

Imperial Polk Genealogical Society

Newsletter Summer 2024



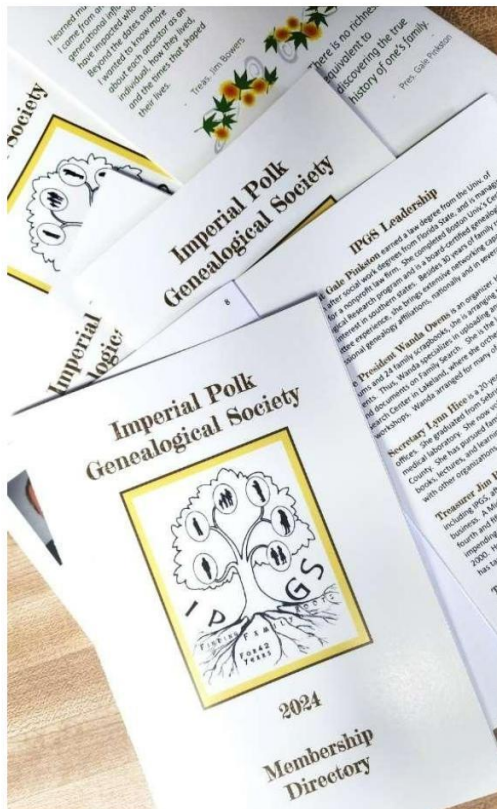
Programs for second half of 2024

Meetings are both in-person and virtual

Pres. Gale Pinkston has announced the board's choices of programs for the remainder of 2024. Mark your calendar for each second Saturday at 1 p.m. For a Zoom link, please ask at news@ipgs.org. Locations will be announced by email.

- ❖ July 13 – Goldie May offers a welcomed boost to your research organization. Plenty of help comes with the free version!
- ❖ August 10 – Plumb variances in ethnicity reports from the 5 major DNA companies.
- ❖ September 14 – Hear genealogist and preservationist Shelby Bender, chairman of the Plant City Historic Resources Board
- ❖ October 12 – Explore different strategies for writing family histories, with Linda Munroe's examples.
- ❖ November 9 – Our expert panelists—and *you*—have so much to share. Dig in to all the expertise at our doorstep.
- ❖ December 14 – Deck the Halls: Holiday luncheon TBA.

Your directory keeps you in touch



Members, pick up your 2024 directory of IPGS membership at our next meeng.

You may request a pdf copy by email via our web site, www.ipgs.org, or from any board member.

Our Mission

The Imperial Polk Genealogical Society's mission is to encourage and promote the study of genealogy and to bring together people who have an interest in family history.



New web site, same address

Keep up with programs, contacts and more. Our new web site is a one-stop reference for training and exploraoon. Webmaster Peter DuFresne posts fresh blogs, and you are urged to contribute.

One new feature is a secon for members to review recorded programs for 30 days aer presentaon. We are acvang online payment and donaoon capacity. And here you can keep up with projects such as scout badges, local archiving, and reciprocal educaon.

Find us on Facebook





Savvy cemetery sleuths

May outing

It was a bright, sunny Saturday morning when members of the Imperial Polk Genealogical Society met up at the Socrum Cemetery, also known as Bethel Baptist Cemetery.

We were there to take photos for the Find a Grave website - a task that might seem a bit morbid to some, but for us, it was a way to honor the memories of those who had come before.

As we headed back to our cars, we felt a deeper appreciation for the stories hidden within these hallowed grounds.



After a hands-on Find A Grave session: Gale Pinkston, guide Peter DuFresne and granddaughter Addie, Linda Ohlsen and Karen Harris.

Member profile – Linda Ohlsen



Who do you know who would decorate a cake with a cemetery on top? Linda Ohlsen laughs as she tells of making this cake to share at IPGS. Our members had been exploring local cemeteries and recording the information now published in our several, hard-bound, green “cemetery book”

Good company

volumes.

Linda is a longtime IPGS member. The notebook she brings to meetings is from a 2009 seminar at the LDS Family Search Center. She and Karen Harris became club buddies. One Discovery Day at the history center, Linda was able to confirm her mother’s recollection that one of their Brown family ancestors was the namesake of Brownsville, Texas.

Linda is a Florida native and CPA. Before retirement in recent years, Linda was bookkeeper for her late husband in their family water treatment business. In their years together, they reared two daughters and built a three-story log cabin in the Smoky Mountains of Tennessee, still a favorite destination.

This summer she is attending not one, but two weekly exercise classes at the Lakeland YMCA. Linda reads a lot, especially about health, her Christian faith, and lots of history. Count her among our good company!

Personal collections??

IPGS cares!

If you’ve ever wondered how to pass on your hard-won family history research—and Aunt Lucy’s priceless stories—you’re among friends. While we hope for a family story-weaver successor, we can’t always find that someone to inherit our handiwork and preserve our past.

IPGS cares! Do you like organizing? We are looking for a small group to assess and catalog documents and other potential donations from personal collections. You can learn to coach potential benefactors who ask us for help, create finding aids, and guide them to potentially accepting depositories.

Please watch the IPGS website for an IPGS cares! orientation meeting.

July Program: *Accelerate research, sort family tree tangles, keep organized*

Ramping up your research sounds ambitious, but you may become a believer after witnessing all of the benefits of a Goldie May account. A generous share of features come with the free version, beginning with a flexible research log you can store and/or export. Drop in a Family Search person ID, and it sorts resources and locations for an easy view of trends and gaps.

Our own Peter DuFresne will lead us on a tour of this and other benefits of useful Goldie May software. He prepared by a lengthy interview with the developer, and will answer your questions.

October Program:

Approaches you can use to craft family histories for your reunion

Come see writing ideas put to work as we learn successful strategies to bring ancestral sagas to life.

Retired school administrator Linda Munroe of Bartow wrote her first publication-worthy family story several years ago. When those at her large family reunion called for an encore, she changed up her approach, following another family branch and drawing equal applause.

Linda is a local DAR historian. She has guided about 25 women to document links with their Revolutionary ancestors.

History Fair can feature family

Who said young people aren't excited about family histories? Genealogy proved to be a prize winner among middle and high school students this June at the Washington, D.C. National History Day.

Indiana student Aesop Birkemeier featured his great-grandfather's role in WWII to address the "historic turning point" theme.

His ancestor fought in the Italian Alps with the elite 10th Mountain Division, special light infantry for rugged, high elevations. In stark white gear against deep snow, this regiment played a significant role toward German defeat. Young Aesop had photos and stories.

Polk County history fair competitors face off before expert judges each year at the old courthouse. What teens can you inspire to learn by discovering their own history?

November Program:

Mine our expertise—and share your own

How do you find microfilmed records from the LDS library, and how do you know what to look for? Which software is best to share family pictures? Were military records kept by state in the War of 1812?

November promises the ideal opportunity to learn who among us can explain what you need to know. We have so many talents in IPGS membership, it's hard to know them all.

Join us in person or online. Moderator Marilyn Tucker will introduce our panel for opening comments, and open the floor to all for sharing both questions and successes. The afternoon promises to send you home better acquainted with the people who share our passion, and are just a phone call away when you need that extra help.

Are the holidays your "thing"?

The membership committee is looking for a few good genealogists to help us celebrate the holidays. Is there a little part you would like to contribute—decorations, entertainment, venue, favors, publicity?

We will spread the tasks to create easy work and festivity. The goal is a fun-filled second Saturday in December.

Don't wait! Here is your challenge to think of the one contribution that would bring you joy, and let us know by email at news@ipgs.org. Merry planning!