



• Dates of Note •

September 3

PCGS Board Meeting
by Video Conference

September 10

PCGS Monthly Speaker
by Zoom Video
or dial in by telephone

September 15

October Newsletter
Submission Deadline

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Coming in September:

Scattered History

- presented only via Zoom Audio/Video -

September's program focuses on procurement, preservation, and digital distribution of objects of personal or historical significance. Successful methods for locating items of interest will be shared along with measures that can be taken to preserve them on a limited budget. Additionally, options for digital archiving and the ethical dilemmas of sharing images with the general public will be discussed.

Our speaker, **Phillip Mott**, began researching his family's history in his youth while growing up in the family home. After meeting his wife, he developed a taste for local history. In his spare time he does research and shares some of his local history findings on www.peoriahistory.com.



Phillip was born September 1982. He lived in Ferguson, Missouri for the first couple years of his life before moving to Staunton, Illinois. He remained in Staunton, living in the home built by his great-grandparents, until graduating from high school in 2000. After earning a degree in special education from Western Illinois University in 2004, he began his teaching career working for SEAPCO (Special Education Association of Peoria County) at Farmington and later Peoria Heights schools. He now lives in Hanna City with his wife, Allison and two children, Eliza and Leo.

PCGS Monthly Meeting
Presented via Zoom Video Conference
September 10, 2020 6:00 PM
The public is always welcome!

Peoria County Genealogical Society is a 501c organization and all donations are tax-deductible. Please remember PCGS in your estate planning to help us continue on in our mission to identify, preserve and share the heritage of our Peoria County ancestors.

If You Missed It...

Submitted by PCGS Member & Vice President Tom Pilat

Our monthly meeting in August featured a presentation by Gena Philibert-Ortega on the topic of “The Farmer Takes a Wife”. Gena drew on her broad experience and resources to show us various ways to research relatives who are women who lived in farm or agricultural settings. Sometimes it is hard to find this information because so many legal documents are listed in the name of the husband and don’t include the wife’s name. Gena reminded us that searching for the person by name, even maiden name returns limited results. We should extend that search by using the **FAN** approach. This means to search for **F**riends, **A**ssociates, and **N**eighbors of our ancestor. These results give us a much richer understanding of our family member’s life history. We were shown how to conduct searches that include community organization membership rolls, or even women’s clubs’ cookbooks, and things like newspaper articles about the rural organizations that may include our relative. Gena illustrated her lessons with examples from many archives, libraries and indexes dedicated to the farm women. The session closed with a few questions and answers. We were all energized to try again to break that “brick wall” that is preventing us from getting the full story of our family. Thank you, Gena, for a stimulating presentation.

Updated Moffatt Cemetery Records Donated to Peoria Public Library

Submitted by PCGS Member Bob Hoffer

PCGS volunteer transcriptions of the 1872-1915 Peoria Undertaker Reports, found by member Bob Hoffer a few years ago, have produced four published volumes through 1909 with work continuing on the rest. Availability of this information has helped numerous genealogists find missing links, break brick walls, and learn interesting details in the process. Scattered through these volumes are the only known death and burial record for perhaps 3,000 Peoria County citizens with those buried at Moffatt Cemetery on SW Adams Street accounting for about 2,500.

Moffatt Cemetery was started as a family plot in the 1840s; became a business in the 1870s; closed by the Health Department in 1905; abandoned by the owners and became an eyesore for 50 years; cleared, destroyed and rezoned in the 1950s; and is now covered by commercial interests. Cemetery records were said to have been ‘lost.’ However, the Peoria Undertaker Reports have made up for most, but not all, of that missing information for Moffatt Cemetery.

Bob recently documented additional individuals believed to have been buried at Moffatt who have not been found in the Undertaker Reports. This information was gleaned from several sources. The greatest number came from a file of 19 sheets of school paper found at the Tazewell Society in Pekin transcribed decades ago from a wooden box at Wilton Mortuary. Many more names came from his canvassing area cemeteries looking for transfers from Moffatt hoping to

find his wife’s great-grandfather. His documenting Union Civil War veterans buried there netted about 20 and WPA records and transcriptions taken directly from grave stones in the 1930s resulted in about a dozen more. In all, 155 individuals were identified out of 614 names in these sources.

