

Edgar County Genealogical Society

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Number I

August 2017

*Edythe Stephens Family
History Award*

7 Facts about your ancestors found in obituaries and death notices

11 Tips for reading old handwriting

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"Which DNA Test is Right for You? A Layman's Guide to Genealogical DNA Testing".

Are you thinking of doing a DNA test, but find the choices confusing? Have you done a test and need some help making sense of the results? Join us for an introductory program on DNA testing and genetic genealogy.

Tim Phipps, an acknowledged expert in DNA testing, will present "Which DNA Test is Right for You? A Layman's Guide to Genealogical DNA Testing" at 7pm on September 18, 2017 at the Edgar County Historical Museum Annex, 408 N. Main St.

The presentation will be an overview of DNA testing in genealogy, explaining what each test can reveal and outlining the offerings of major DNA testing companies.

Tim Phipps is a native of Terre Haute who has researched his family's history for nearly twenty years and has also researched Civil War history in Parke County, where his family settled in the 1830's. For the past seven years, he has studied the role of DNA testing in traditional genealogical research.

This program is hosted by Edgar County Genealogical Society and is open to everyone interested in family history.

DNA clipart from <http://www.bing.com/images/search?view=detailv2&ccid=Mcfhpufrhl3S5zg1OK7WQC0Es&q=free+clip+art+dna&simid=607990495388372570&selectedIndex=0&ajaxhist=0>



Coming Events

All events in the Historical Annex at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted
Meetings are open to everyone interested in family history.

Monday, September 18, 2017

Which DNA Test is Right for You? A Layman's Guide to Genealogical DNA Testing

Check our Facebook page anytime for the latest updates!

Society Information

Society Officers 2017-18

President

Judy **Cash**

Vice President

Jenny **Barkley**

Program Chair

Secretary

Teresa **Pennington**

Treasurer

David **Neal**

Newsletter Editor

Debbie **Wilson**

Director (3rd year/3 yr term)

Phyllis **Sutton**

Webmaster

Teresa **Pennington**

Membership:

Individual \$25 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 Prairie Press, 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 20167 you will have to pay \$1.50 extra to receive the past Newsletters. If you joined after October 2017, you will need to add \$2.00 extra. And if you joined after January 2018, 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 placed 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.

Edythe Stephens Family History Award

The Edythe Stephens Family History Award was presented to Judy **Cash** at the annual meeting of the Edgar County Genealogical Society on Monday, June 5, 2017.

This award is presented to someone that has made a contribution to the genealogical community. Judy is a an example for all of us. She and her husband, Fenton, are active members in the Edgar County Genealogical Society, she is a volunteer librarian, serves as current president of the ECGS, participates in meetings and workshops in area societies and groups, has published her family history and still actively researches her ancestors.

Judy is an asset to all groups she is involved in and a fine example of a family historian.

Congratulations Judy!

October is Family History Month - What have you got planned?

Edgar County Genealogy Library

Hello Genealogists,

The Edgar County Genealogy Library is not a loaning library, our collection of books cannot be loaned. If we started this and a book was taken out and not returned, how do you think we could replace it? What would happen if someone from out of state came to see a certain book and someone had borrowed it?

Coming to visit – heads up, part of the shelves have been reorganized. Some of the materials that are used more have been placed on lower shelves. This will help with some of the smaller booklets that get slid back and also the larger books that can become heavy after lifting them for half a day.

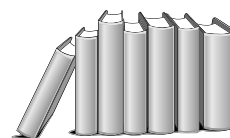
Reminder: The Edgar County Genealogy Library Board has set a policy that no more than 10 pages can be copied out of any one book, and no use of Scanners or Camera, without permission. You will not be able to get an entire cemetery record either.

We continue to receive requests for research, the volunteer librarians will do a search for a small fee – The pages will not be mailed out or sent out by e-mail until payment is received! Please (check the website) mail payment and a self-addressed-stamped envelope and include full name, dates, and locations. Obituaries will not be searched unless we have a full date.

The internet sites (Ancestry and Find A Grave) are good starting places when checking where your family was at a certain time. Note, not all information out there is correct. You should also check the local Societies and Libraries for other records like: Family Histories, Bible Records, Marriage Records, Other Cemetery records (Edgar Co has 172 locations), Court records, Obituaries, Land Records – 1870, 1894, 1910 Atlas, Vertical Files other researchers, Newspapers (Paris Beacon, Chrisman Courier, Brocton Hume Review, Kansas Journal).

