



# Connections

www.mcigs.org

McHenry County Illinois Genealogical Society Newsletter



Volume XXXV, Number 8

Contact Us: [newsletter@mcigs.org](mailto:newsletter@mcigs.org)

August 2017

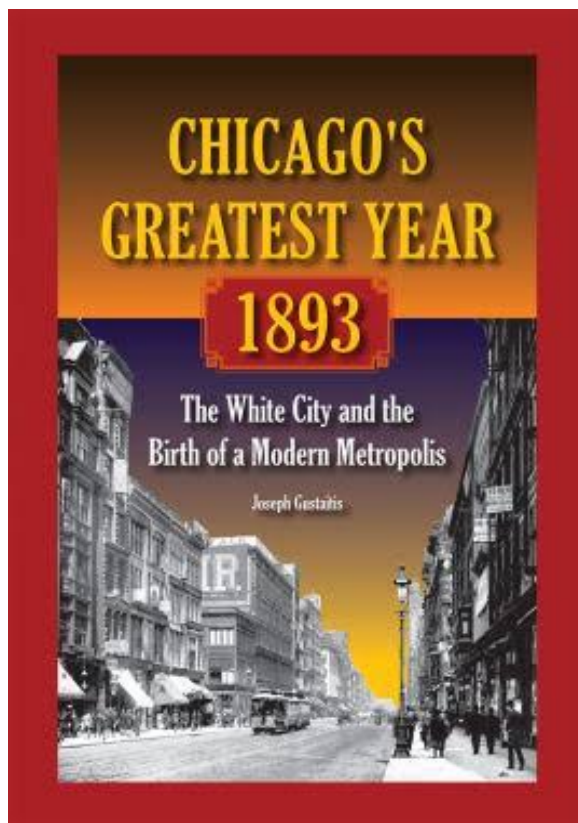
## *Chicago's Greatest Year, 1893*

by **Joseph Gustaitis**

Thursday, August 10, 2017

The Pointe Outreach Center, 5650 Northwest Highway, Crystal Lake

7:00pm - 8:30pm



An almost endless list of achievements took place in Chicago in 1893. Chicago's most important skyscraper was completed in 1893, and Frank Lloyd Wright opened his office in the same year. A church was built for Augustus Tolton, the first black Roman Catholic priest in the United States. Sears and Roebuck was incorporated, and William Wrigley invented Juicy Fruit gum that year. The Field Museum, the Art Institute of Chicago, and the Museum of Science and Industry all started in 1893. The Cubs' new ballpark opened in this year, and an Austrian Hungarian immigrant began selling hot dogs outside the World's Fair grounds. His wares became the famous "Chicago hot dog."

In 1893, the 27.5 million visitors to the Chicago's World's Fair feasted their eyes on the impressive achievements of the White City, lit at night by thousands of electric lights. In addition to marveling at the revolutionary exhibits, visitors discovered something else: beyond the fair's 633 acres lay a modern metropolis that rivaled the world's greatest cities. The Columbian Exposition marked Chicago's arrival on the world stage, but even without the splendor of the fair, 1893 would still have been Chicago's greatest years.

Joseph Gustaitis is formerly the humanities editor of [Collier's Encyclopedia](#) and an Emmy winning television writer. He is currently a free-lance writer of over 100 popular history articles and the book, [Chicago's Greatest Year, 1893: The White City and the Birth of a Modern Metropolis](#).



## Upcoming Events

**Aug 1, 2017 EGS – Time Travels with Google Earth** (Webinar) 9:30am – 11am. For more information, visit EGS at <http://www.elginroots.com>.

**Aug 8, 2017 ISGS – Ten Years is a Long Time: Census Substitutes for the In-between Years** (Webinar) 8pm. Register at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2394575075177831939>.

**Aug 9, 2017 Indian Trails – Pinning Down Your Past: Adding Social Media to Your Genealogy Repertoire** 8pm. Register at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2394575075177831939>.

**Aug 10, 2017 MCIGS – Chicago's Greatest Year, 1893** at The Pointe, Crystal Lake, IL, 7pm. For more information, visit <http://www.mcigs.com>.

**Aug 12, 2017 NSGS – Illinois State and County Resources** at Northbrook Public Library, Northbrook, IL, 1pm. For more information, visit <http://www.nsgsil.org>.

**Aug 14, 2017 MCIGS – 2017 MCIGS DNA Interest Group** at Cary Area Public Library, Cary, IL, 7pm. For more information, visit <http://www.mcigs.org>.

**Aug 17, 2017 EGS – Uncle Jake's Farm – Federal Land Records A-Z**, 7pm – 9:00pm. For more information, visit <http://www.elginroots.com>.

