



Connections

www.mcigs.org

McHenry County Illinois Genealogical Society Newsletter



Volume XXXV, Number 2

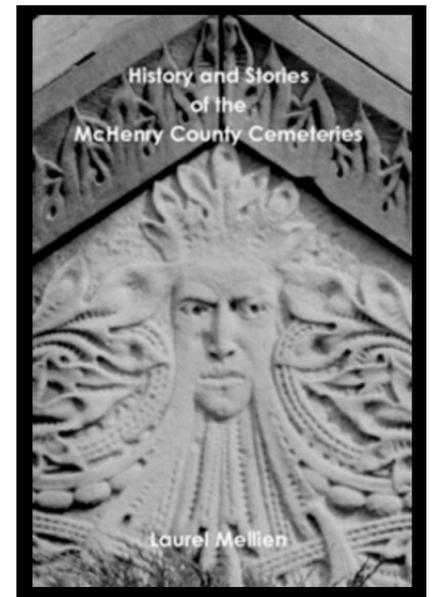
Contact Us: newsletter@mcigs.org

February 2017

McHenry County Tales of the Interred

On February 9, Laurel Mellien, author of *History & Stories of the McHenry County Cemeteries*, will give a presentation on individuals interred in McHenry County cemeteries. The truth is stranger than fiction when local history is discovered among the headstones. Spine tingling true stories of accidents, murder, and suicide will be revealed from the pages of local history books and from old newspapers.

Laurel Mellien holds a position on the Board of Directors of the Crystal Lake Historical Society. Laurel became interested in cemetery art symbolism after a visit to the Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield, Illinois in 2002. Over the next few years, she photographed the artwork in many cemeteries throughout the Fox River Valley. While working at the Huntley Area Public Library, she produced her first exhibit of these photographs detailing the symbolism of headstone artwork.



She has gone on to develop many presentations from her research and photographs that describe different aspects of the art and its representations, including Celtic Crosses, Civil War memorials, and tree stump headstones. Lauren Mellien is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Please join us on Thursday, February 9th at 7pm at The Pointe in Crystal Lake to hear Lauren share her stories of the interred.

Upcoming Events

Feb 4, 2017 NSGS – *DNA: A Power Tool in the Genealogist's Toolbox* at Arlington Heights Senior Center, Arlington Heights, IL, 10am - Noon. For more information, visit <http://www.nwsgenealogy.org>.

Feb 7, 2017 EGS – “*Discovering Your UK/Irish Roots Online*” Gail Borden Public Library, Elgin, IL. 9:30am – 11am. For more information, visit www.elgrinroots.com.

Feb 8 - 11, 2017 RootsTech, Salt Palace Convention Center, Salt Lake City, UT. For more information, visit <http://www.rootstech.org>.

Feb 9, 2017 MCIGS – *McHenry County's Tales of the Interred* at The Pointe, Crystal Lake, IL, 7:00pm. For more information, visit <http://www.mcigs.com>.

Feb 14, 2017 STDL – *Searching Genealogy Websites Successfully* at Schaumburg District Public Library, Schaumburg, IL, 7pm. For more information, visit <http://www.schaumburglibrary.org>.

Feb 14, 2017 LCGS – *Finding Grandmother's European Ancestors* at Mundelein Community Center, Mundelein, IL, 7pm – 9pm. For more information, visit <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~illcgs/>.

Feb 15, 2017 DCGS – *Family History's Navigational Toolkit: The GPS* at Wheaton Public Library, Wheaton, IL, 6:30pm. For more information, visit <http://www.dcs.org>.

Feb 23, 2017 KCGS – *Building a Research Toolbox (via webinar)* at Geneva History Center, Geneva, IL, 7:30pm - 9pm. For more information, visit <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ilkcgs/>.

Feb 25, 2017 AHML – *Understanding and Using Commercial DNA Test Results* at Arlington Heights Memorial Library, Arlington Heights, IL, 2pm - 4pm. For more information, visit <http://www.ahml.info>.

A Look Inside MCIGS

Each year the MCIGS Board comes together to review the last year and create a strategy for the next 12 months and beyond.

What the MCIGS Board has found, like so many other genealogical societies, is that change is inevitable. Historically genealogical societies have typically delivered a monthly meeting, a newsletter and a quarterly periodical. That recipe may continue for years to come but the way they are delivered will continue to evolve.

In order to stay relevant, societies such as ours must embrace our mission statement and focus on the things our members value the most. One of the ways we determine that value is through surveys. We've started using them over the past couple years and they have become invaluable tools in helping us shape our future. The results of the most recent survey can be found in a presentation deck at <https://goo.gl/aVloau>.

For example, one thing we hear often, especially from our more remote members, is a desire to see our general meetings recorded or streamed online. While we do provide the speakers' handouts online in our members area, recording the general meetings posed technical and legal hurdles for us. Still, we knew from the surveys that a desire for online content was there and so we've been working on a way to deliver it.

This year, in addition to our general monthly meetings, we plan to offer a few online webinars to complement our programming and add value for our members. We are currently in the process of securing speakers.

Do you have ideas about who we should have, or what topics we should cover? Last year we created the Social Outreach committee to research webinars, social media and technology. If you are interested in participating, please email outreach@mcigs.org.