Reminder kids and teachers will be returning to school soon, watch out for those school buses and huge farm equipment.

Linda Cary, Director



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

Librarians:

*Linda Cary
Norm Carroll
Linda Barrett
Jenny Barkley
Phyllis Sutton
Judy Cash
Monica Brunelle
Joy Van Meter*

"The Apron"

The number one definition of the apron and the one I wish to address -the homemaker's: "Apron-noun"
A garment covering part of the front of the body and tied at the waist, for protecting the wearer's clothing.

Aprons have been worn since the beginning of time, or so I suppose. Worn by both men and women, boys and girls. Aprons have been worn by every social, financial, and educational status, from the peasant to the aristocratic ladies.

Homemaking also is an occupation as old as time. In days gone by, the majority of women did not feel fully dressed each morning until she had put on her apron. The apron protected the dress and it took a much smaller piece of fabric to make a new apron than a new dress. The homemaker's dress was always topped off with the apron and she could not begin the breakfast meal without putting it on. She was also ready for other chores of the day. The apron was hardly ever taken off from morning to night.

The apron protected the dress, not only from the kitchen duties, but from wear and tear of many, many other chores. For the rural homemaker expected to help with many of the chores on the farm, the apron was almost a tool for many jobs. While milking the cows, the apron helped keep the spattering milk off the skirt of the dress. The feeding of chickens and the gathering of eggs were daily chores. If the egg basket didn't hold all the eggs, the corners of the apron were pulled up together to hold the remaining eggs.

The same principle held true if you went to the apple orchard and found that there were more beautiful red and golden apples on the ground than your bucket would hold. You had to pick them up every morning before the chickens pecked holes in them. Perhaps you went to the garden to gather beans or tomatoes, the apron came to the rescue .

The homemaker's aprons, were made from many different fabrics-calico, gingham, chambray, perhaps organdy for a pretty holiday apron. Also the feed-bag was often used to make aprons. Aprons were usually found with a pocket or two. The women took great pride in their aprons. Some women were found to be so "extravagant" as to have a drawer full. There were Sunday aprons and everyday aprons.

The apron seemed also to have some symbolic, almost magical, meanings-strength and control. If an adult child was a bit hesitant in leaving home, it was said he or she did not want to leave their mother's apron strings. The hurt a mother often experiences from her children, it is said that it is less painful for a child to pull on her apron strings while small, than for them to tug on her heart strings when older.

Times have changed. Society is found to be ever changing, so is the attire. Ladies, even for those who are yet full-time homemakers, with the onslaught of blue jeans and sweat suits, we have allowed the demise of the dutiful old apron to come about. She no longer has her place of prominence in our lives. Can you imagine what a shock it would be for our husbands to come home in the evening, and find us at the kitchen stove with a dress and apron on?

How many of you still have your Grandmother's old apron for memories sake? I have several that belonged to my Great Aunt. I have shown my Great Granddaughters how to carry things in their shirt tail to mimic days gone by.

The apron deserves a special place in history, and deserves one last salute. It is left to one's imaginings as to whether the world would be a "kinder, gentler" world if the apron of yesteryear were yet found in the home today. Yes, there was power in the apron strings.

By **Judy Cash**
Volunteer Librarian

This article in part is taken from Hart County Historical Society Quarterly; Vol. XXIII; April 1991, which can be found at the Edgar County Genealogy Library.

7 Facts About Your Ancestors Found in Obituaries and Death Notices:

1. Date of death, name of cemetery, date and place of the funeral and burial
2. Name, place, and year of birth
3. Names of children, where they lived, and their position in the family's birth order
4. Names of the towns and how long they lived in each one
5. Age of spouse at death and how long ago that was
6. Details on the longevity of parents and grandparents
7. Count of descendants, by generation

Obituaries can give a vast amount of information if you analyze them closely.

Visit **[Genealogy Bank.com](http://GenealogyBank.com)** for more information. Thanks to librarian Jenny **Barkley** for this information.

