

PCGS news

Peoria County Genealogical Society

May 2025

SAVE THESE DATES!

May 8

Tapping on Glass
Monthly Member Meeting
6:00 pm CDT

Peoria Public Library North Branch
3001 W. Grand Parkway
Peoria, Illinois

June 12

From Family Trees to
Film Screens
Monthly Member Meeting
6:00 pm CDT

Peoria Public Library North Branch

June 30

Guyer Log House Tour
Brimfield Genealogy
Discussion Group
6:30 pm CDT



Coming this month:

Monica Vest Wheeler presents

Tapping on Glass - The Emotional Side of Genealogy

Those of us who enjoy weaving local history into our narratives about ancestors are no doubt familiar with our May speaker. Her local history books are filled with valuable facts and pictures about businesses, schools, churches, entertainment venues, parks, and more that were significant in our city's history. These books provide a valuable glimpse of Peoria's past.

Monica Vest Wheeler will be joining us in-person for a discussion about the tender side of genealogy research. She will discuss ways to express emotions on paper and verbally as well as how to use family history to better understand oneself and family today. Most researchers can relate to this topic after interviewing family members about sensitive family history topics. Join us!



Register for the May 8th Meeting via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/zBecql44TgW14XJ3ctUL-g>



Mail your ballot today!

Just a Reminder

Biographies of those running to fill positions on the PCGS Board of Directors for the upcoming year and a ballot were mailed recently to all members. Hopefully, you have studied their qualifications, chosen your candidate for each office, and returned your ballot in the stamped envelope provided. Votes will be counted at the member meeting May 8th.

The following candidates are on the ballot:

President - Angie Sneeringer

Recording Secretary - Elizabeth Klise

Corresponding Secretary - Donna Schlatter

Projects Director - Jennifer Scott-Dewar

Recruitment Director - open

Collections and Archives Director - Sue Swanson

Spring - Summer *Prairie Roots*

What have you “inherited” from members of your family? Think about all of the items you have acquired as a family genealogist. We are anxious to find out what has been a part of your family’s history.

As Barb Benner suggested in last month’s newsletter, writing about the item now and then storing a copy with that item is an excellent way to share its history with the generations that will follow. To date, we have a wide variety of “heirlooms.” Please write about yours!

***Prairie Roots* Deadline - May 20, 2025**

Alice Brophy (pcgsprairieroots@gmail.com)

Barb Benner (pcgsoralhistory@gmail.com)

Welcome to Our New VP!

During the April PCGS Board meeting, Angie Sneeringer reported she has appointed Jennifer Earleywine to the office of Vice-President. Jenn is a PCGS volunteer and contributing member, a regular program attendee, and someone with a great passion for genealogy.

Jenn’s appointment was announced at the April member meeting where she shared her background and interest in family history. We are thrilled Jenn has accepted this position.

Brimfield Genealogy Discussion Group

NO MEETING IN MAY

NEXT MEETING - JUNE 30TH

Guyer Log House Tour

Looking for Answers?

How many times have you found a promising genealogical site only to become discouraged with its format. Are you frustrated when searching the catalog in Family Search or Ancestry.com?

It’s time to visit BYU’s Family History Webinar Library. You will immediately find 19 categories covering an extensive array of webinar links. Clicking on a link takes you to a YouTube video that will answer your every question.

Topics include webinars on commercial sites as well as the following topics: foreign countries, maps, newspaper, phot, research tools and more.

<https://fh.lib.byu.edu/classes-and-webinars/online-webinars/webinar-recording-index/>

Place and Displacement - *Urban Renewal in Peoria's Southtown*

Friday, April 25th was the debut of the Peoria Historical Society's unique exhibition centered on an area of the city many of us remember as the near South Side and eventually as Southtown. Attendees, including former residents, stepped back in history as they viewed the visual displays of residences, churches, schools, and businesses that were lost to Urban Renewal in the late 1970s. Speakers recounted this neighborhood's growth



615 - 611 - 607 First Street
Grassel Collection

over the years and its later demise to the city's urban renewal efforts.

Our 2024 Fall -Winter *Prairie Roots*, highlight-

ed the Grassel Collection housed in the Peoria Public Library. What a debt of gratitude we owe Ernest Grassel for documenting this area!

You are invited to the following presentations:

Saturday, May 10 at Carver Center
Urban Renewal in Southtown . . . Place

2:00 - 3:30 View exhibit, share memories

3:30 - 5:00 Panel discussion on Southtown before and during the urban renewal effort

Wednesday, May 14 at Carver Center
Urban Renewal in Southtown . . . Displacement

5:30 - 6:30 View exhibit, share memories

6:30 - 8:00 Panel discussion on Southtown before and during the urban renewal effort

A Zoom watch party - Telling Your Own Story with Debbie Abbott is planned for Saturday, June 21. More details coming in the June *PCGS News*.

DID YOU KNOW?

Peoria County is celebrating its 200th Anniversary! Watch for more in *Prairie Roots*!

Your 2024 - 2025 PCGS Board

President: Angie Sneeringer

pcgspresident@gmail.com

Vice President: Jenn Earleywine

pcgsvicepresident@gmail.com

Treasurer: Randy Couri

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Recording Secretary: Elizabeth Klise

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Prairie Roots & *PCGS News* Editor: Alice Brophy

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL

(Membership year: July 1 through June 30)

Please fill out this form and send to the address below. PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION.

Surname _____ First Name _____ Middle _____

Street Address _____ Apt. # _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

E-Mail Address _____ (We will never share your email address.)

Home Telephone _____ Cell Telephone _____

Surnames Researching _____

Class of Membership Desired:

☐ **\$30.00 Regular Membership . . . *check one***

☐ *One or more persons of the same household, under 65*

☐ *Organization devoted to the pursuit of genealogy*

☐ **\$25.00 Senior Membership**

At least one member of the same household over 65

☐ **\$50.00 Contributing Membership**

Regular or Senior wishing to pay dues plus a contribution to PCGS

☐ **\$100.00 Sustaining Membership**

Regular or Senior wishing to pay dues plus a contribution to PCGS

Membership (Amount from left column) \$ _____

Additional Donation to

PCGS Undesignated Fund \$ _____

Library/Microfilm Fund \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

♦ **Make check payable to: Peoria County Genealogical Society**

♦ **Mail to PCGS, PO Box 1489, Peoria, IL 61655-1489**