**Aug 19, 2017 CAGGNI – Bringing to Life Our Ancestors: Manuscript Collections** 10:30am – 12:30pm. For more information, visit <http://www.caggni.org>.

**Aug 22, 2017 JPL – Genealogy Club Meeting** 7:00pm – 8:30pm at Johnsburg Library. For more information, visit <http://www.johnsburglibrary.org>.

## MCIGS Genealogy DNA Special Interest Group

The **MCIGS DNA Interest Group** held its initial meeting with 23 attendees on July 10<sup>th</sup>. Dr David Stumpf led the discussion about the options the group might pursue, outlining these in a presentation available at the group Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/mcigsdna/>. After discussion, there was consensus that the next meeting should be a workshop to build skills on analyzing DNA results.

The next meeting will be August 14<sup>th</sup> at the Cary Library from 7:00 – 8:30 pm. You are encouraged to bring your laptop and logon information for accessing your DNA results. You might do this at your desk at the meeting or volunteer to have your material serve as a case study projected to the class. We will create time to visit your desk for individual assistance or you can observe the projected discussions. The audience will drive the direction of the discussion. Based on results of the initial meeting we might anticipate hearing more about identifying matches, where they might fit in your family, who to recruit from your known family, and some tools to help with your analyses. If you have not yet had DNA testing, you will gain insights that will help you determine if and how you might proceed.

We would welcome communications in advance from those who might volunteer for projecting their results. This will help us plan a productive meeting. Please contact Bill Wheeler ([bill.wheeler@mcigs.org](mailto:bill.wheeler@mcigs.org)) if you would be willing to be part of a case study.

## Jan Polep 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President/Programs

ARE YOU USING ROOTSMAGIC? CARY AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY IS HOSTING A ROOTSMAGIC USER GROUP MEETING EVERY OTHER MONTH. SEE THE CARY LIBRARY CALENDAR FOR MORE DETAILS  
([www.caryarealibrary.org](http://www.caryarealibrary.org))

## MCIGS Summer Conference 2017 and beyond

Our 2017 Summer Conference was a great success! There were lectures for all levels of research expertise and a variety of topics. From localities such Italy, Germany, Great Britain to subjects such as newspapers, using social media, understanding how to find your immigrant ancestor's place of origin, using the census and numerous others.

Our vendor area was always busy in the breaks and at lunch. Needed a book? map? sweatshirt? family tree? This was the place to find those items. This year we had more vendors than before which appeared to be well received.

No conference can be presented without a lot of help and we had a great committee and a lot of volunteers. Thanks to the committee of Arlene Basten, Claudia Conroy, Jan Polep, Vicki Roberts, Ann Wells and Kristen McCallum. On Friday afternoon we set up the vendor area and got ready for Saturday morning. Our conference committee did a great job and we were out of there in less than two hours – might be a record. We also had two young volunteers, Nick and A J Camacho who fetched, carried and organized. Thanks guys!

Our IT liaison and Go-To Guy, Bill Wheeler deserves a huge thank you for always being available to do whatever needed done. Also, many thanks to Laurie Stage for manning the registration desk on Saturday morning. Thanks too, to the volunteers who helped introduce the speakers – in addition to thanks go to Alice Hayes and Terry Krahl. Our research help desk was coordinated by Joy Zurek with Deena Galloy, Karen Pickelsimer, Judy Robel and Holly Fischer working at the tables.

The down side of listing names to thank, is always the fear someone has been left out. If your name was not mentioned, please know it was not deliberate and that your hard work was really, really appreciated. We really can't operate without our volunteers and we do thank you.

Next year's conference will be on **Saturday, 7 July 2018** at MCC. *Mark your calendar now so you don't miss out on what should be a great day.*

**Ann Wells**  
**Conference Chair**

## Upcoming Events

**Sep 5, 2017 EGS – *Telling Our Stories*** at Gail Borden Public Library, Elgin, IL, 9:30am – 11am. For more information, visit <http://www.elginroots.com>.

**Sep 8, 2017 CAPL – *GIG After-Hours: Fold3*** at Cary Area Public Library, Cary, IL, 5pm – 8pm. For more information, visit <http://www.caryarealibrary.org>.

**Sep 9, 2017 NSGS – *So, You've Found Your German Town of Origin. Now What?*** at Glenview Public Library, Glenview, IL, 1pm – 2:30pm. For more information, visit <http://nsgsil.org/>.

**Sep 12, 2017 ITPL – *The Man who was (NOT) John Philip Sousa: Lessons Learned in German Genealogy*** at Indian Trails Public Library, Wheeling, IL, 7pm – 8:30pm. For more information, visit <http://www.indiantrailslibrary.org>.

**Sep 14, 2017 MCIGS – *Passage to Chicago: Traveling the Illinois & Michigan Canal*** at The Pointe, Crystal Lake, IL, 7pm. For more information, visit <http://www.mcigs.com>.

