

SPEAKERS FOR THE OCTOBER 8TH IGS MEETING

► **Steven Branting**, Independent School District #1 (Lewiston), will discuss the internationally-acclaimed necrogeographical studies conducted by him and his students in Lewiston's historic district over the past four years.

► **Joanne Klein**, Ph.D. and Assistant Chair of the Department of History at Boise State University (Boise), will share with us the fruits of her study of gravestones in a Moravian cemetery called "God's Acre" in North Carolina, which has been in continuous use for 230 years.

► **Steve Barrett**, Ph.D., is President of Idaho Genealogical Society (IGS) and a family history and local records specialist at Idaho Public Archives and Research Library, Boise. He will present "Lemonade from Lemons: The Still Unfolding History of the 1890 Federal Census."

► **Steven Branting**, a graduate in English literature and ancient history from Lewis-Clark Normal, has continued his graduate work in both disciplines, along with extensive studies in geographic information systems, gifted education and mathematics at Arizona State University, Boise State University, and the University of Idaho.

The most senior practitioner in Idaho, Steven has more than 35 years of experience designing and implementing curricula for highly able and gifted students and serves Lewiston Public Schools as a consultant for gifted and innovative programs at the secondary level. He was a fellow of the Lewis & Clark Rediscovery Project, a national challenge grant to infuse technology into classrooms with a Corps of Discovery theme.

Branting is a regular contributor to NOVA (PBS) as a designer of classroom activities to accompany telecast programs and has published extensively, including articles in *Connect*, *Knowledge Management*, *Idaho Magazine* and *Idaho Yesterdays*. In 1999 he was NOVA's featured teacher for his continuing studies in celestial navigation. His latest article, "Child of Innocent Sweetness," is now under peer review at *Women's History Magazine*.

Since 2001 Branting has been the lead investigator and faculty-of-record for the award-winning 5th *Street Cemetery Necrogeographical Study*, which will be featured at this year's genealogy conference. This important preservation project was a 2005 national finalist for the "Save Our History" Award sponsored by The History Channel™. More information may be found on his website <http://www.lewiston.k12.id.us/staff/sbranting/5thcem/5thcem.htm>.

For this work he has also won the 2002 ESRI Community Atlas Award, two Orchid Awards for historical and cultural preservation; the 2004 Criterion Award from the Association of American Geographers for a significant impact on the practice of applied geography; the 2005 Geographic Excellence in Media Award for the National Geographic Education Council; and a 2005 Award of Commendation from the American Association for State and Local History, only the 14th such award in Idaho since the inception of the national honor in 1945.

► **Dr. Joanne Klein** believes that cemetery grave markers offer a wealth of information about family patterns, religious beliefs, naming patterns, poetry, and other interesting trends over time, offering a perspective on the dynamics of community life--in this case, Salem, North Carolina. Her presentation is

a must-see for genealogists who wish to learn ALL that the cemeteries where their ancestors are interred have to teach them about those ancestors' lives.

Joanne Klein studied Comparative History at Brandeis University, where she received her M.A. in 1988, and Rice University, where she received her Ph.D. in 1992. She teaches courses in Modern Comparative European History and a seminar on Women in Middle Eastern History at Boise State University.

She is active in the Criminal Justice/Legal History network of the Social Science History Association (SSHA), has served as network chair for four years, and manages the network's web page <http://sspa.boisestate.edu/SSHACrimJust/>. She has presented papers at SSHA conferences as well as at the European SSHA, the Carleton Conference on the History of the Family, the International Congress of Historical Sciences, the Social History Society of the United Kingdom, and various regional conferences.

Her article, "Blue-Collar Job, Blue-Collar Career: English Policemen's Perplexing Struggle for a Voice in the Early Twentieth Century," appeared in *Crime, Histoire & Sociétés/Crime, History & Societies*, Vol. 5, #1, 2002, and she is working on her book, *Invisible Men: the Daily Lives of Police Constables in Manchester, Birmingham and Liverpool, 1900-1939*.

Her project, "Inscribed in Stone: A study of grave stones in God's Acre, Winston-Salem, NC," was funded in part from an Idaho Humanities Council Research Fellowship grant.

Another paper born of her cemetery research, "'God Needed One More Angel Child': a study of children's grave stones in God's Acre, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, 1770-2000," was presented by her to the European Social History Conference in Berlin, Germany, on March 26, 2004.

When not teaching and researching, she enjoys running "Diplomacy," a semester-long game of strategy and tactics, for students.

► **Steve Barrett** co-edits *Mountain Light*, a quarterly publication of the Idaho State Historical Society, and *IGS Quarterly*. In his talk, "Lemonade from Lemons: The Still Unfolding History of the 1890 Federal Census," he will discuss the methods family historians use to recreate some of the priceless information lost when the 1890 federal population schedules were destroyed in a Washington, D.C., fire in the 1920s.

Information on hundreds of thousands of families and tens of millions of individuals disappeared into the twenty-year chasm in federal records created by that cataclysm. Learn from Steve how groups like the California State Genealogical Alliance, the Idaho State Historical Society, county and community historical societies nationwide, Ancestry.com, and even a few intrepid individuals are using court, land, tax, voter and other local records to reconstruct an 1890 census of the United States. If you've lost an ancestor into the gap between the 1880 and 1900 censuses, you won't want to miss this presentation. You can use the same methods the pros use to uncover info on your late-nineteenth-century ancestors.

For five years now, Steve has been coordinator of the Idaho Public Archives' efforts to reconstruct an 1890 census of Idaho and is creator, coordinator and occasional lecturer for the Archives' Beginners and Special Topics genealogy lecture series. It has now been 25 years since he began researching his own family's roots in Virginia, Salem, North Carolina, and Kentucky.