Illinois State Genealogical Society 2017 Webinar Series

Luxenbourgers on the Prairie: Researching your Luxembourg Ancestors

September 12, 2017 presented by Lisa Oberg

Funeral Homes and Family History: They're Dying to Meet You

October 10, 2017 presented by Daniel Earl

Illinois Gold: Hard to Find but Valuable Prairie State Resources for Genealogical Research

November 14, 2017 presented by Thomas MacEntee

Ephemera: Genealogy Gold

December 12, 2017 presented by Sharon S. Atkins

All webinars start at 8:00 p.m. Central Time

For a description of each webinar or to register, visit <http://bit.ly/ISGSWebinars>.

To register, click the "register" link for each session you want to attend. Fill out the short form to complete your registration. After you sign up, you will receive an email that provides instructions to join the live broadcast.

There are only 500 "seats" available for each webinar. Recommendation: login in to the webinar EARLY, access begins at 7:30 p.m. Central Time. Once the "rooms" fills up others attempting to join will receive a "room full" message. Please direct any questions to the ISGS Education Committee at isgswebinar@ilgensoc.org.

Visit Illinois State Genealogical Society online at ilgensoc.org.

Gleanings from Local Newspapers

Paris Daily News Paris, Ill. Thursday, December 23, 1915 Page 4

Miss Anna **Gatz**, Newton Kansas arrived for a visit with relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew **Vance**, South Bend, Indiana – spending Xmas with Paris relatives.

Mrs. Susie **Glenn**, Ashland, Kentucky returned home after visit with her sister Mrs. A. J. Clark, **Chrisman**.

Letters to Santa Claus

Thelma **Hickman** (3rd grade school) and her brother Henry

Mabel **Terrell**, 1003 Broom St.

Mary **Watson** (9 yrs. old) R.R. 11

Orville **Lowther**, 4 yrs., Oliver, Ill.

Eugene **Hefner**, 105 N. Austin St.

Dorothy Ruth **Hefner**, Safford Flats, Paris, IL

Paris Daily News Paris, Ill. Friday Jan. 21, 1916 page 1

Many Named Beneficiaries in Stotts Will Twenty-one heirs are Left Total of Eleven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars:

First M.E. Church gets \$1,000 King's Daughters and Sons and Women's Relief Corps and Children's Home Are The Legatees.

Twenty-one heirs are left a total of \$11,500, the poor children of the First M.E. church of Paris are awarded a trust fund of \$1,000, The Edgar County Children's Home is remembered with \$500., the Women's Relief Corps is beneficiary to the extent of \$500, and the King's Daughters and Sons of the First Methodist Church are bequeathed \$500, by the will of the late Augusta V. (Pet) **Stotts**, widow of William **Stotts**, filed for probate Friday afternoon in the county court by W. E. **Redman**, nominated as executor.

The will was dated June 17, 1914 and is witnessed by E. E. **Gregg** and Edward **Levings**. The Executor is given full power and authority to sell and convey title to all property of the estate.

The following are the bequests to the heirs:

Harriett **Koho**, Sister \$400.00

Richard M. **Stotts**, brother-in-law \$1,000

Jesse M. **Stotts**, brother-in-law \$1000

Emily **Meadows**, sister-in-law \$1000

Sarah **Throneburg**, sister-in-law \$1000

Icephine **Van Sickle**, sister-in-law \$1000

Mary A. **Richardson**, sister-in-law \$600

Iva **Collier**, niece \$250

Cecil **Cummins**, niece \$250

Carrie **Souders**, niece \$250

Winnie **Honnold**, niece \$250

Nellie **Alden**, niece \$250

Lizzie **Williams**, niece \$250

Lottie M. **Jaggers**, niece \$250

Ethel **Jones**, niece \$250

Myra **Grathwell**, niece \$1000

Jesse **Van Sickle**, nephew \$500

Trembell **Helms**, nephew \$500

Wm. B. **Stotts**, nephew \$500

Allie **Kontz**, niece \$250

Alvin **Kontz**, nephew \$500
Viola **Marrs** (namesake) gold watch, chain, rings

The following are bequests to the legatees:

Edgar County Children Home \$500

King's Daughter's and Son's M.E. Church \$500

Paris W. R. C. No 87 \$500

The bequest to the poor children of the First M.E. Church is a trust fund and the interest accruing on said bequest, is to be spent annually for Christmas day for the benefit of said children.

A trust fund of \$500 is set aside for maintaining and decorating with flowers the graves of the family lot in Edgar cemetery. Lottie **Jaggers**, Ethel **Jones** and Myra **Grathwell** are each given certain articles of household furniture. The remainder of the household goods is to be sold by the executor and the proceeds given to the Children's Home, which is in addition to the \$500 bequest previously noted.

