

Region 16 Representative Report July 2026

Cass County - This group has a genealogy room in the Atlantic Library. In April they held a regular meeting. For their May meeting they visited the Lincoln Township Cemetery in Anita to honor two Civil War Veteran graves. Their current project is creating an obituary index on their computer. They have received the HRDP grant to digitize the 2023 Atlantic newspapers. A program was given by their Library Director, Michelle Anderson. The Atlantic Public Library is now affiliated with Ancestry and Family Search so these resources are available to their visitors. I visited their June meeting and I informed the group about advantages available with IGS Membership. Such as Newspaper Archive now being available on our site besides My Heritage access.

East Pottawattamie/Botna Valley - This group has a genealogy room in the Oakland Public Library. No volunteer hours from members this last month due to summer activities. Their attendance has been low for their meetings but they did get a new member last month. Their total membership is now 20. During their May meeting the group researched Civil War veterans in their local cemeteries with the intent to apply for military headstones if needed. At their regular June meeting the group had a program on uses of AI for genealogy research. I visited their July 6th meeting and informed the group about advantages available with IGS Membership. Such as Newspaper Archive now being available on our site besides My Heritage. Carolyn DeLay, from the Cass County GS, gave a program on "The Road to the Revolution".

Fremont County Historical Society - In April our group hosted the Southwest Iowa Museum meeting. Museums/Genealogical Societies in Sidney, Shenandoah, Red Oak, and Malvern participated. Partnering together has benefited all of us. We have began organizing our genealogy library again. We have had more family genealogy donations come in the last couple of years than we can keep up with but have now developed a system to properly organize the items. We will be able to make more progress when the extra summer activities end. We still receive look up requests for our resources on a regular basis. Our Lunch & Learns have continued monthly since May 2025. Most programs focus on local history. Our upcoming July program will be on The American Revolution.

Pottawattamie County Genealogical Society - This group still keeps the Frontier Library open every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. They have been very busy the last couple months with research requests. Kandis Cole-Skank, the PGGS President, and a couple of the other members have been working to keep them up-to-date. This has kept them from having their monthly programs, but they hope to bring the speakers back this fall. The Monday Morning Genealogy group has still met monthly.

Sandra Bengtson
Region 16 Representative