

## SAVE THESE DATES!

Tuesday, November 5

ELECTION DAY

# VOTE!

Thursday, November 14

Using Digital Newspapers

6:00—8:00 pm CST

Peoria Public Library North Branch

Sunday, November 17

Member SIG via Zoom

Using Digital Newspapers

3:00 - 4:00 pm CST



## Happy Holidays!

*Irene Walters presents*

## Using Digital Newspapers to Add to Your Family History Story

How many of you have stumbled upon a valuable newspaper article as you researched an ancestor? Maybe it was a folded clipping locked away in a worn book or a yellowed obituary in a family Bible. Did you long to find more to build your narrative on this family member?

Irene Walters, a librarian at the Houston Public Library's Family History Research Center at the Clayton Library Campus, will showcase how to use digital newspapers to enhance your family research. You have already found census, land, tax, probate, and other records . . . now it is time to define the stories of your relatives.



Irene not only helps library researchers, but she also gives talks on many aspects of genealogical research. She has taken her own lines back into France, Ireland, and Germany. Join us for our last 2024 meeting to see how digital newspapers could enhance your ancestor's story.

### Register for the November 14th Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwkD-qorDMuH9xUL9xPp2B1rcotIA1tKsvY#/registration>

## Best Practices - What Works for You?

Only two members responded to this Prairie Roots suggestion. That prompted me to move their entries to our monthly newsletter.

*Follow the money (wills & property transactions) to identify close kin.*

- Kathy Biersdorff

*I use a 3-ring notebook to store paperwork. It is my reference, and since it is "fixed" in a spot, I should not lose it easily.*

*When searching a census at the library, I zoom in on my line entry to enlarge it. In that way, I can copy/print and get the absolute words as written.*

- Barb Benner

*In early pioneer days, the local post office was in someone's house. The name of the post office was actually the same as the homeowner's name. As you might guess, the post office name changed fairly often until some sort of village was formed. Tracing the location of family has been successful by reading an old railroad map on which the post office name was often printed.*

- Shared by Barb Benner

If you have hints you would like to submit, please send to [pcgsnews@gmail.com](mailto:pcgsnews@gmail.com).

# THANK YOU!

October 19th found the following members anxious to help library visitors "jump start" their family tree search. Our thanks to Randy Couri, Nicole Mauser-Storer, Thom Reed, Pat Sage, and Angie Sneeringer.

Once again, our members are filling *Prairie Roots* with interesting and informative articles. A special thank you to Barb Benner who goes above and beyond encouraging and reminding these writers of topics and deadlines.

## PPL Local History Genealogy Collection News

The library doesn't have "official" programming set up for the upcoming holiday months. However, we would like to invite you to visit us at the library, before, during or after the holidays!

Little rusty on your research? We can help!

Looking for that local history or family history fact to WOW the family at the holiday table? We can help!

Want to know how to gather information when you visit friends and relatives? We can help!

Anxious to find a picture of an ancestor's church, school or even the family homestead? We can help!

What do you do with all the stories you heard during the holidays? Stop by and have us help you!

Visit the Local History Genealogy Collection

Monday - Saturday 9:00 am - 5:30 pm

We are located on the lower level of the main library at 107 NE Monroe. We can help!

Happy Holidays!

- Susan D. Kaufman

## A PROGRAMMING BREAK

A reminder that after this month's member meeting, our next gathering will be on March 13, 2025. The next issue of *PCGS News* will be delivered in mid-January.

The Brimfield Genealogy Discussion Group concluded their 2024 meetings last Monday. They will resume their meetings on January 27, 2025.

Follow our PCGS Facebook page for further details!

## If the Weather Outside Is Frightful This Winter . . .

### *Review Our 2024 Meetings*

Just a reminder that most of our presenters this year gave PCGS permission to record their presentations. Links to each of those meetings can be found in our website's Passport for members. Links to those 2024 presentations will be removed on March 1, 2025 when we will begin with a new year of speaker videos.

### *Organize Your Ephemera*

When our relatives consider us the historians of the family, we often become the repository for family photos, journals, newspaper articles, letters, diaries, etc. Gather what you have acquired; label how you got this item; and designate who should become its future caretaker. Write about the item for our next *Prairie Roots*!

## The Grassel Collection Is a Social Media Hit!

I first discovered the Grassel Collection in 2010 when the Local History and Genealogy Department was temporarily housed at WTVP during the remodel of the main library. Stunned by the number of binders, I could hardly wait to investigate and find the early homes of my great-grandparents and grandparents. Recently, the administrator of Facebook's *Memories of Peoria Area* has introduced his followers to the collection. The response has been impressive. Maybe this winter is a good time to head downtown to check out Grassel's work!



## *Your 2024-2025 PCGS Board*

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**2024-2025 Vacancies: Vice-President, Projects**

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