



### CONFERENCE INFO FROM YOUR CONFERENCE COORDINATOR...

Mark your calendars! The Iowa Genealogical Society's largest event of the year is just around the corner! The 2007 Fall Conference will take place October 4-6. As a new IGS board member, my related duties, mainly in conference planning, have kept me enjoyably busy this summer. With the tremendous help of my IGS colleagues, I think the "i's" are dotted and the "t's" are finally crossed, not to mention a finger or two! I'm anxious to provide the details of this year's literally jam-packed event.

The conference will once again take place at the beautiful Best Western Regency Conference Center, located just off of Highway 30 in Marshalltown. This repeat locale has provided me ample time to devise a well-rounded program that suits a widely-diversified genealogical audience. In gearing the content to this year's theme, "Tradition to Cutting-Edge Technology...", I'm confident that all attendees, from the beginner to the professional, will benefit from this year's conference. Headliner, Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak, needing no formal genealogical introduction, will lend us her diverse expertise for the duration of our conference, her discussions ranging from online newspaper search techniques to tracing your roots via DNA.

On the subject of DNA, attendees will be provided the additional opportunity to participate in the Sorenson Molecular Genealogy Foundation Project, a separate conference event. With over 70,000 participants worldwide, this non-profit venture is well on its way to building the world's largest collection of correlated genetic and genealogical data, a source that could provide a gateway to many a brick-walled genealogist! To participate in the study, conference-goers need only provide a pedigree chart and partake in a simple mouthwash rinse - talk about technological advancements!



Our conference's professional speakers' list does not end with Megan, mind you. We're equally thankful to have retired Des Moines Register editor/author, Larry Lehmer, bless us with his presence on Saturday. He'll share his experience and insight on how to make your personal or family story-telling dream a reality. By the by, his website, <http://whenwordsmatter.com>, as well as his highly informative blog, <http://whenwordsmatter.typepad.com/> are well worth a visit!

Our Friday workshop presentation options include the Lucas County Genealogical Society, this fall's library/society highlight. Betty Cross will familiarize us with her library's extensive genealogical holdings. She'll share with us the library's recently completed and soon-to-be-completed projects, as well as offer us some tricks of the trade in the indexing world. Her informative presentation is certain to generate a south-central Iowa road trip or two! Another Friday instructor, long-time IGS Volunteer, Margaret Foster, will offer us her professional organizational tips and suggestions; subject matter genealogists can never seem to get enough of! To spice up our conference a bit more, a fully-interactive networking session is a third option in Friday's workshop choices. This session's format will provide the unique opportunity for genealogists and librarians to interact, share their ideas and suggestions, and ultimately learn from each other in the process. A facilitator will be on hand to keep the conversation "formal" in this rather informal event. Plan to bring your questions, as well as your local and personal genealogical solutions and suggestions to this brainstorming, problem-solving enterprise. One more "extra" in Friday's schedule is an early-morning *Beginning Genealogy* class, provided as a result of numerous requests from last year's conference attendees.

Saturday's workshop presenters include Iowa Public Health employee, Kim Piper, who will introduce us to a less-obvious, often overlooked angle in our genealogical research avenues, family health history. Last, but certainly not least in our list of Saturday's workshop speakers, our very own IGS 2nd VP, Dennis Allen, will walk us through a simple, inexpensive process/method of repairing and restoring our family photos.

Our Friday Awards Banquet includes Humanities Iowa speaker, Beverly Hinds and her portrayal of Sacagawea, "...*Woman of History, Woman of Mystery*", a light-hearted perspective to the infamous Indian princess. A visit to HI's website, [www.humanitiesiowa.org](http://www.humanitiesiowa.org), will provide you with the broad range of programs and services this non-profit organization is prepared to offer your respective Iowa library/community. In conjunction with the National Endowment for the Humanities, HI provided over **\$180,000** to Iowa non-profit organizations this past year!



Informational pamphlets and materials regarding HI, along with other genealogically-relevant non-profit organizations, will be made available at our conference vendor area.

Shoppers, be wary! A variety of vendors are planning to visit us this year! A wide range of products and services will be offered -- from maps, to books, to even transcription services! A crafts booth will also be on-site! Stop by our IGS booth, where you'll find a vast array of genealogical publications and resources available for purchase, as well as a wide selection of FREE genealogical literature. Attendees will also be given the opportunity to check out and personally view a uniquely-informative video or two (first-come-first-served) from our library's video collection. IGS will also be sponsoring a Silent Auction at this year's conference.

In closing, your comments and feedback are of vital importance to YOU, the paying customer. As your IGS Conference Coordinator, I'd like to provide you with "the most bang for your buck"! **Communication** is your key to a valuable, rewarding conference experience. Comment cards will be available at our conference; however, my e-mail door is always open to your comments and suggestions. I hope you'll plan to join us in October!

Denise Gripp

IGS 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

(gripper5@mchsi.com)

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**LOCAL MOTEL INFORMATION/RATES:**

**Best Western Regency Inn (800-241-2974): \$72+tax (incl. hot breakfast buffet) - onsite**

**Super 8 Motel (641-753-3333): \$62+tax (incl. continental breakfast) - onsite**

**Comfort Inn (641-752-6000): \$67.45+tax (incl. deluxe continental breakfast) -- 2613 S. Center Street, approx. 1/2 mile from conference site**

(Conference motel rates good through **September 14, 2007**)

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(CUT AT PERFORATION AND RETURN BOTTOM PORTION WITH YOUR CHECK)

(Circle, where applicable):

**FULL CONFERENCE:**

Members: \$ 95  
Non-Members: \$120

**FRIDAY ONLY (coffee, lectures, lunch/buffet):**

Members: \$ 65  
Non-Members: \$ 80

**FRIDAY - BANQUET ONLY:**

Members: \$ 25  
Non-Members: \$ 35

**SATURDAY ONLY (coffee, lectures, lunch/buffet):**

Members: \$ 65  
Non-Members: \$ 80

**IGS YEARLY MEMBERSHIP:**

SINGLE: \$ 30  
FAMILY: \$ 40

<u>REGISTRATION FORM</u>	
Name:	_____
Address:	_____
City:	_____ State: _____
Zip Code:	_____ Phone: _____
E-mail:	_____ Total Enclosed: _____
Plan to attend the Board Reception on Thursday evening:	Yes _____ No _____

Make check payable to: **Iowa Genealogical Society** and mail registration form & check to: Iowa Genealogical Society, 628 East Grand Ave., Des Moines, IA 50309, or register online at: [www.iowagenealogy.org](http://www.iowagenealogy.org).

**CONFERENCE CANCELLATION INFO:** Before September 29, Full Refund: After September 29, Non-Refundable