**Sep 16, 2017 CAGGNI – *Hunting for Henry: A Case Study Using Collaterals*** at Schaumburg Township District Library, Schaumburg, IL, 7pm. For more information, visit <http://www.caggni.org>.

**Sep 27, 2017 CAPL – *RootsMagic User Group*** at Cary Public Library, Cary, IL, 7pm – 8:30pm. For more information, visit <http://www.caryarealibrary.org>.

**Oct 12, 2017 MCIGS – *Before the Funeral Home and the Cemetery*** at The Pointe, Crystal Lake, IL, 7pm. For more information, visit <http://www.mcigs.com>.

**Nov 9, 2017 MCIGS – *Genealogy Roadshow Story, White Like Her*** at The Pointe, Crystal Lake, IL, 7pm. For more information, visit <http://www.mcigs.com>.

## MCIGS Webinar Series Kicks Off

To say that July was a busy month for MCIGS would be an understatement. We kicked off the month with the MCIGS Summer Conference, followed shortly thereafter by our first MCIGS Genealogy DNA SIG meeting. We wrapped up the month with our first webinar. Phew!

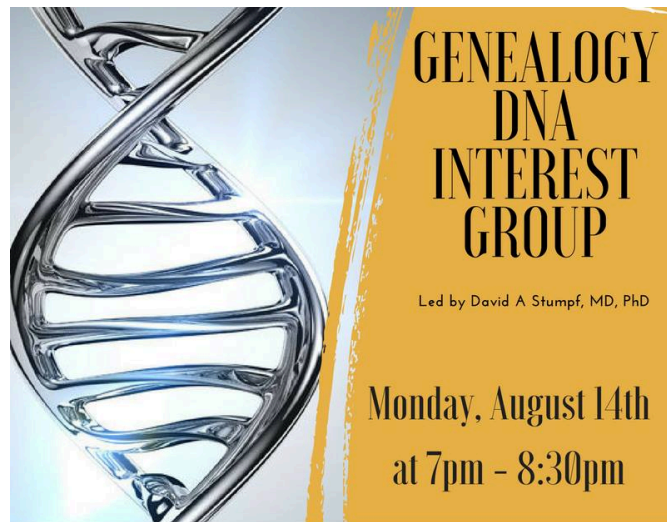
Our first topic was *What's Been Done: Using Someone Else's Genealogy Research* which was presented by Thomas MacEntee. Thomas is no stranger to webinars. He is the host for most of the ISGS webinars and he also hosts many webinars through his various projects such as HiDefGen ([www.hidefgen.com](http://www.hidefgen.com)).

The topic of the webinar is something that is familiar to most of us. In the words of Thomas "we are given a box of stuff from a relative and told 'this is your family history'". Thomas warned that while the research may have been provided by a family member, we don't know how much is sourced and validated. One of the worst things that you can do is import a GEDCOM provided by a family member into your existing tree. Having done this myself, I wish I had received Thomas' advise years ago.

Many of us are familiar with Thomas' Do-Over genealogy project. Thomas took his 7,000+ member tree and started from scratch. In rebuilding his tree (he's now up to 400+ in his new tree), Thomas follows a very methodical process. Using his [genealogy research log](#), Thomas logs, evaluates and cites all individuals and facts before he enters them into his genealogy software program.

If you didn't have a chance to see the webinar live and if you are an MCIGS member, you can watch the recorded session and access the handout from the '[members only](#)' section of the MCIGS website. For those who did attend, feedback was positive and we are looking to add additional webinars to the schedule in the near future.

**Bill Wheeler**  
Newsletter Editor



**GENEALOGY  
DNA  
INTEREST  
GROUP**

Led by David A Stumpf, MD, PhD

**Monday, August 14th  
at 7pm - 8:30pm**



CARY AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY  
1600 THREE OAKS ROAD  
CARY, IL 60013

[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/  
GROUPS/MCIGSDNA](https://www.facebook.com/groups/mcigsdna)

***Please join us in welcoming our newest members to MCIGS.***

Nancy Bell, Batavia, IL  
Carol Blohm, Carpentersville, IL  
Caron Brennan, Villa Park, IL  
Holly Fisher, Woodstock, IL  
Eileen Gerald, Huntley, IL  
Janna Heuer, McHenry, IL  
JoAnn Schindler, Algonquin, IL  
Kathleen Steverl, Geneva, IL  
Judy Stoyak, Belvidere, IL  
Leanne Wiedemann, Mission Hills, KS  
Donna Marie William, Palm Desert, CA  
Mary Wilmes, Brooklyn, NY

We hope to see you at future meetings and in our conversations on Facebook.



<http://www.facebook.com/mcigs/>



<http://www.mcigs.org>