These additional Moffatt Cemetery burials, along with background and sources, are now documented in our Society files at PPL Local History and Genealogy Section. The purpose is to provide the most complete compilation possible of all known burials at Moffatt Cemetery.

However, not included in the Undertaker Reports, this compilation, or any other known source, are the identities of the uncountable number of persons buried in a mass grave just two years before Moffatt was closed. These remains of many individuals were disturbed when the City of Peoria installed a sewer line along Lincoln Avenue through the original City Cemetery grounds in 1903. They were placed into 46 ‘soap boxes’ and taken to Moffatt Cemetery where

they were buried in one ‘mass grave.’ Just another forgotten mystery of Peoria history.



Bob Hoffer handing over Moffatt Cemetery Records to PCGS Librarian Amber Lowery at the PPL Main Branch

A Review of *Inheritance: A Memoir of Genealogy, Paternity, and Love*

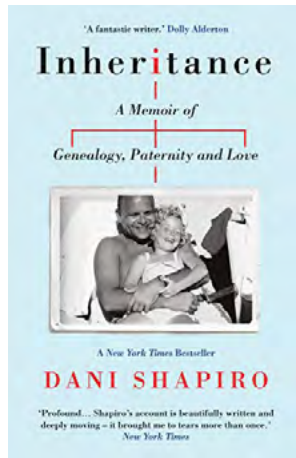
by Dani Shapiro

Submitted by PCGS Member & President Kim Hanks

My cousin and friend Teresa loves to send me gifts. Recently Teresa sent me a book she had read and assured me this was something I would like because I like genealogy. So, I opened and saw it was a memoir, I just thought “Oh boy, read it and get it over with.”

Once I started reading *Inheritance*, I couldn't put it down. I finished it in two days. And I loved it!

The author took a DNA test that revealed the father she knew was not her father. I know what you are thinking... I've heard that before. But this writer tells the story of finding her biological father through interesting investigations that include science, technology, religion, history, family stories, genealogy, and memory. But in the end it isn't the shocking news or the research but how Dani Shapiro relates to what she finds.



I felt a kinship with the author. She draws you into her personal experiences and you walk with her hand in hand. She moved me to tears and laughter and concern. As soon as I was finished, I wanted badly to talk to someone else who had finished the book. So I passed it on!

My friend Holly enjoys memoirs and like me, couldn't put it down. “The best book I've read in a long time. A great story, a great storyteller, a great read.” We had the best discussion about *Inheritance*.

It's more than a book about DNA results. It's more than a biography. You will just have to take my word for it. **READ THIS BOOK!** It is so good. You won't want to put it down.

Then, let's talk about it. I know you will want to!

Dear PCGS Members,

It's Prairie Roots time again! Many of us are still staying close to home during the pandemic so this would be the perfect opportunity to write an article for our Fall-Winter edition. October 30th is the deadline for our next issue.

Need an idea? Why not tell us about a **NOTABLE ANCESTOR** you have discovered in your research (an inventor, a champion, a hero, an actor/actress, a politician, a journalist/author, royalty, etc.). Perhaps, you have someone that stands out as your **MOST FASCINATING ANCESTOR** that you could profile. Another topic you might share would be the **OCCUPATIONS** that were prominent in your family's history, especially if they carried through generations. Remember, these are just suggestions to get you started. We love showcasing your research too.

Our Oral History section offers you a chance to share memories with future generations. Any topic is acceptable as you've seen in past issues of the magazine. Tell us about some of the simple things you remember, such as peashooters, saddle shoes, 45 RPM records, hairstyles, metal ice cube trays, butch wax, red wagons, the old wood and iron school desks, school bells, and the list goes on.

Put on your thinking caps! Search that trove of family pictures. Remember, the success of each Prairie Roots is a result of our member stories.

Please send articles to pcgsprairieroots@gmail.com and oral histories to pcgsoralhistory@gmail.com by October 30, 2020.