All the remainder of the estate is to be equally divided between the Home Missionary and two Foreign Missionary societies of the First M.E. Church of Paris, Ill.

The will showed considerable care in preparation and is considered very sensible by those who were familiar with Mrs. **Stotts**. The will was read to the heirs Friday afternoon.

Dyas & Dyas, Attys.

Administrator's Notice.

Estate of June **Fondren Cusick**, deceased. The undersigned having been appointed administrator of the estate of June **Fondren Cusick**, late of the county of Edgar and State of Illinois, deceased, hereby gives notice that he will appear before the county court of Edgar county, at the March term, on the first Monday in March next, at which time all persons having claims against the estate are notified and requested to attend for the purpose of having the same adjusted. All persons indebted to said estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned.

Alexander M. **Cusick**, Administrator

Dated this 4th day of January, A.D. 1916 Jas. K. **Lauher**, Atty. J6-13-20-27

Executor's Notice

Estate of Elizabeth **Bandy**, deceased. The undersigned having been appointed executor of the estate of Elizabeth **Bandy**, late of the county of Edgar and State of Illinois, deceased, hereby gives notice that he will appear before the county court of Edgar county, at the court house, in the city of Paris, at the March term, on the first Monday in March next, at which time all persons having claims against the said estate are notified and requested to attend for the purpose of having the same adjusted. All persons indebted to said estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned.

Lou A. **Link**, Executor.

Dated this 11th day of January, A.D. 1916. J. K. **Lauher**, Atty. J12-19-26

Executor Executor's Notice

Estate of Rinnie **Newcomb**, deceased. The undersigned having been appointed executor of the estate of Rinnie **Newcomb**, late of the county of Edgar and State of Illinois, deceased, hereby gives notice that he will appear before the county court of Edgar county, at the court house, in the city of Paris, at the March term, on the first Monday in March next, at which time all persons having claims against the said estate are notified and requested to attend for the purpose of having the same adjusted. All persons indebted to said estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned.

D.H. **Perkins**, Executor.

Dated this 8th day of January, A.D. 1916 J. H. **Lauher**, Atty. J10-17-24-31

If you've ever looked for your ancestor in old record sets, then chances are you've come across some pretty difficult handwriting to maneuver. Handwriting can be a challenge because not only has the English language evolved over history, spelling changed, the way we abbreviate words changed, just being able to interpret someone's unique style of writing can be a mystery and challenge in of itself.

1. Analyze the record before you begin reading the handwriting

This may seem like an obvious first step, but when you're in the whirlwind of breaking down brick walls, building your tree, and collecting every piece of information you find, often times we forget about these big picture aspects. Before you begin studying the handwriting in an original image you have at hand, analyze the document type you have a hold of. If it's a probate record, you'll likely see legal terms used throughout. If it's a travel or migration record, as seen below, you might find a pattern of commonly used terms related to passage. Before you begin your handwriting research, jot down a few related words to the document you're reviewing to help you make judgment calls about those tricky-to-decipher words you may encounter later on.

2. Move slowly, very slowly

Take 3 deep breaths, and start your analysis very slowly. When in the midst of genealogy research, it can be difficult to remember to slow down and take everything in. Analyzing old handwriting takes time, so be sure to carve out time to do it so that you won't feel rushed during your analysis.

We often miss key indicators and clues in a document when we read too quickly through them, so it is essential that you slow down and evaluate word by word, then letter by letter, then back to word by word again.

3. Read for content first

Begin by reading the document for content to the best of your ability. You might not be able to read a lot of the document, or it may be a breeze, either way, you need to make sure to give the document a one-time read-over so that you get reading the document out of your system. You must read the document so that you don't get overeager as you're looking closely at every letter, word, and phrase later on.

4. Conduct a letter by letter read and create a "key"

Next, begin your letter by letter read. Do not try to interpret words, just try to determine what letters are in your document. The easily identifiable letters will be your keys to unlocking the rest of the words and phrases.

5. Conduct a word by word read

Once you've done a letter by letter read, go back and read word by word using the letters you've already discovered to help you uncover words and phrases you're not sure about.

