

A Brief History of the SUNFLOWER GENEALOGY SOCIETY



The first meeting of what was then called the **Sunflower Genealogy Group**, was held on January 7, 2004 at the Village Center. Seven enthusiastic individuals attended the meeting organized by Patrick Brownson. It was decided that the goal of the group was to assist members in researching their family histories by sharing each member's experiences and methods. Pat Brownson was elected as the first Director of the organization and minimal dues were set at \$5.00 per year for the purpose of purchasing materials and subscriptions to aid in member research. Ten meetings a year were scheduled for presentations and sharing of tools and member successes in expanding their family trees. Early members included Pat Brownson, Roger Steen and Buzz Brooks who actively pursue their interest in genealogy with our group today. The group grew to 68 members by 2012, became a formal club, established an organized library for research and developed a website with on-line access to materials and databases. As we grew, we developed by-laws and structure that allowed the **Sunflower Genealogy Club** to become a Charter Sunflower organization thus providing expanded meeting space and a home for our rapidly expanding library of books, magazine, maps and CDs. We also changed the name of the organization to **Sunflower Genealogy Society** to match other genealogy research groups.

We have come a long way since Pat Brownson started the group in 2004. We now have a first-class research library, computer access to past presentations and genealogy links in the lab, and subscriptions to monthly magazines and internet databases. SGS has weekly sessions for individual assistance for members, organizes field trips to interesting sites and workshops, purchases genealogy DVDs (data and presentations) for use by members, and arranges for expert guest speakers at our monthly meetings on a variety of topics requested by our members. All this for a family membership of only \$15.00/year!

This is an exciting time with advances in DNA research, an explosion of on-line databases, and new tools for you to research and capture your family history. Come join with us (and bring a friend) in continuing to add to the history of our Society for the next 15 years.

The original members were: Pat Brownson, Roger Steen, Henry Komarek, Tom Lucas, Duveene McDonald, Bonnie McKnight, and Shirley Ridnour