- Alice Brophy & Barb Benner



amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

to our new members:

Teresa & James Shaw of Warrensburg, MO
researching
SHANE, NEAL, NELSON, SMITH, CLEMENTS

Alberta McQuarrie of Hanna City, IL
researching
VIRDEN, LEWIS, PATTON, BROWN, MCQUARRIE

Linda Craig of Sauk Village, IL
researching
GRESHAM, SMITH, CRISWELL, REED, SWANSON

We are so happy to have you
in PCGS!

What is AmazonSmile?

AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. AmazonSmile is available at smile.amazon.com on your web browser and can be activated in the Amazon Shopping app for iOS and Android phones. When you shop at AmazonSmile, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. You can choose from over one million organizations to support.

How do I shop at AmazonSmile?

To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.com on your web browser or activate AmazonSmile on your Amazon Shopping app on your iOS or Android phone (found under settings on your app). On your browser, you may also want to add a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile. When you're using the app, always check for the "AmazonSmile" logo to ensure you're activated for AmazonSmile.

Go to

https://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/about/ref=smi_se_dshb_aas_saas
for more details about AmazonSmile donations to PCGS



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Peoria County Genealogical Society Board is incredibly excited to start a new membership year and plans to get several new activities, programs, and publications in the works for 2020/2021 as well as continuing existing projects.

But we need you! Do you have any of the following interests and skills:

- social media**
- email/print marketing**
- writing, editing, and proofreading**
- web and graphic design**
- community involvement and outreach**
- enthusiasm for genetic genealogy**
- general photography**
- organization**

Contact Tiffany at pcgsnews@gmail.com or Kim at (309) 696-8588 and we will help you find the perfect volunteer match

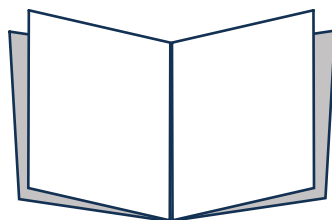
The PCGS Board has several open opportunities for your involvement

Let's talk about your interest. Email Kim Hanks, PCGS President at pcgspresident@gmail.com



Researcher-in-Training

PCGS has been lucky to have had Fred Katko in the volunteer Researcher position for 20 years! But he would like to retire. Before he does, Fred is willing to train the next PCGS Researcher. If you would like to join the Research Team, now is the time! This needs to be a person/people who is available to make in-person visits to the Peoria Public Library Main Branch and the Peoria County Courthouse and who is an experienced genealogist. The Researcher responds to queries from members and nonmembers about ancestors in Peoria County.



Publications Director-in-Training

Our current Publications Director Niki Plows is moving out of state at the end of September! If you are interested in this position, now is the time to act so Niki can train you before she leaves! Publications Director is responsible for the preparation, distribution, and sale of PCGS publications. The right volunteer for this position would need to be organized, able to regularly visit the Peoria Public Library Main Branch and post office, and have some knowledge of not just print materials, but also digital documents (PDF).



Projects Director

An immediate opening is available for a volunteer interested in planning and implementing projects such as archiving the donated materials in the PCGS storeroom or Summer in the Cemeteries. This volunteer would be willing to recruit and coordinate others to help with projects. A strong sense of organization and enthusiasm are all the gifts you need to get started as Projects Director!

Your PCGS Board

President: Kim Hanks
pcgspresident@gmail.com

Vice President: Tom Pilat
pcgsvicepresident@gmail.com

Treasurer: Michele Richey
pcgstreasurer@gmail.com

Recording Secretary: Elizabeth Klise
pcgssecretary@gmail.com

Corresponding Secretary: Donna Schlatter
pcgscorrespond@gmail.com

Librarian : Amber Lowery
pcgslibrary1@gmail.com

Membership: Kathy Moletti
pcgsmembership@gmail.com

Public Relations: Vicki Padesky
pcgspublicrelations@gmail.com

Projects: Kim Hanks
pcgsproject@gmail.com

Publications: Niki Plows
pcgspublication@gmail.com

Webmaster: Thom Reed
pcgswebmaster1489@gmail.com

Newsletter: Tiffany Thomas
pcgsnews@gmail.com

Prairie Roots: Alice Brophy
pcgsprairieroots@gmail.com

Research: Fred Katko
pcgsresearcher@gmail.com