6. Read aloud

If you're really stumped at one or two phrases or a whole section in your analysis, try reading what you can aloud and try sounding out the document. You might be surprised by what hearing yourself read can reveal. Reading it aloud and listening to words spelled phonetically can help you recognize words with alternate spellings or archaic words that have similar counterparts in modern English.

7. Trace the handwriting

If you're really struggling getting used to the handwriting, try writing the document yourself. Print out the record set you're looking at online and lay some trace paper over it. Slowly trace each letter of each word on your own. You might make discoveries by going through the motion yourself to feel the differences in the letters. Plus, writing in the past was much more decorative than it is today and going through to decipher what's a decorative loop versus an "o" or an "e," for example, will give you a better feel for the text you're evaluating.

8. Cross your t's and dot your i's

One thing to watch out for is uncrossed t's and undotted i's in the records, or misplaced slashes and dots. If you've ever forgotten to cross a t or dot an i when jotting something down quickly, chances are your ancestors did as well, so if you think you have a t, but don't have it crossed, this could be the case. The same goes with i's. It's also a possibility that the i's were dotted further down the word and not right above the i, especially if there are a lot of humps and loops in the word.

9. The letter "s"

The letter "s" is a commonly confused letter that causes many genealogists headaches when interpreting old handwriting. Often in the past, the letter "s" was written like a backward, cursive "f," especially in instances where there are 2 s's in a row in a word. See how Jesse is written below, and nope that's not Jefse.

S's may also resemble the letter "p" so keep an eye out for that!

"S" may also be confused with an L, so use context clues and letters from your "key" to determine which is which.

10. "Th" and "y" and "y" and "t"

One common abbreviation in the past was to abbreviate "th" with a character that closely resembles the letter "y." So, if you encounter a document that looks like "ye" that could mean "the." You might also see the "e" written as a superscript because it wasn't uncommon for the abbreviations to be written as the main letter with the rest superscripted with or without a line underneath.

You may also see "yt," which is an abbreviation for that. "Y" is the abbreviation for "th" followed by a "t" would be "tht" or "that."

11. Take a rest

When you're getting frustrated, feeling as if you can't analyze the document any longer, or feel as if you're not getting anywhere with your analysis, step away from the document. Let both your eyes and the document "rest," so that you can approach it again at a later date with fresh, non-biased eyes. After studying one document for hours, you may be missing slight differences and changes in the handwriting that could be a key clue to uncovering the letter you're stuck on. Let your eyes and brain rest for a bit and chances are you'll make a new discovery upon visiting it again.

<https://blog.findmypast.com/tips-for-2063791571.html> 25 October 2016

Query

William **Holt** family (b. about 1805 in N.C. ; d. 1858; b. Bruce Cemetery, Edgar Co.)

1st wife probably Nancy or Nancie; second wife Fannie;

son David Logan (b. 1841; d. 1920) m: Lucy Caroline **Wilson**; probably lived in Edgar & Clark Co & Indiana. Good info for David 1850 forward, but all speculative about William. David's mother probably Nancy(ie) **Modlin** or **Siegler**. Would like to verify Williams residences & dates.

Contact: Kay Gregory-Clark (*granddaughter of Horace Fulwider of Redmon, IL*)

364 50th Rd, Burns, KS 66840

email: prairyk@fhrd.net

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**Edgar County
Genealogical Society**

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Publications for Sale

Cook Funeral Home

(three books in one volume)

Vol. I Jul 1892-Mar 1897

Vol. II Mar 1897-Dec 1902

Vol. III Oct 1918-Dec 1928

\$19 postage paid

Edgar County, IL Marriages:

Vol. I 1823 - 1859 \$29ppd

Vol. II 1860 - 1877 \$24ppd

Vol. III 1878 - 1886 \$26ppd

Vol. IV 1887 - 1893 \$26ppd

Vol. V 1894 - 1900 \$26ppd

Vol. VI 1901 - 1906 \$28ppd

Vol. VII 1907 - 1910 \$30ppd

Vol. VIII 1911 - 1914 \$28ppd

Paris, IL Illustrated & Descriptive 1908

44 pages

138 photos

\$22.50 postage paid

These publications can be ordered from the Edgar County Genealogical Society at PO Box 304, Paris, IL 61944. For a complete listing of our publications send #10 self-addressed envelope to same address or visit our website at www.edgarcountygenealogy.org.

Edgar County, Illinois
Genealogical Society

Member Name:

Expires: June 30, 2018