

Region 16 Representative Report January 2026

I did not get an opportunity to visit my groups in the fall as I had a family situation which took my time. I plan to catch up on visiting my groups this spring and summer.

Cass County - In the fall the group organized and held an event for women Veterans. They also nominated officers for 2026. They will be planning all of their activities and programs for 2026 at their January meeting.

East Pottawattamie/Botna Valley - In November for their last meeting of the year they had a luncheon in Council Bluffs and then visited the Frontier Library. Kandis Cole-Skank, President of PCGS, assisted them in the library. She is also a member of the Botna Valley Society. The group's Turner family collection was delivered to the IGS Library in November as BVGS didn't have space in their genealogy room for the collection. The group will resume meetings for the year in March.

Fremont County Historical Society - The museum part of our facility closed down for the winter months on November 1st, however, we did hold a Christmas Open House in mid December and it was well attended. We are still working on organizing and cataloging our Genealogy Library. We have many items to catch up on and it's an ongoing project. We still have visitors or get look up requests on a regular basis for Fremont County genealogy information. Our Lunch & Learn programs started in May of 2025 and we have continued them monthly. The program subject normally relates to Fremont County history. The programs have been well received in our small community as we normally have 18 to 30 in attendance.

Pottawattamie County Genealogical Society - In November the group had a pot luck members meeting. The Pottawattamie County Recorder was a guest speaker at the meeting. He told the group about resources available in his office for family research and what is now available for online access. PCGS had a busy and successful 2025 with 21 scheduled events. The Monday Morning Genealogy group still meets monthly and their library is still open for public access on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Sandra Bengtson
Region 16 Representative