 head of cattle, very choice yearlings and two year olds and the horses include some first class animals for riding, driving or working purposes; several good Jerseys and other first class family milch cows are to be offered; also some miscellaneous property in the way of rag carpets, pictures and furniture. You can't afford to miss this sale. Remember the date, Jan. 14th, and be on hand to get your share of the good things to be offered.

Paris Daily Beacon-News (April 1, 1927)

The **O'Hair** clan will gather this evening at the home of Hon. Frank T. **O'Hair** in an interesting family party. The former Representative in Congress has invited his first cousins for the affair, which promises to be a brilliant affair.

Genealogical experts have traced the history of the **O'Hair** family to 802 A. D., or before the time of the Cromwell invasion.

Adin **Baber**, president of the First National Bank of Paris; Fred **O'Hair**, president of a bank at Greencastle, Ind.; Bill **Frazier** of Charleston, Herford cattle king of the Chicago fat stock show; Judge James **Swango** of Terre Haute, Ind.; Karl **O'Hair**, president of the Paris Chamber of Commerce; Asa **Greathouse**, Buick dealer for Paris, and their wives will be in attendance.

Mr. **O'Hair** has dubbed the members of the party as "The Dukes of Ireland". One of them has a pitchfork of the vintage of 1648. This and a number of other interesting relics of their ancestors will be on display.

The culinary end of the celebration will not be neglected. A turkey dinner with all of the trimmings will be served.

Paris Daily Beacon News (Wednesday, January 7, 1970)

Edward S. **Grumbache**, well-known Paris industrial executive died early this morning in his winter apartment at Palm Beach, Fla. Mr. **Grumbache**, president of Midwest Body & Manufacturing Division, had been spending the winter in Florida since mid-November although he had returned to Paris briefly in December.

Mrs. **Grumbache**, who was at the **Grumbache** home in Paris was notified this morning of Mr. **Grumbache's** death, was flying to Palm Beach this afternoon. A son, Robert **Grumbache** of Garden City, Mich., a Detroit suburb, also was flying to Florida.

Funeral arrangements are incomplete but will be conducted by the Sutton and Son Funeral home in Paris. The family has suggested that memorial gifts may be made to the Edgar County Children's Home or to the Heart Fund.

Mr. **Grumbache** came to Paris in June, 1942, as general manager of the Midwest Body and Manufacturing Division which was established by the Electrographic Corp. of Detroit when the firm purchased the old Cummins card and interurban manufacturing plant at the south edge of Paris. Mr. **Grumbache** served as general manager and president of Midwest for 26 years, guiding the company's growth and expansion into the nation's largest manufacturer of truck bodies and associated parts. Prior to coming to Paris he served for approximately 20 years as a General Motors manufacturing executive in Detroit. During World War II Midwest was a major defense contractor.

Mr. **Grumbache** also was active in civic and professional affairs and was one of the community leaders who developed the impressive War Memorial on the East side of the courthouse square.

He was an active in the Paris Chamber of Commerce and the Illinois State Chamber of Commerce, service on the state Chambers' board of directors for three consecutive terms starting in 1948. Mr. **Grumbache** also served as president of his professional trade organization, the Truck Body and Equipment Association, Inc.

Funeral arrangements are expected to be announced Thursday.

Mrs. Margaret **Stewart**, 64, 1114 Beech St., (Marshall), died Tuesday. She was a member of the Trinity Methodist Church. Surviving are the husband, Leslie; two sons, Truman **Duke**, Henderson, Ky., and Harold Gene **Duke**, California; a broth and two sisters. Services will be at 1 p.m. Friday at the Marrs Funeral Home, with burial in Marshall Cemetery. Friends may call after 2 p.m. Thursday.

Mrs. **Stewart** was born Sept. 17, 1905 in Madisonville, Ky. Re. Leonard T. Martz will conduct funeral services.

# Member Information

## NEW MEMBERS

**Andrews, Kyle** - 151 Riverside Dr., Cape Canaveral, FL 32920

Email: kyleinfla@gmail.com

Surnames: **Andrews, Colson, Woodyard, Gaines, Gilkey**

**Todd, Sherry L. H.** - 35182 Quartz St., Yucaipa, CA 92399

Email: stoddco1@aol.com

Surnames: **Frazier, O'Hair, Story, Hunt**

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### Edgar County, IL Marriages: