

Bond County Genealogical Society News

Volume 41, Issue 2

Summer July 2026

Official Newsletter of the Bond County Genealogical Society of Greenville, Illinois,
published jointly since 2014 with the Bond County Historical Society.

America 250: Preserving For Those Who Will Follow



The Gen'l George Rogers Clark Chapter Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), with assistance from Benjamin Mills Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), dedicated two cedar trees during the Bond County Museum's America 250 Garden Party, Saturday, June 13, 2026. The SAR Liberty Tree campaign has been planting trees as living memorials nationwide since Spring 2023, preparing for America's 250th anniversary July 4, 2026. The original Liberty Tree was an historic elm in Boston that served as a rallying point for the Sons of Liberty to protest British taxation and tyranny. Every tree includes a dedication plaque educating the public on the American Revolutionary War and the sacrifices made to form the nation. Find more Garden Party stories on Pages 6 & 12.



ABOVE RIGHT: Eric Reelitz, representing George Rogers Clark Chapter SAR. *Photos by Rebecca Clausen & Corey Ross*

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Special points of interest:

- Newspapers.com adds freshly digitized microfilm of titles from Greenville and Bond County!
- BCHS Marks America's 250th with Garden Party.
- FS' Relatives in Cemeteries tool proves hit or miss.
- Petri Rückkehr & Mariae Annae Kustermann: a Catholic family's strong ties to Pierron, Pocahontas, and Highland.
- Journal containing Pocahontas M. E. Church's Record of Funerals 1913-1928.
- New in BCHS Gift Shop: *Hubbards of Bond County, IL* and *Hobart-Hubbard Family of Norfolk, England*.
- What Questions Were Asked in the 1960 Census?

Bond County Genealogical Society

Officers

President - Cindy Tischhauser
Vice President - Kevin J. Kaegy
Treasurer - John S. Coleman
Recording Secretary - Jane Hopkins
Corresponding Secretary - Cindy Tischhauser
Historian - Kevin J. Kaegy
Editor - open
Director(s) - Mike Evans

Appointees

Library - Jane Hopkins
Program - Kevin J. Kaegy
Membership - Jane Hopkins
Publicity - open
Hospitality - Cindy Tischhauser
Cemetery - open
Research - Cindy Tischhauser & Rebecca Clausen
Newsletter Editor - Rebecca Clausen
Webmaster - Rebecca Clausen

Bond County Genealogical Society membership dues are \$10 per 2-person household for the current year. A lifetime membership for a 2-person household may be purchased for a one-time payment of \$175. Members are eligible to vote and to serve as BCGS officers and appointees.

If you would like to become a member please send your name, address, phone number, email address, and the surnames you are most interested in researching with appropriate check or money order to:

Bond County Genealogical Society,
P.O. Box 172, Greenville, IL
62246-0172

Membership forms also are available on our website. www.bondcogen.org

*"Let us, before
we die, gather
up our heritage,
and offer it to
our children."*

*— Will Durant,
The Story of
Civilization*

Bond County Historical Society

2025-2026 Officers

President - Cary Holman
Vice President - Blake Knox
Treasurer - John S. Coleman
Secretary - Jane Hopkins
Historian - Kevin J. Kaegy (non-voting)

Directors

Burgess Twp - Michelle Haller
Central Twp - Kevin J. Kaegy
Tamalco Twp - Cindy Tischhauser
Mills Twp - Gary Tischhauser
Pleasant Mound Twp - James Schutte
Old Ripley Twp - Kathy Brewer
Shoal Creek Twp - Tom Varner
LaGrange Twp - Eric Reelitz
Mulberry Grove Twp - Kim Myers

Bond County Historical Society membership dues are \$15 per family for the current year. Members are eligible to vote and to serve as BCHS officers, directors & appointees.

If you would like to become a member please send your name, address, phone number, email address, and a check or money order for \$15 to:

Bond County Historical Society,
P.O. Box 376, Greenville, IL 62246

Membership forms and a **secure online payment option** are also available on our website.

www.bondcountyhistorical.org



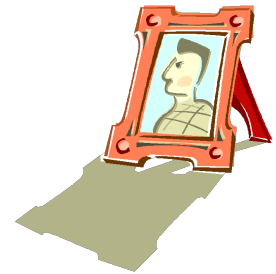


Monthly Society Meetings

It was decided in 2013 that the two societies would meet jointly for Program Meetings and this practice continues. Meetings are generally the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm. Please check Bond County Museum's Facebook Page, the *Greenville Advocate* newspaper, www.bondcogen.org or WGEL Radio (101.7 FM) for times and locations. Announcements will be made ahead of time whenever there is to be a business meeting for one or both of the two societies. Also, there will be no December meeting.

The Bond County Historical Society specializes in questions about the history of the county and communities. If you have questions about family history, burial sites, census records, birth records, or death records from Bond County, please contact the Bond County Genealogical Society instead.

All genealogy requests submitted via email to info@bondcogen.org will be researched and answered in order received as time permits. There is no flat fee for requests as we attempt to reply with electronic documents, but if your request requires printing, postage, or original document access and retrieval you may be responsible for those charges.



Invite a friend to an interesting and educational program meeting or special event!

2026 Special Events Calendar

- Jul. 24** Lunch Cookout fundraiser by Wes Pourchot & Friends, 10a-2p @ The Milk House.
- Jul. 28** Cemetery Walk, 7pm @ Smith Grove Baptist Church.
- Sep. 18** Business Meeting 7pm @ Hill's Fort Reconstruction / AFHM.
- Oct. 23** Night At The Museum, 7pm @ Bond County Museum.
- Oct. 27** Annual Dinner Meeting, Elections, Speaker: TBD.
- Nov. 28** Christmas Open House @ Bond County Museum.

Share your ancestor's tale in the Bond County Genealogical Society News!

Uncharted Territory: What's Your Story?

"Uncharted Territory" are the stories found deep in your family tree. What's Your Story? Was your ancestor a Bond County native or did he pass through, stay briefly and then move on? Where did she live? What kind of work did he do? What clues did your ancestors leave to mark their path in, around or across this county?

Have you considered sharing your ancestor's tale in the B.C.G.S. News? If you have a story you'd like to share, please contact the editor. Please find submission details and guidelines on Page 27.





FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK



SUBSCRIBE US ON YOUTUBE

Bond County Museum is located at 409 S. Fourth Street in Greenville, Illinois.

*January-December:
Open Saturday
10 a.m. to noon*

*June, July, August:
Open Saturday 10 a.m. to
noon and
Sunday 1 to 3 p.m.*

*Tours also available by
special appointment or
during announced events.
Call 618-690-0469.*

Bond County Museum News

*Support the
New Museum!
Donations are being
MATCHED!*



Financial Gifts Continually Sought to Support Bond County Museum

Bond County Historical Society needs your help to raise funds to complete Phase 2 necessary renovations and ADA improvements to the historic U.S. DeMoulin Mansion. Bond County Museum opened to the public with regular weekend hours in May 2021. Please consider a donation to help us reach our goal! As BCHS is recognized as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, your contribution may be tax deductible. Donations of any size are encouraged; all contributions above \$50 will have their name on a special donor's plaque inside the museum unless marked anonymous. Download the donation form at www.bondcountyhistorical.org, the society's Facebook Page, or mail check to: Bond County Historical Society, attn. ADA Renovations, PO Box 376, Greenville, IL 62246.

Genealogical Society Library Shelf

The Genealogical Society Library collection is housed on the lower floor of the Greenville Public Library. There is a booklet in the room which lists all the holdings and a microfilm reader/printer for doing research in the *Greenville Advocate*, *Sun*, and other Bond County newspapers. The building has wireless internet access so you can do supplementary research while you are there. The room is kept locked, so the key must be requested at the Circulation Desk. The Greenville Public Library's hours are posted on their website: www.greenvillepubliclibrary.org ~ 414 W. Main Ave. Greenville, Illinois (IL) ~ Phone 618-664-3115 ~ Fax 618-664-9442

If you experience technical difficulties with our microfilm reader, please contact Jane Hopkins (jhopkins4616@sbcglobal.net 618-664-4616) or Kevin Kaegy (kevink@markuscabinet.com 618-971-9140).



Greenville and Bond County Papers on Newspapers.com!

Newspapers.com by Ancestry, which is a subscription site, regularly adds newspapers from across the globe to its stockpile, making it easier than ever to travel back through time from the comfort of your own home. Newspapers.com just added the following Illinois papers to their online collection in March and April 2026.

- ◆ **Bond County Farmer and Farm Bureau**
- ◆ **The Greenville Advocate**
- ◆ **The Greenville Item**
- ◆ **The Greenville Journal**
- ◆ **Illinois Chronicle (Greenville)**
- ◆ **The Mulberry Grove News**
- ◆ **The News Patriot (Pocahontas)**
- ◆ **The Pocahontas Press**
- ◆ **Protestant Monitor**
- ◆ **The Sorento News**
- ◆ **The Twice-A-Week Sun (aka Bond County Democrat)**

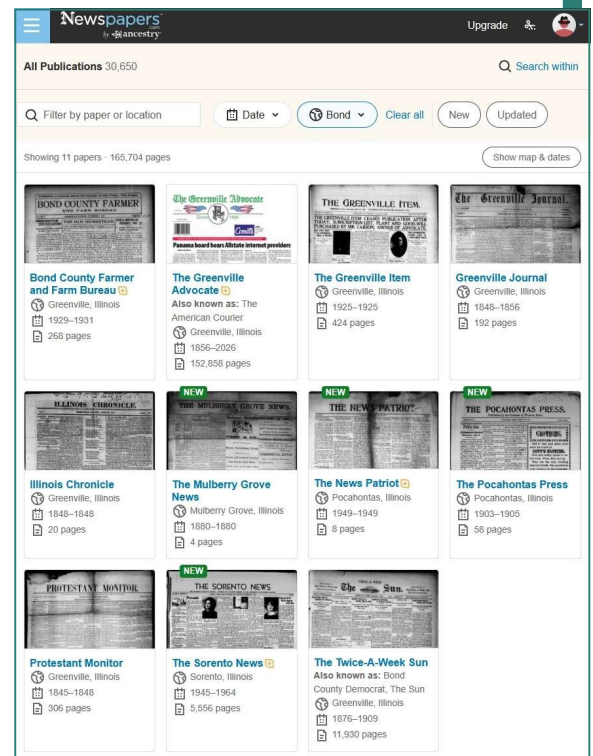
11 papers. 171,707 pages. Digitized from microfilm of issues published between 1845 and 2014, and e-editions from 2025-2026. Some issues are missing, e.g. The Greenville Advocate 1863 - Jan 1866 & July 2014 - Sept 2025.

Bond County news items also routinely popped up published in other cities' papers such as Nokomis, St. Elmo, Breese, Belleville, and Alton.

- ◆ **11 titles**—<https://www.newspapers.com/papers/?county=Bond®ion=us-il>
- ◆ **4 titles**—<https://www.newspapers.com/papers/?county=Clinton®ion=us-il>
- ◆ **19 titles**—<https://www.newspapers.com/papers/?county=Madison®ion=us-il>
- ◆ **5 titles**—<https://www.newspapers.com/papers/?county=Montgomery®ion=us-il>
- ◆ **3 titles**—<https://www.newspapers.com/papers/?county=Fayette®ion=us-il>
- ◆ **15 titles**—<https://www.newspapers.com/papers/?county=saint+clair®ion=us-il>

Search for obituaries, marriage announcements, birth announcements, social pages, local sports action, advertisements, news articles, and more in the largest online newspaper archive. Clippings are an easy way to keep track of interesting things you find on Newspapers.com. You can clip an article, a page, a newspaper, a search, or another member's profile. Once it's clipped, you can easily find it again, share it with friends, and receive notifications when it is updated.

If you have an interest in history, ancestry, or just like looking at what happened on the day you were born, the full online archive is a vital tool in your arsenal.



America's 250th Birthday in the BCM Garden

Bond County Historical Society and Bond County Genealogical Society enjoyed celebrating #America250 with you at Bond County Museum's Garden Party held Saturday, June 13, 2026. The rain forecast almost scared planners off, but they are so glad the party went ahead and everyone had a great time commemorating the founding of our independent nation way back on July 4, 1776! Food, music, socializing, Ed **DeMoulin's** signature cocktail recipe, lawn games like badminton and croquet, and period dress from the 18th and 19th centuries rounded out the wholesome entertainment.

BCHS and BCGS thank all the volunteers who made this party possible, and to our community friends, especially the following in particular: Greenville Municipal Band (performing 13 selections—the longest set the ensemble's ever attempted!), Greenville Garden Club (table centerpieces & flowers in planters front & back), Kim **Myers** (bunting & porch wreath), Gen'l George Rogers Clark Chapter SAR (Liberty Tree dedication), Benjamin Mills Chapter NSDAR (giveaways of flags and educational literature), Cathy at IGA Capri Market (catered food), and BCHS members who baked delicious desserts.

📺 Enjoy a video featuring some sights and sounds from the afternoon on Bond County Museum's YouTube Channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XyMnkIWd1rk>



Photos by Corey Ross and Robert Whiteside

Surprise Destination Day Trip Doesn't Disappoint

Story by Rebecca Clausen, photo by Michelle Haller

Saturday, April 25th, Bond County Historical Society members and a friend took off on our Surprise Destination Trip to... MAEYSTOWN, Illinois!!! We had the perfect weather to explore this adorable German-American village in the scenic bluffs of the Mississippi River valley, much of it built from limestone and brick, from its gutters, bridges, St. John Evangelical Church (United Church of Christ), rock walls, to its 150 residents' homes' foundations. The entire village is basically preserved like how it was in 1852. We explored the church, history museum in Zeitingner's Mill, creeks' confluence, antique shops, and bed & breakfast cottages. We ate delicious lunch at Hank & Lilly's Creekside Bar and Grill. Thank you to our host David **Braswell** and the entire Maeystown Preservation Society!!! And thank you to Blake **Knox**, BCHS Vice President, for planning this magnificent outing! Let's do another one next April!



Comets Give Back at BCM

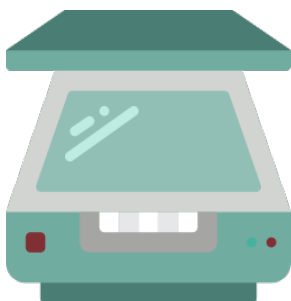
On Friday, May 1, 2026, around 475 students and teachers from Bond County Community Unit 2 High School participated in the 14th Annual Comets Give Back Day, engaging in community service throughout the district.

Organized by Jason **Pierce**, this year's event was another success, with students assisting local government agencies, schools, and nonprofit organizations. At the Bond County Museum, eight students performed maintenance tasks such as staining wooden railings, weeding flower beds, blowing leaves, and sweeping the wrap-around porch and garden paths. Museum directors on site that day expressed gratitude for their efforts.



Pierce emphasized that Give Back Day builds character and fosters unity among participants wearing matching shirts. It encouraged students to utilize new skills while leveraging their existing strengths. The day also provided valuable opportunities for teachers and students to connect, an impact that has been immeasurable over the past decade. Thank you, Jason, for reminding us of the importance of serving others.

Back Issues of Quarterlies/Newsletters Available



The entire back catalog of Bond County Genealogical Society News Quarterlies, published 1982-2011 & B.C.G.S. e-Newsletters published 2014-2026 are currently available at no charge and with no password to members and the general public. Access the issues at <https://www.bondcogen.org/newsletter.html>. Volumes of the printed quarterly through 2010 are also available to research in bound book form in the BCGS Library located on the lower level of the Greenville Public Library.

**Bond County's
One-Room School Museum**
601 E. Beaumont Ave.
Greenville, IL.



*Retired teachers provide tours
and in-costume presentations
only by appointment and
during special events.*

*Groups welcome. Admission is free.
Donations encouraged.
Please contact Bond County
Historical Society with details to
arrange special openings.*

618-690-0469

A cartoon illustration of a smiling laptop with a face, arms, and legs, waving its right hand. The laptop is grey with a blue screen showing a simple face with large eyes and a wide smile. It has two arms and two legs, and is waving with its right hand.

When your editor logged into her FamilySearch account (that sets her as the “home person” in the Shared Tree) and navigated to Bond, Illinois cemeteries, the search returned 31 relatives in 12 sites. But she quickly realized, that while it detected distant cousins not yet confirmed and/or not usually on her radar it did NOT include her father who passed away in 2023 and is buried in Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Greenville. His burial info is correct on FindAGrave, but he has no profile on BillionGraves, a Certified FamilySearch Partner. FS claims it pulls from both databases. So, yes, it’s experimental!

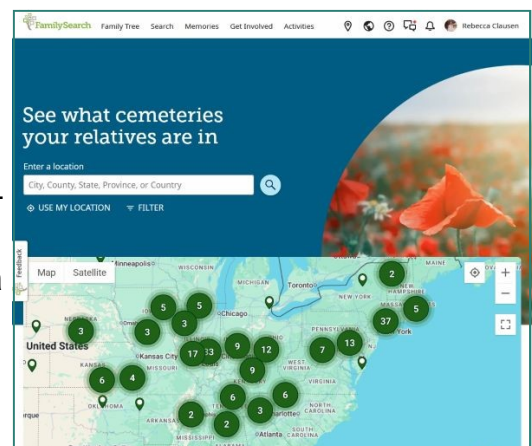
Tool 1: Cemeteries Search

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/cemeteries/>

Perhaps you want to visit a memorial site, but you aren't sure which one to go to? With a free FamilySearch account, you can get a list of which cemeteries your relatives are buried in, according to the records in the shared Family Tree*. You can even see how many relatives are buried in each cemetery. This is a useful feature if you want to visit multiple sites or need to prioritize which ones you visit.

<https://www.familysearch.org/campaign/cemetery>

*Finding relatives in cemeteries using FamilySearch requires at least some basic information in your family tree branch.



(Continued on page 9)

Online Genealogical Resources, continued...

(Continued from page 8)

Free Online Coroner Records @ The Ancestor Hunt

Free Online Coroner Records have added many new record collections. The total is 369 collection links from 41 states. Although there are a few robust collections, unfortunately, it is not a record category where there is an abundance. Still, they are definitely worth your research time. There are 23 collections from Illinois arranged by county, though nothing from Bond yet.

Keep in mind the following points when entering search criteria:

Not all deaths required an inquest. Only a death by violence, casualty or any undue means required an inquest by a coroner's jury. Deaths by natural causes were recorded by the county clerk in Macoupin County.

If you cannot find a person for whom you believe there was an inquest, try broadening your search by entering only a portion of the surname (e.g., John instead of Johnson) or by typing variations of the spelling of a surname (such as Johnson and Johnsen).

Check it out at <https://www.theancestorhunt.com/coroner-records.html>

Illinois Digital Heritage Hub in DPLA

Heads up, Illinois researchers! Illinois libraries and archives are active on *Digital Public Library of America (DPLA)*! That means lots of new resources to explore! The collections of the Illinois Digital Heritage Hub represent a collaboration between Illinois State Library, the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois (CARLI), Chicago Public Library, and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

These Illinois collections bring their own essential mix between unique local stories that help DPLA represent the diversity of experiences across the country and collections of national significance that contribute to our common heritage. The Illinois Hub brings the stories and voices of its residents to DPLA and, together with the other members of the hub network, helps DPLA draw unique connections between broad national themes in American history and the lived experience of individuals and local communities.

Millions of books, images, historic records and audiovisual materials are accessible through the DPLA platform. Explore the complete collection for yourself!

<https://idhh.dp.la/>



"Photograph of Workers at the Advocate Printing Office, Greenville," Godfrey Photograph Collection, Madison Historical, accessed June 26, 2026, <https://madison-historical.siue.edu/archive/items/show/2401>. There is a calendar on the wall that suggests that the month is February on a leap year possibly 1868, 1896, or later.



Abraham Lincoln's Rebel In-Laws a Hit at Soup Supper

Bond County Historical Society representatives were thrilled with the turnout to their Soup & Chili Supper Tuesday, February 3, 2026! Another round of applause to Cindy **Tischhauser**, Michelle **Haller**, and Blake **Knox** who spent the day in the kitchen making it happen, to the donors of supplies, and to the dessert bakers who brought pies and cakes. So many society members and guests enjoyed the presentation by Greenville historian and author Kevin **Kaegy** on "Lincoln's Rebel In-laws." Thank you!! BCHS welcomes new members with the option of helping to plan events like this and serving on essential committees who work behind the scenes, too!

Kaegy related that President Abraham **Lincoln's** wife, Mary **Todd** Lincoln, came from such a large family, who spread out from their home in Lexington, Kentucky to Illinois, Louisiana, Alabama, Ohio, and South Carolina. The state of Kentucky was a border state that never seceded, but plenty of Kentucky boys felt Southern and fought with Southerners. Not all of the Todds sided with the Confederacy during the American Civil War: the older children mainly anchored the Northern Union wing of the family, and some Todds held straining sympathies with both sides. And President Lincoln often extended generous allowances to his in-laws seeking to travel across the lines, but he didn't hold with outright defiance or disparagements to his political position, and he denied appointments to in-laws on that basis.

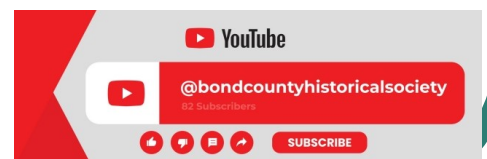
The Todds suffered many deaths due to the War between the States and to illnesses of the body and mind; and Abraham and Mary felt each one greatly. Lincoln's own relatives had grown scarce by the time he grew to adulthood and so Mary's family meant everything to him. Letters between the Todds before, during, and after the war have given historians a great insight into the movements and relationships BCHS learned about during the program from Kaegy. For more, check out some of the books he had on display at your local library or independent book seller! [House of Abraham: Lincoln and the Todds, a family divided by war](#) by Stephen Berry; [Now They Belong to the Ages: Abraham Lincoln and His Contemporaries in Oak Ridge Cemetery](#) by Krause, Boston & Stowell; [The True Story of Mary, Wife of Lincoln](#) by her niece Katherine Helm; [The Kentucky Todds in Lexington Cemetery](#) by Donna McCreary; [Practical Strangers: The Courtship Correspondence of Nathaniel Dawson and Elodie Todd, Sister of Mary Todd Lincoln](#) edited by Stephen Berry & Angela Esco Elder.

🎬 Enjoy an encore presentation of that program, available on Bond County Historical Society's website and YouTube Channel.

www.bondcountyhistorical.org/videolegacies.html



Local author, historian, and BCHS Past President Kevin Kaegy shared the fascinating story of First Lady Mary Todd Lincoln's brothers and sisters, Union and Confederate. *Photos by editor.*



Bond County Museum Archives Committee Update

Bond County Historical Society is currently digitizing a collection of 40+ VHS tapes from amongst the Bond County Museum collection archives and sharing them on their YouTube channel: [@bondcountyhistoricalsociety](https://www.youtube.com/@bondcountyhistoricalsociety). Most of these tapes date from the 1980s to the 2000s, with a few originating from the 1950s, which have already been transferred from filmstrip!

The collection includes Bond County Genealogical Society meeting programs, joint BCHS/BCGS rural church programs, BCHS living history presentations by guest speakers, cemetery tours, oral histories from community members, clips from family farms, and more. This effort helps preserve the audio and video quality that is degrading in these analog formats, ensuring that important stories and memories are conserved and accessible.

Some of the videos are being enhanced with overlays of illustrative maps and/or images, and all audio is being processed through noise-reduction software.

BCHS extends their heartfelt thanks to the local entrepreneurs contributing to this ongoing project: Video Edited Memories (Marty **Niehaus**), Archival Productions (Robert **Whiteside**), and Rainofhearts Web Design (Rebecca **Clausen**).



More Images From Digital Public Library of America (DPLA)



"View showing J. A. Compton, asst. manager & C. W. Smith, manager, studying blueprint while in office at Southwestern Electric Co-op., Inc., Greenville, IL." miSci - Museum of Innovation and Science, accessed June 26, 2026, <https://cdm16694.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16694coll20/id/2108>



"Photograph of a Building Burned Down by Fire," Godfrey Photograph Collection, Madison Historical, accessed June 26, 2026, <https://madison-historical.siue.edu/archive/items/show/2397>. Taken from the rooftop of Dr. Easley's office on W. Main St. The row of frame buildings on the east side of the Greenville square was totally destroyed Feb. 4, 1891. Print by Ed DeMoulin.

Reflecting on Our Past, Inspiring Our Future

Commemorating the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 2026

Together, let's envision the next 250 years of Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness!

Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Blake **Knox**, and I have the privilege of serving as Vice President of the Bond County Historical Society and as a member of the Greenville City Council. It is my pleasure to welcome you as we gather to celebrate a truly remarkable occasion—the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the United States of America.

Anniversaries such as this give us an opportunity to pause—to reflect upon the past with gratitude, to appreciate the blessings of the present, and to look toward the future with hope.

Two hundred fifty years ago, our nation's founders began an extraordinary experiment in liberty and self-government. They could never have imagined the communities that would one day grow upon the Illinois prairie—nor the generations of Americans who would call Bond County home.

Yet they believed in the future.

Today we are among those future generations.

And so, while we celebrate our nation, we also celebrate Bond County—its communities, its farms, its churches, its schools, its businesses, and above all, its people.

Generations of families have called this county home. They have worked the land, raised children, served their country, and cared for their neighbors. Each generation has added its own chapter to the story of Bond County—a story marked by faith, perseverance, service, and community.

As members and supporters of the Bond County Historical Society, we understand that preserving history is about much more than preserving old buildings or artifacts. It is about preserving memories. It is about remembering the ordinary men and women whose lives and labors shaped the communities we know and love today.

History reminds us that every generation inherits something precious—and with that inheritance comes a responsibility to leave something worthwhile for those who will follow. That spirit of service is reflected in the organizations and individuals represented here this afternoon.

We are honored to be joined by members of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Sons of the American Revolution, whose dedication helps ensure that the sacrifices and ideals of our founding generation are never forgotten.

We are also grateful to the members of the Greenville Garden Club, whose beautiful centerpieces and floral arrangements add elegance to this celebration, and whose care for flowers and plantings throughout our community brighten so many places we cherish.

Speech delivered Saturday, June 13, 2026 at Bond County Museum's America 250 Garden Party



Photos by Cary Holman & Rebecca Clausen



Book Review: *The Hubbard Family of Bond County*

Reprinted from the St. Louis Genealogical Society *Quarterly*. Reviewed by Cheryl **Wheaton**, StLGS volunteer

The Hubbard Family of Bond County, Illinois. By Michael F. Hubbard. Self-published, 2022. 494 pages. Index. Hardcover. Available in the Bond County Museum Gift Shop, the Bond County Genealogical Society Research Library, and the Emerson Genealogy Center at the Clark Family Branch of the St. Louis County Library.

When writing a family history, an author has many things to consider in the presentation of material. The ideal is to construct a monograph that clearly and concisely shares the family story for a reasonable price and in a reasonable number of pages. The structure of Michael **Hubbard**'s book assures readers that they have a well-researched and documented family history in hand. Mr. Hubbard's research qualifies him for SAR (Sons of the American Revolution) and the Jamestown Society and his female relatives for DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution). He knows his genealogy.

Twenty Hubbard-related family lines comprise the bulk of this book, with a Missouri connection found in the **Patterson** family buried in Cold Water Cemetery, Florissant, Missouri. Mr. Hubbard also includes transcriptions of many documents. Gravestone information is accompanied by photos, where available. Images of military records are also provided for many of the men in the book. Originals of personal letters, marriage certificates and notices, obituaries, and other documents can also be reviewed. Where personal recollections appear, they are quoted, and the relationship between the people involved is clarified. In cases where the actual document is not included—for example, census records—Mr. Hubbard supplies citations that direct the reader to the source. He does not simply tell the reader what he found; he encourages the reader to view the original.

The depth of his research allows Mr. Hubbard to add supplementary details and historical perspectives in the appendices, including articles on Jamestown, religious influences, colonial Virginia officials, and even some genealogical humor. These extras would be distracting if placed within the context of the family lines and are included separately for the interested reader, without muddling the flow of the book.

Michael Hubbard has written his family history clearly, thoughtfully, and with a sense of humor. It is obvious that he set out to share his research with interested relatives in the best way possible. They should be delighted with the thorough, well-organized, and rich family history he is leaving them. I would be elated to find such a book about my family.

Social Content, Hashtags Encourage Conversation

As part of an initiative started by Bond County Historical Society's reconvened Brochure & Outreach Committee, our Facebook Page Admins have been publishing themed posts with hashtags on social media. On #MuseumMonday, we feature an #ArtifactOfTheWeek. We might choose a book, an invention, a souvenir, a tool, a work of art, a piece of furniture, a toy, or any other artifact in our society's current collection. Then on #WayBackWednesday look for a photograph or image to trigger your nostalgia or present a mystery to solve. So what are you waiting for? "Follow" Bond County Museum on Facebook! Leave a kind comment or share!

GEDminer, a Love Story

By Rebecca Clausen

There I was, taking a break from actively researching my family tree, having let my 3 month Ancestry.com World subscription lapse after an intense winter of research in the Netherlands, the Dutch East Indies, and surprisingly Germany... and even more surprisingly, Denmark AGAIN. After putting off testing my DNA for too many years, I'd finally asked for an AncestryDNA kit for Christmas. Navigating and vetting Matches, ThruLines, and the Leeds Method of clustering would take a few more articles, and that's not why I'm writing today, so I'll stick to the point. GEDminer has come into my genealogical life, and I. Am. Loving. It. So. Much!!!!

GEDminer is an independent in-browser tool for analyzing GEDCOM files, built by a genealogist for genealogists. It was first made available online in early February 2026 after earlier private development and research. It exists to help you find gaps, spot errors, explore relationships, trace migration patterns, and uncover new research opportunities. ALL FOR FREE!! Donations are appreciated to support the cost of webhosting and bringing about new features and bug-fixes.

From the website's about page:

Most genealogy websites are built for building trees, not for analyzing them. Once a tree reaches a certain size, it becomes difficult to see where the gaps are, which branches lack sources, or how families moved across regions and countries. GEDminer was created to fill that gap. It is a dedicated analysis layer that sits alongside your existing genealogy software and subscription, helping you audit your work and discover what to research next without replacing the tools you already use. Take the insights, and improve your tree wherever you prefer to use it most. It's complementary, not competitive.

Your original GEDCOM file is parsed entirely inside your web browser. It is never uploaded, transmitted, or stored on any server. Without an account, nothing leaves your device at all. If you choose to create an account, only the structured analysis results are stored in a managed cloud database, protected by row-level security so only your account can access them. Your original file is still never stored. There are no tracking cookies, no advertising, and no third-party data sharing.

GEDminer does not use AI to analyze your family tree. Every check is rules-based: date logic, relationship validation, census gap detection, source health scoring, and kinship calculation are all performed by programmed logic, not by machine learning models.

Yes, the premium add-on Ancestry Pro Tools performs some of the same tree health analysis, but who's made of money these days? Yes, still get Ancestry Pro Tools if you are actively working on a DNA mystery (like an unknown parentage case), or have matches without trees.

You can browse the dozens of GEDminer research help guides, watch the creator's webinar, watch your favorite professional genealogist's reels lauding the tool (like I did), or jump right in (also like I did).

Once I uploaded my GEDCOM file from my Ancestry.com account, I was off to the proverbial races. You see, my tree included 10,375 people when I exported it, both maternal and paternal lines. I've been working on this tree diligently since before 2009 when I first uploaded it to Ancestry. Before that, I had paper trees from relatives and Legacy Family Tree 7.0 software. Now, mind you, I am not one of those persons who clicks a leaf and copies someone else's unsourced tree into mine; no way! Every person and new branch is

(Continued on page 15)

checked out and documented and re-evaluated within Ancestry using those indexed records, plus FamilySearch indexed sources and Digital Library, FamilySearch Full Text Search, Fold3, MyHeritage's OldNews, State Archives, county GenWeb sites, Newspapers.com, NewspaperArchive, Advantage Preservation, GoogleBooks, Internet Archive, leads from RootsWeb, international databases in foreign languages, and a bunch more sites and catalogs that probably don't even exist anymore. I finally had to change my tree visibility settings from Public to Private because the comments and messages were unbearable. Let me work in peace!

Anyway, back to GEDminer. First there's the Overview and your Tree Health Score: mine was 88.48 out of 100 (green!). 99.59% Consistency, 89.68% Sourcing, and 79.24% Completeness. So I knew right away, I'd need to fill in more names, dates, and places. But I had an impressive amount of citations and nearly no errors or warnings. In the Overview, you also get total families (4134), generations (17), and average number of children per family (2.9). A table reveals top birth locations and top surnames. If you're into celebrating birthdays and anniversaries, the software even shows you what's coming up "On This Day" for the current day and week you're using it!

But I came to GEDminer to make my tree better, not just look at its stats. So I navigated to "Quick Wins" in the Health Score area. I can sort the tasks by impact or by effort. I clicked on "Review 70 outstanding data errors in your tree." This tool under "Integrity" detects date and age issues (mothers too young, mothers too old, fathers born after their child, unrealistic ages). Out of the 70 errors, I deduced that only 17 were actual problems. The tool also warns against "duplicate birth facts" – a junk warning that we can usually ignore because in my tree for these individuals, there's just ONE birth fact and I think in a future update this bug will get changed, or at least a revised description. I quickly confirmed I did have some young step-mothers set as biological mothers and some fathers mistakenly born in the 1800s when they should be born in the 1700s. Typos happen; glad to deal with it. In a few instances, my estimated date of birth wasn't realistic (e.g. child born when parent was 8 years old) but I still didn't have a better one, so I adjusted and added a little note in my person's event timeline why I did so.

Now, coming back to "Quick Wins" I discovered that 758 people had no birth date! What? I clicked and jumped back to the tool's "Integrity" tab and the "Suggestions" sub-tab. Here I can toggle through filters for Line Origins, Missing Dates, Missing Places, Unsourced, Missing Deaths, and No Spouse. Under "No Spouse", guess who's first. ME! I'm not married! Thanks for reminding me...jerk... But anyway, "Line Origins" pulls out your direct ancestors and shows you your brick walls, suggesting looking for their parents in vital records, immigration records, or DNA matches.

But I've been slogging my way enthusiastically for two weeks through the "Missing Deaths" filter. As morbid as it could imply, there is supreme satisfaction (i.e. closure) in killing off your cousins and great-aunts and great-uncles in your family tree. Ninety percent I never personally knew and could not have, due to when or where they passed away. But before this GEDminer analysis, I had individuals sitting there, abandoned, re-

GEDminer

Case Study: **Mollie Huss**

b. Oct 1877. Last Known: Census (1920), Ramsey, Fayette, Illinois.

Mollie was 1 of 6, out of 8, siblings without death dates when I started. On FamilySearch, I located a Death Certificate for a Rev. Robert Lee **White** whose 2nd spouse was named Mollie Huss White. I thought that Mollie was not listed in any of the cemeteries of her parents (Mt. Pleasant Cem., Fayette Co., IL), siblings (various states), or Rev. White (Mt. Moriah Cem., Montgomery Co., IL). Ramsey Cem. in Fayette did have a Mollie **Hess** White with no tombstone photo or linked relatives. After many avenues of searching, I finally located an obituary for Mrs. Mollie White, 77, who died in Cowden, Shelby Co., IL, on Dec 5, 1954. It listed brother Rollie P. Huss, Lorimor, IA, and sister Mrs. Eunice **Pendick**, El Paso, TX, and that proved it WAS my Mollie! And it turns out that she WAS in a cemetery with her sister Mrs. Susan **Lorton**. If you think you've checked a place for someone, check some more!

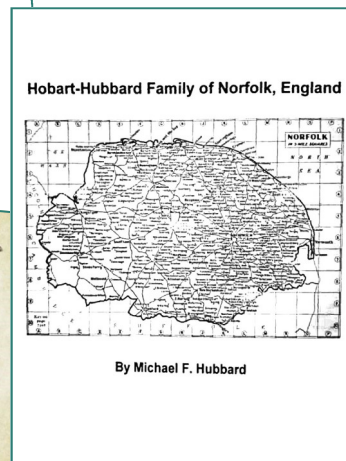
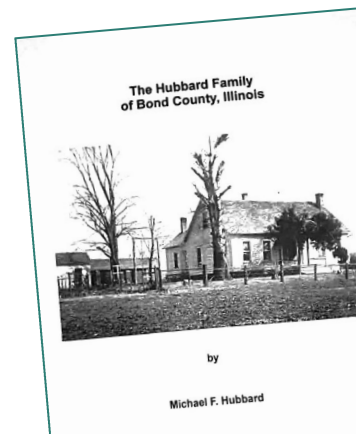
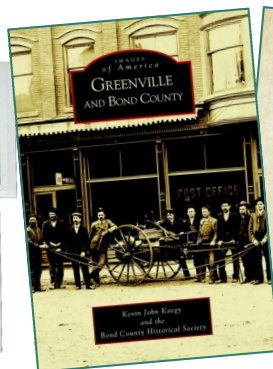
(Continued on page 17)

New Books, Poster, Prints, and Note Cards in Shop

Pick up one or all of these latest additions to our Gift Shop at Bond County Museum in Greenville, Saturdays 10a-noon year round, plus Sundays 1p-3p June, July & August. You can also contact us via our website to order (prices do not include shipping & handling).

www.bondcounthistorical.org/store.html

- ◆ *Hubbards of Bond County, IL*, by Michael Hubbard. \$60.00 each.
- ◆ *Hobart-Hubbard Family of Norfolk, England*, by Michael Hubbard. \$60.00 each.
- ◆ 18 Reprints from Carson Donnell's hand-carved Walnut Block Prints. Collected and restored by Robert Whiteside, and printed at 8.5" x 11" on parchment-style paper. \$25.00 per set.
- ◆ Watercolor Paintings by Helen Smith Carlson showing the U.S. DeMoulin Mansion in four seasons. Sold in packets of 4 blank notecards with one of each design, including envelopes. \$10.00 per set.
- ◆ *Images of America: Greenville and Bond County*, by Kevin Kaegy and the Bond County Historical Society, 2003. \$22.00 each.



Don't Forget the BCGS Publication List & Book Shop

Remember, Bond County Genealogical Society has put together many publications to assist you in your research. A complete list and an order form can be obtained at the society website www.bondcogen.org/for_sale.html. We've also updated shipping prices to reflect the current postal rates. \$5.00 for the first book, \$1.00 each additional. Contact us first for large orders! For more information or to make a purchase, email info@bondcogen.org or write us a snail mail letter. Shelves upon shelves of more books that are no longer offered as "Print On Demand" are still available for browsing and photocopying in our Research Library! See page 4 for details.



GEDminer, continued...

(Continued from page 15)

search stalled, turning 120 or older at their next birthday. So, I'm locating many of them in the (still relatively recent) 1950 Census, Social Security Deaths Index, newspaper obituaries on Newspapers.com or FamilySearch GenealogyBank indexes, and wherever else I can Google for information. I won't be done with this task for a while; it was as long overdue as my DNA test. It's also sentimental bouncing around from tree branch to tree branch visiting lines and stories helter skelter!

Also under the Integrity tab is the "Vital Sharpener," alerting me to persons who only have a year or an approximate year for their birth and/or death. Most of these filters have a sort feature, so if you're only concerned right now with close relatives to you, it will sort them by that attribute.

On day one, the tool I most valued was the "Tree Structure" tab under "Integrity." Here I located pesky unlinked individuals (orphans with no relationship; you probably deleted a step-child of a distant cousin and his relatives stayed in the tree) and duplicates. A third structure type is "Hidden Cousins" where the tool identifies possible clusters where people with the same surname have close birthdates; GEDminer suggests checking parish records for shared parents or witnesses. You can sort clusters by a year tolerance of 5, 10, 15, or 20 years. I have four possible clusters I've yet to investigate.

Also don't you dare miss out on "Locations" under the "Directory" tab. Here you can sort by nation, then region, and see where you need to better standardize your place names for births, deaths, and marriages.

At any point in your GEDminer guided work, go ahead and export your updated GEDCOM from your fami-

ly tree builder and upload it again; see how far you've come, continue to clean up that tree, rinse and repeat.

Once you've fixed all your errors and warnings and issues (or get bored or distracted and curious), pop over to the "Discovery" tab. Here you'll see a Migration Analysis, Census Toolbox, Military Candidates, Gap Detector, DNA Planner, and a full on Research Plan Generator. You can totally download your plan – described by GEDminer as "Your highest-impact research tasks, ranked by closeness and data gaps" – in a spreadsheet or PDF file to work on later. Of course, you've been meaning to do these things, and NOW you have them all in a clear list. AT. A. GLANCE! All thanks to this free new tool!

And with that, I bid you farewell, fellow family historians. I'm off to donate towards this brilliant tool sticking around. Then it's back to killing off cousins, I mean, um, re-researching death dates for persons who likely are not of the same stuff as Methuselah or Dracula.

The screenshot displays the GEDminer web application interface. At the top, the user is logged in as 'clausenwaithehopkins-familytree-apr12-2009' with a dropdown menu for email and links for Settings and New File. The main navigation bar includes Overview, Directory, Integrity (selected), and Discovery. Below this, sub-tabs for Suggestions, Errors, Vital Sharpener, and Tree Structure are visible. The 'Suggestions' section is active, showing a summary of 8152 total suggestions, 2239 high priority items, 110 line origins, and 237.9% tree source health. A list of filters is provided: All (8152), Line Origins (110), Missing Dates (2174), Missing Places (1165), Unsourced (1073), No Spouse (2084), and Missing Deaths (1546). The 'Missing Deaths' filter is selected. Sorting is set to Priority, and the view shows 'All Individuals (1,546)'. Two specific death records are highlighted: one for a person born 1916, marked deceased but with no date recorded, and another for a person born abt 1893, age ~133, with a death likely between 1923-1993. The footer contains the GEDminer logo, copyright information (© 2026 GEDminer), and links to Features, Guides, FAQ, About, Terms & Privacy, Contact, and a Support GEDminer button.

Searching for Eva Ricker Otto: A 30-Year Quest for a Missing Burial Place

Genealogy often begins with a simple question: Where is my ancestor buried? For Virgil **Langford**, that question has led to a decades-long search for the final resting place of his great-great-grandmother, Eva Ricker Otto.

In March 2026, Virgil contacted the Bond County Genealogical Society hoping someone might be able to help solve a mystery he has pursued for nearly 30 years.

Eva **Ricker** was born June 30, 1852, in rural Pierron, Illinois, (near the Bond/Madison county line) the daughter of Peter Ricker and Anna Maria **Kustermann** Ricker. Her baptism record from St. Paul Catholic Church in Highland confirms that Eva was baptized on July 4, 1852, with her parents recorded as Petra **Rücker** and Maria Anna Rücker.

The Ricker family was part of the early German Catholic community in Madison County. Census records place the family in the Highland/Pierron area in the 1860s, and church records reveal that Eva's siblings were also connected to St. Paul Church. Her brothers Adam and Francis were baptized there, and later records helped reveal important clues about the family's burial locations.

Eva was confirmed at St. Paul Catholic Church in 1870. Six years later, on March 7, 1876, she married Johann Henricus **Otto**—known in American records as Henry Otto—at St. Paul Church in Highland. The marriage record identifies Henry as a native of Magdeburg, Germany, and lists their parents as Johann Heinrich Otto and Dorothea Otto, and Peter and Maria Anna Ricker.

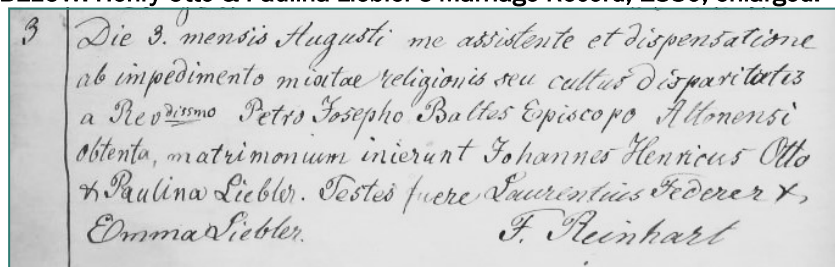
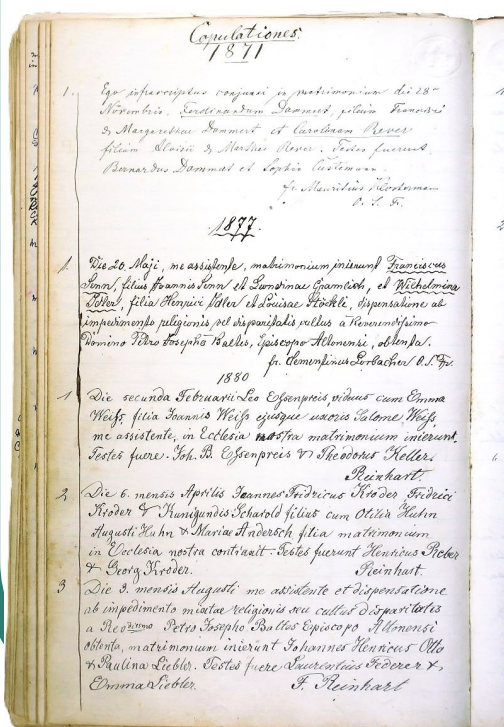
The couple settled in the Pocahontas area and began their family. Their first daughter, Anna Maria "Mary" Otto, was born October 1, 1876, and baptized at St. Nicholas Catholic Church in Pocahontas. Their second daughter, Veronica Otto, was born June 10, 1878, and baptized at St. Paul Church in Highland.

By the 1880 census, Henry Otto was living in Old Ripley township, Bond County with his daughters Mary and Veronica, and his mother and step-father. At first, Eva's presumed death date of 1890 (as stated by Virgil

in his email query) seemed possible, but further research uncovered a significant clue. Henry married Paulina **Liebler** at St. Nicholas Catholic Church in Pocahontas on August 3, 1880. Since the Catholic Church recognized Henry's second marriage, researchers believe Eva was likely deceased before that time rather than separated from Henry. This places Eva's death sometime before mid-1880.

LEFT: Records of St. Nicholas Parish, 1873-1965 (included in Roman Catholic Diocese of Springfield Sacramental Records) [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com).

BELOW: Henry Otto & Paulina Liebler's Marriage Record, 1880, enlarged.



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Searching for Eva and other Rickers in more records

The usual sources have not provided the answer. Society volunteers were unable to locate a newspaper death notice or obituary for Eva in either the *Greenville Advocate* or the *Greenville Sun*. She also does not appear in the Bond County tombstone index project, a countywide cemetery survey completed and published from 1970–1974.

Because Eva was a member of the Catholic community, research turned toward church records and family burial patterns. Although some Catholic cemetery and church records are incomplete or unavailable, important clues emerged.

Eva's brother Adam J. Rickher died December 4, 1923, and was buried at Calvary Cemetery near the Church of Immaculate Conception in Pierron. His burial record lists the same parents as Eva: Petri Rickher and Mariae Annae Kustermann. Eva's mother was also buried at Calvary Cemetery in Pierron. Her sister Elizabeth was later buried at St. Joseph Cemetery in Highland.

The Ricker family connections make Calvary Cemetery a strong possibility for Eva's burial place. Although no marker has been located, the cemetery was in the same community where the Ricker family lived, and her mother's burial there suggests a likely family connection. However, without a surviving record or stone, the search remains open.

Church registers from St. Paul Catholic Church in Highland and St. Nicholas Catholic Church in Pocahontas have provided valuable information about the Ricker and Otto families, including baptisms, confirmations, and marriages. These records have helped reconstruct Eva's life even though her burial record remains missing.

After Eva's death, Henry Otto moved to East St. Louis, where he was later buried at Mount Hope Cemetery in Belleville. Henry and his second wife, Paulina, had additional children, continuing the Otto family line.

Eva Otto's story is a reminder that genealogy is not always about finding the answer immediately. Sometimes the journey uncovers family connections, forgotten communities, and records that bring ancestors back into view.

If anyone has information about Eva Ricker Otto, her death, or a possible burial location in the Highland, Pierron, Pocahontas, or surrounding Catholic cemeteries, BCGS and Virgil Langford would be grateful to hear from you.

After three decades of searching, perhaps one more clue will finally bring Eva home.

Experts in the field call genealogical records an important window on history. But deep down, they say, the records scratch an itch among most people to learn about their predecessors, uncover surprises and locate the occasional black sheep. — Michael Wines, *New York Times*

World War I on Fold3

One of the smartest moves to search on Fold3 is searching within a specific collection, called “publications.” A reason why? You can browse by name rather than search. Perhaps your search isn’t working due to a name spelling variation. This way, you can drill down by name. This method might even help you locate other relatives with the same name.

Here are some of the first collections to go to for WWI era research. There are 77 publications/collections for WWI as of June 25, 2026. Note that there was a fire at the St. Louis National Archives in 1973 which destroyed millions of twentieth-century Army and Air Force Official Military Personnel Files, which affects many WWI, WWII, Korea, and later

researchers.

- ◆ US, Army Register of Enlistments, 1798-1914
- ◆ US, WWI Panoramic Unit Photos, 1915-1919
- ◆ US, Army Registers, 1798-1969
- ◆ Military Yearbooks
- ◆ US, Marine Corps Muster Rolls, 1798-1958
- ◆ US, WWI Draft-Registration Cards, 1917-1918

Access 145M+ records in 77 publications (37 free ones!) at <https://www.fold3.com/collection/world-war-i-united-states#publications>

One of the most underutilized FREE collections are the WWI Panoramic Unit Photos. Though the individuals in the photos aren’t labeled, if it’s someone you know in your family, you may be able to find them in these photos.

BELOW: The Fighting 5th Regiment Marines at the U.S. Capitol, Washington D.C., Aug 12, 1919. Fighting as the tip of the spear in the 4th Marine Brigade, they cemented the “Devil Dog” legend during the grueling Battle of Belleau Wood in France in June 1918. Arthur Roland **Reynolds** (1899-1921) lived 2 mi NW of Greenville, Bond Co., and served in Co K 5th Reg. U.S. Marines Aug 1918-Aug 1919, participating in the occupation of the German Rhineland. Pvt. Reynolds was born in Mulberry Grove twp, and killed by a train near Formosa, near Troy in January 1921. *Photo courtesy www.fold3.com/image/320516895/5th-regiment-marines-page-1-us-wwi-panoramic-unit-photos-1915-1919*



The Marions and The Piggs, Part 2

By Edward P. Campbell of Westlake, OH, epcampbell@me.com

All of this is a product of my research, and may not be either complete or fully accurate. I would welcome feedback.

*In Part 1 we learned that Elijah **Pigg** and Louise **Gardner** had ten children, including Francis Marion Pigg and John Wesley Pigg, who enrolled at M'Kendree College in 1867. Francis' records suggest he changed his name to Francis Marquis Marion between 1872 and 1873, as he graduated under that name.*

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(Continued from page 20)

Land records show Francis purchased land in 1873 and later transferred it to his brother John W. Pigg without payment, further indicating he is the same person as Francis M. Marion. Search for legal name change records remains unverified.

John Wesley Pigg and John Wesley Marion

Westminster College, now Westminster University, was a Presbyterian College in Fulton, Missouri. College records show that in 1875, John Wesley **Marion** of Greenville, IL was a student at Westminster. Alumni records published in later years lists John Wesley Marion of Mulberry Grove, IL having attended Westminster College in 1875 and 1877.

From 1875 until his death in 1922, John W. Marion was widely known and respected as an educator, first as a teacher and later as a principle and superintendent. He worked in Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky and Georgia. He is mentioned in scores of newspaper articles, and a book, among other publications. However, other than the single reference in Westminster College alumni records, John Wesley Marion never used the Wesley middle name again. He rarely used his first name. He was always J. W. Marion.

Any search of J. W. Marion's history before 1875 delivers zero reliable information. Other than the 1880 U. S. Census that correctly shows Illinois as his state of birth, all other U.S. census records differ from the previous one in terms of the birth state of him or his parents.

J. W. Marion had one brother: F. M. Marion. F. M. Marion was older than his younger brother by about 7 years. Francis Pigg was older than his younger brother by about 8 years. Francis used either his initials or his middle name in written communication, which in newspaper reports was either Marx, Marks or Marco. This is further evidence that Francis Marion Pigg changed his name to Francis Marquis Marion.

J. W. Marion's death certificate states his parents' names were John Marion and Harriet **Williams**. It was signed by his daughter Ruth Elaine Marion. In my years of searching every available source, I have never found any John Marion married to a Harriet Williams.

Sometime between his enrollment at Westminster College and his death, John W. Marion appears to have changed his middle name from Wesley to Wilkes. I cannot say when. While his family after his death all agrees his middle name was Wilkes, I can find no record of his ever using that name. He did name his son Wilkes C. Marion. I have speculated that he may have changed his middle name to John Wilkes from John Wesley after he enrolled in a Presbyterian college, where he might have been questioned about why he was named after a famous Methodist. However, I have no evidence of that.

From all of these findings, I conclude two things about John Wesley Pigg. First, that he changed his surname to that of his brother Francis Marquis Marion. The Pigg/Marion brothers remained close throughout their lives, and are buried next to one another in Gainesville, GA. And secondly, John Marion never confided in his family that their surname had originally been Pigg.

Watch for Part 3 in the B.C.G.S. News Vol 42, Issue 1, Winter 2027.

A Gift That Preserves Pocahontas History

Bond County Genealogical Society has recently received a remarkable addition to its research collections—a set of scanned pages from the funeral and burial journal of longtime Bond County resident Perry Kershner (1847–1945), generously shared by his 2nd great-grandnephew, Kyle Matthes.

According to Matthes, Perry Kershner served as a cemetery undertaker in Pocahontas during the 1910s-20s. The 1920 Federal Census lists Perry as a 72-year-old married church janitor. As part of his work, he carefully maintained a journal documenting the funerals and burials performed at the Pocahontas Methodist Episcopal (M.E.) Church, recording the names of the deceased along with dates, officiants, ages, and places. Such records can provide valuable clues for genealogists, particularly when death certificates, obituaries, or cemetery records are incomplete or unavailable.

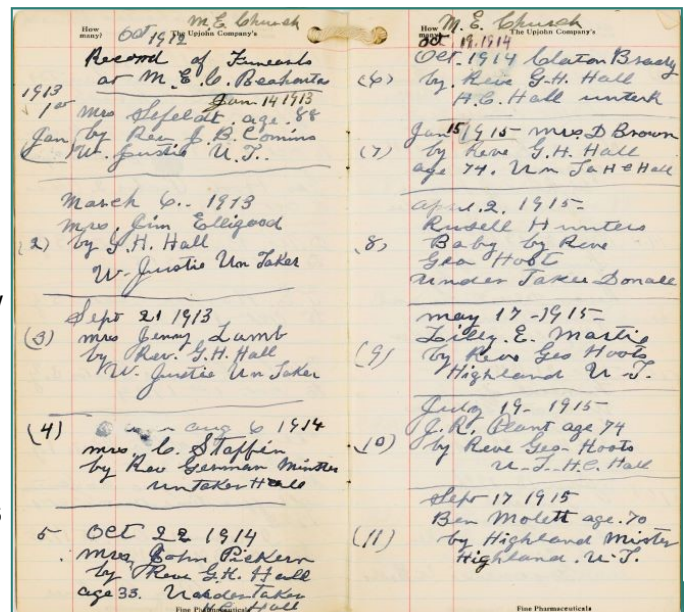
The Kershner family has deep roots in Bond County. Their ancestors settled here after migrating from Maryland and Ohio. Perry's father (Matthes' 3x great-grandfather), Jonathan Kershner, served as a Justice of the Peace, possibly in Bond County, before his death in 1864. Perry himself spent an extraordinary 90 of his 98 years living in Bond County and was a living link to an earlier era. Among the stories he shared with later generations was his recollection of seeing Abraham Lincoln deliver a campaign speech in Greenville.

Personal journals like Perry Kershner's remind us that history is often preserved not only in official government records, but also in the notebooks, ledgers, and daybooks kept by ordinary citizens who took pride in documenting their daily work. We are grateful to the Kershner family for preserving this journal and making it available for the benefit of historians and family researchers alike.

BCGS extends its sincere appreciation for this thoughtful donation and encourages others who may possess family papers, diaries, photographs, business records, or similar historical materials relating to Bond County to consider sharing them. Even records that seem ordinary today may prove invaluable to future generations seeking to understand the lives of those who came before them.



ABOVE: Former Methodist Episcopal Church of Pocahontas, built 1912. Photo from Pocahontas History Club. BELOW: Pages from Record of Funerals 1913-1928, Perry Kershner Journal, 20 total pages.



9 Wild Things You Can Discover From a DNA Test

By the Ancestry.com Team

Thinking about taking one of those DNA tests you've heard about on TV or seen advertised online? Get ready for what could be a wild (and amazing) ride. Here are 9 discoveries regular ol' people have made after taking a DNA test.

1. You Could Find a 300-Year-Old Ancestor Who Never Took a DNA Test

How does that work? AncestryDNA® compares your test to other people who have taken the test, and if those other people have an online family tree, it looks for ancestors you might share. Gloria got a message saying she could be related to a Joseph Good who was born in Virginia in the late 1700s. She'd never heard of him. But with a little digging, she discovered that Joseph was her 4x great-grandfather. Did we mention that Gloria was from Honduras and family legend said her great-grandfather was an American who was shot by his brother and buried in Honduras? Legend proved true, with the help of DNA.

2. You Could Find Out You're Irish

Two out of three AncestryDNA test takers have come up with at least 5 percent Irish in their ethnicity results. One group of coworkers held a contest to see who was the most Irish. And the winner actually grew up in Australia. *You could also learn that you have ancestors from any of 350+ other regions around the world.

3. You Could Find Out You're Not as Irish as You Thought

Anna was bummed to find out she was the least Irish of her sisters, even though she loves St. Patrick's Day the most. How can two siblings have ethnicity estimates that don't match? The DNA we inherit from each parent is completely random, so unless you're an identical twin, your DNA profile won't be exactly the same as a sibling's. (That could explain a lot about your little brother...)

4. You Could Find a New Sibling

Wendy was 29 and Lisa 28 when they met for the first time last summer. Wendy had been adopted as a baby. Lisa was discovered when she was a few hours old, wrapped in a blanket and left where someone would find her. She was later adopted as well. Neither knew she had a sister until they each happened to take an AncestryDNA test. They decided to meet in Yellowstone, a place neither had been, to share a new experience together. Wendy drove in from Pennsylvania, and Lisa flew from California. And how's this for strange coincidences: They both have the same middle name, and both play the banjo.

5. You Can Find a Parent

You could also find a parent. Becky found her mom. Becky was adopted at age 2 and hadn't

(Continued on page 24)

9 Wild Things, continued...

(Continued from page 23)

thought much about finding her birth parents until she was older and started wondering about her family's health history. So her husband ordered a DNA test from Ancestry. The results came back with a match indicating that Becky had a cousin named Lisa who probably shared a grandparent. It was Lisa who revealed that Becky's mother was alive and well—and living only hours away in Miami. Becky's first phone conversation with her mom lasted 4 hours. They met in person on Mother's Day.

6. You Could Discover Where Some of Your African Ancestors Came From

Forty years ago, Alex Haley, the author of the acclaimed novel that spawned the miniseries *Roots*, told the story of an ancestor from Gambia. Finding your African roots was a rare thing back then. But now DNA testing has helped thousands of African Americans get some idea of where their African ancestors came from. For Aisha, the millionth person to take the AncestryDNA test, that included modern-day Nigeria and Cameroon.

7. You Could Find a Cousin You Didn't Know—at Your Office...

It happens. One set of cousins worked in the same department and had no idea they were related. Another employee discovered that the woman across the aisle from her was related to her husband — and thus her son, who has since joined their Fitbit challenge group.

8. You Might Find a Cousin Next Door

After looking at her DNA test results, Susan discovered that her neighbor of 20 years was also her second cousin. Small world, isn't it?

9. You Could Make a New Friend—or Lots of Them

Nicka and Crista are both professional genealogists who never imagined they were cousins until they took a DNA test. And now they're friends, all thanks to a DNA test.

There's no blood required, so it doesn't even hurt (in case you were wondering). Just a quick saliva test. That's all it takes to unlock a world of discovery waiting inside you—and a world of connections you never imagined.

The Other Coast
By Adrian Raeside
June 19, 2026



Patriot Ancestors of George Baker

In May 2026, Bond County native and resident Ron **Bimes** donated a collection of items to Bond County Museum, including *Ancestral Records: Ancestors and Relatives of George Baker (1816—1896) who served in the American Revolution (1776-1783)*. This is a family record focused on descendants and relatives of those who—both male and female—fought in and aided the cause of the War, compiled by Bessie **McDonald Lindsey** (b. 1883 Macon Co., IL d. 1960 Macon Co., IL).

Research has confirmed Bessie's 2x great-grandparents were Thomas **Mayo** III and Amey **Davis**. Ron Bimes' mother, Amy Cornelia **Kuhn** Bimes **Erdel**'s, 3x great-grandparents were also Thomas Mayo III and Amey Davis. The Military, Patriotic, or Civil Service of those "documented patriots" shared by both Bessie and Cornelia follows:

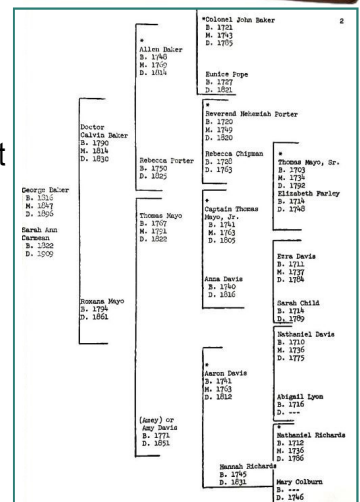
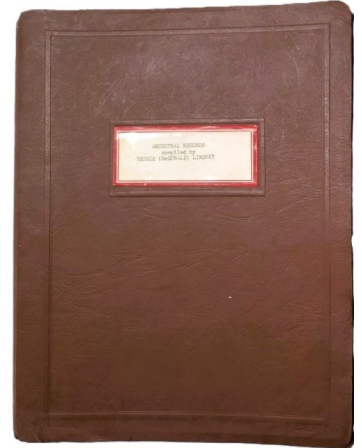
Nathaniel **Richards**, Esq. of Roxbury, MA, loaned money to the Government during the Revolution. He'd inherited the homestead of his enterprising father at Jamaica Plain, now in West Roxbury. Before and during the Revolutionary War he kept the Peacock Tavern at Jamaica Plain and became a magistrate; he was highly respected for his intelligence and esteemed for his virtues. Rich-

ards was an open and decided Whig, and the weight of his influence on the multitude who called at his house was not small in arousing and encouraging them to resist oppression. His sentiments, however, did not, prior to the commencement of hostilities, hinder English officers from holding parties at his house and some amusing anecdotes are still related of his intercourse with them (*3rd Report of DAR list of Massachusetts citizens who...* p 338).

Thomas Mayo, Sr. of Roxbury, MA, loaned money to the Government in 1777, but did not renew when the loan became due in 1780 (*Honor Roll of Massachusetts Patriots*, p 25).

Captain Thomas Mayo, Jr. of Roxbury, MA, was Lieut. at the Lexington Alarm in Captain William **Draper's** (2nd Roxbury Company) serving 15 days; also Capt. of the 5th Co. Col. William **McIntosh's** (1st Suffolk Co.) Regiment Massachusetts Militia; chosen May 7, 1776, commissioned May 10, 1776; also Capt. in Col. Eleazer **Weld's** detachment of Militia, serving from Dec. 9 to Dec. 29, 1776; also Capt. in Col. Eleazer **Brook's** Reg. of Guards, serving from Nov. 7, 1777 to Apr. 3, 1778 at Cambridge, MA (*Drake's History of Roxbury, Massachusetts*, p 31-108).

(Continued on page 27)



The average age of a Revolutionary War soldier was early 20s. Enlistment age was 16 (15 with parental consent) up to the age of 55 years old. The youngest were 10-11 years old!

Send Us Your Patriot Ancestor Stories!

Genealogy Tips Of The Day

These tips appeared in Michael John Neill's blog www.genealogytipoftheday.com January—June 2026.

Lessons from Sarah's Marriages

I never really did much work on the siblings of great-great-grandma Nancy Jane (Newman) Rampley (1846-1923) and recently decided to focus on her sister, Sarah. Sarah was born in about 1851 in Rush County, Indiana. Obituaries for several of her siblings in the early 20th century indicated she lived in Macon County, Missouri, and was Sarah Graves. Online compilations contained little detail and, without any sources, were somewhat suspect. While it is suggested to research from the present to the past, I opted to research from the past to the present—starting with Sarah in the 1860 census with her parents and moving forward.

The short version is that this approach was the successful one. Marriage and census records quickly painted a tentative picture of Sarah's life:

- ◇ Married in 1869 to Oscar Williamson in Hancock County, Illinois.
- ◇ Living with Oscar in 1870 in Hancock County, Illinois.
- ◇ Something happened to Oscar and Sarah was in Macon County, Missouri, in 1880 with husband Henry Willingham.
- ◇ Something happened to Henry and in 1900 Sarah is in Macon County, Missouri, with husband Thomas M. Graves. They had been married 15 years according to the census.

The process to get to this point is too long for one of our tips, but there are a few quick reminders here:

Sometimes it is best to work from the past to the present—working from the known to the unknown is usually a better approach.

People often “hang out” near family. Sarah had family in Hancock County during the time she lived there and also had family (other than her husband and children) in the Macon County area.

Short-term marriages (whether ended by death or divorce) can make women more difficult to find. Attempts years ago to locate Sarah had focused on a Newman marrying a Graves. That was not what happened.

The Not Mine List

There is my Benjamin Butler and then there are the other ones.

Mine was born about 1819 in New York State and is known to have lived in Michigan, Ontario, Iowa, and Missouri (and possibly a few other locations as well). There are other men of that same name who were of about the same age. I'm always encountering them when I'm looking through records on my Benjamin.

So I made a list of these other Benjamin Butlers and what I have about them—focusing on those who lived reasonably close to my Benjamin and were of about the same age.

I also made a note that there was a Benjamin Butler born in 1818 in New Hampshire who was eventually a governor of Massachusetts. His name comes up in a variety of newspaper searches due to his mention of his political activities.

All of that is done so that when I go back to work on my Benjamin after a break, I do not have to start from scratch.

Hidden by the Step-Father

A relative first appeared in 1879 when he married in Missouri. He could be found in the 1900 census, but unfortunately died in 1905 in a location where death certificates did not provide parental information. It was as if the marriage was the first time he interacted with anyone creating an official record of him.

No amount of clever searching could locate him in the 1860 or 1870 census. Based on his age at marriage and his age in 1900, he should have been in both those census enumerations.

He was—just under his step-father's last name.

A clue in his probate file led to the discovery of a half-sister which led to the discovery of his mother's marriage to his step-father in the 1850s. He appears in the 1860 and 1870 census with the surname of his step-father. The marriage was the first record where he likely gave his own last name. That likely did not happen in 1860 and 1870.

Is your relative hiding under the name of a step-father?

Patriot Ancestors, continued...

(Continued from page 25)

Aaron Davis of Roxbury, MA, enlisted as Private in Captain **Cowell's** Co., Colonel Benjamin **Hawes** Regiment. Marched Sep. 25, 1777; service to Oct. 30, 1777, 35 days on a secret expedition. Roll sworn to in Suffolk County (*Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors, Vol. II*).

George Baker ancestors who served:

- ◆ Colonel John **Baker**
- ◆ Allen Baker
- ◆ Reverend Nehemiah **Porter**
- ◆ Captain Thomas Mayo, Jr.
- ◆ Thomas Mayo, Sr.
- ◆ Nathaniel Richards
- ◆ Aaron Davis

George Baker relatives who served:

- ◇ Nathan **Hale**
- ◇ General Israel **Putnam**
- ◇ General Rufus Putnam
- ◇ Obidiah **Curtis**
- ◇ Mary **Aldis** Draper
- ◇ John Mayo
- ◇ Joseph Mayo
- ◇ Ezra Davis
- ◇ Sarah **Franklin Bache**

Submissions and Genealogical Queries

The B.C.G.S. News is published 2 times a year—January & July. The Bond County Genealogical & Historical Societies invite members to submit articles on Bond County families or histories, research techniques, announcements & queries. Typed submissions are preferred.

Genealogical queries with connections to Bond County and its communities in Southern Illinois are published free of charge to members (and non-members!) in our Newsletter (though members have priority on query space). Anyone is invited to submit the names and brief identifying information of ancestors they are researching, so that those researching the same persons can exchange information with them.

To make your query more effective, include dates, places and full names whenever possible. The query may also be published on our Website.

All submissions are subject to editing and/or serialization over multiple issues. Your articles and photos shall remain your property. DO NOT send copyrighted material unless you hold the copyright or you supply proof of permission to print with your submission.

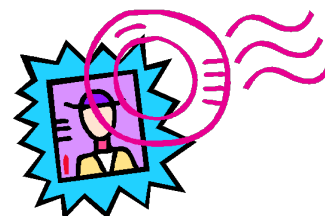
You may E-Mail your submissions and/or queries to the newsletter committee at info@bondcogen.org or send Snail Mail to: Bond County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 172, Greenville, IL 62246.

SAMPLE QUERY: Researching Rev James Ball Woolard, b 16 Dec 1804 Buford Co NC, mov to Mulberry Grove Bond Co IL abt 1831, m Mary McCurley. dpl Greenville Bond Co IL 4 May 1887. --Submitter's name, address, and email address

General questions for Bond County Genealogical Society and requests for Research & Library help should be emailed to info@bondcogen.org

Good queries are:

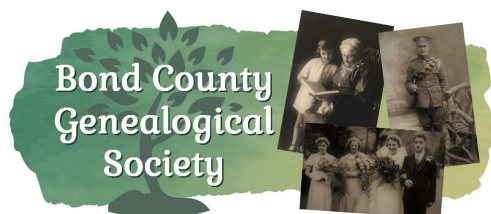
*Clear—
Specific—
Simple—
Concise*



Official Newsletter of the Bond County Genealogical Society of Greenville, Illinois, published jointly since 2014 with the Bond County Historical Society. Follow "Bond County Museum" on Facebook!



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www.bondcountyhistorical.org



Renew Your Dues for 2026!

Bond County Genealogical Society membership dues are \$10 per 2-person household for the current year. A lifetime membership for a 2-person household may be purchased for a one-time payment of \$175. Members are eligible to vote and to serve as BCGS officers and appointees.

SPECIAL OFFER! Join both societies (Genealogical and Historical) for only \$20.00 - a \$5.00 savings! Find membership information on Page 2 of this issue and on both societies' websites (see URLS at left).



Questions Asked in 1960 Census: Won't Be Released Until 2032

The 1960 census was the first to employ a form of self-enumeration. The Census Bureau mailed each householder an "Advance Census Report" form that they were to fill out without the aid of census employees. Census takers (enumerators) later collected these forms in person and transferred the information they contained onto permanent FOSDIC census forms that computers read to derive the official tabulations. One-fourth (25 percent) of the households later received a second questionnaire containing additional "sample" questions. The questions are presented in two sections, "Population questions" and "Housing questions." All persons answered all of the population questions, but not all households answered the same *housing* questions. Households in cities with populations of 50,000 or more were asked some additional housing questions not asked in other areas, while households outside of those cities received a different set of additional housing questions. Specific new questions and topics asked for the first time in 1960 included:

- ◆ Means of transportation to work
- ◆ Year moved into the house or apartment (asking exactly when a person moved in, such as "In 1959 or 1960")
- ◆ Previous residence details: Asking if the person lived in the same house exactly five years prior (April 1, 1955)
- ◆ Specific housing condition questions: Including details like whether the housing unit had a bathtub or shower, and what type of heating equipment was used.

Take a look at the entire Sample 1960 Census Enumeration Form here: <https://usa.ipums.org/usa/resources/voliii/form1960.pdf>