Meanwhile, please continue to complete those surveys.

We do read every comment and email and work to integrate those ideas into our programs.

Kristen McCallum
MCIGS President

MCIGS Member Corner

Condolences

It is with great sadness that we note the passing of two members of the McHenry County IL Genealogical Society.

We would like to express our sympathy to the family of Nancy Minor. Nancy was a Chater member and has been a continuous member since 1981.

We would also like to express our sympathy to the family of Elaine Obenchain. Elaine was an early member of MCIGS and published a series of four volumes of McHenry County Cemetery Records.

The Obenchain family named MCIGS the beneficiary of all donations in lieu of flowers. In light of the Obenchain family's generosity and the considerable contributions by Elaine Obenchain, MCIGS has named the scholarship in memory of her considerable contributions to the genealogical community.

The scholarship will be available to those students who have an interest in history and genealogy. Requirements and award details are being developed and will be shared with educators once complete.

Financial Report



For month ending 31st of December
2016:

Checking:	\$ 22,662.10
Savings	609.32
Edward Jones	116,295.08

Upcoming Events

Mar 4, 2017 Newberry – Genealogy & Local History Tour at Newberry Library, Chicago, IL, 9am – 10:30am. For more information, visit <http://www.newberry.org>.

Mar 4, 2017 FLPL – Genetic Genealogy and the Bassett DNA Project at Fox Lake Public Library, Fox Lake, IL, 10am – 12pm. For more information, visit <http://www2.youseemore.com/foxlake/>.

Mar 9, 2017 MCIGS – Researching Colonial America at The Pointe, Crystal Lake, IL, 7pm. For more information, visit <http://www.mcigs.org>.

Mar 11, 2017 DCGS – 42nd Annual Conference at NIU Conference Center, Naperville, IL, 7:30am. For more information, visit <http://www.dcg.org>.

Mar 13, 2017 AHML – Genealogist's Who Pin (Pinterest) at Arlington Heights Memorial Library, Arlington Heights, IL, 1:30pm – 2:30pm. For more information, visit <http://www.ahml.info>.

Mar 14, 2017 AHML – Genealogy Writing Group at Arlington Heights Memorial Library, Arlington Heights, IL, 1:30pm – 3pm. For more information, visit <http://www.ahml.info>.

Mar 15, 2017 MPPL – What to do with Commercial DNA Test Results at Mount Prospect Public Library, Mount Prospect, IL, 7pm – 8:30pm. For more information, visit <http://mppl.org>.

May 11, 2017 MCIGS – WWI McHenry County Soldiers Remembered at the 100th Anniversary at The Pointe, Crystal Lake, IL, 7pm. For more information, visit <http://www.mcigs.org>.

Jun 08, 2017 MCIGS – It's Not All Online at The Pointe, Crystal Lake, IL, 7pm. For more information, visit <http://www.mcigs.com>.

Jul 08, 2017 MCIGS – 2017 MCIGS Summer Conference at McHenry County College, Crystal Lake, IL, 7pm. For more information, visit <http://www.mcigs.org>.

RootsTech 2017

by Joy Zurekbrau

RootsTech 2017 kicks off on February 8 in Salt Lake City, Utah. Are you going? Yeah, a lot of us aren't either. But it doesn't mean we can't still be a part of the action!

For the last several years, RootTech has been live streaming a selected set of sessions during the conference. This year is no different! Not able to watch live? Recordings of the live sessions will be available online for a short time following the conference.

For the innovator at heart, one of the most interesting days is the first day of the conference – the Innovator Summit.

Genealogy is a multi-billion-dollar industry due in large part to genealogy being the second most popular hobby in the United States (the first is gardening). The Innovation Summit provides entrepreneurs and young companies the opportunity to learn how to launch their product and grow their business. For attendees of the conference, this is an opportunity to see new products and services. Part of the Innovator Summit is the Innovator Showdown where innovators from around the world compete for \$100,000 in prizes before a live audience. Young genealogy products such as Cuzins, JoyFlips, Kindix.org and RootsFinder will be highlighted.

For more information on the live streaming event, go to: <https://www.rootstech.org/live-stream-schedule>

Wednesday, February 8th, 2017

- **9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.** | Innovator Summit General Session with Steve Rockwood, Liz Wiseman
- **10:15 a.m.–11:15 a.m.** | Industry Trends and Outlook with Craig Bott and Guest Panel
- **11:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.** | Innovation—Best Practices and Applications with Cydni Tetro

Thursday, February 9th, 2017

- **8:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m.** | RootsTech General Session with Steve Rockwood, Jonathan and Drew Scott
- **11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.** | Getting Started in Genealogy with Kelli Bergheimer
- **12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.** | DNA: The Glue That Holds Families Together with Diahna Southard
- **1:30 p.m.–2:30 p.m.** | DNA Matching on MyHeritage Speaker: Dana Drutman
- **3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.** | Jewish Genealogy: Where to Look and What's Available with Lara Diamond
- **4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.** | Family History is Anything but Boring with Crystal Farish and Rhonna Farrer

Friday, February 10th, 2017

- **8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.** | RootsTech General Session with Levar Burton, Special Guest Panel
- **10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.** | RootsTech Innovator Showdown Finals
- **12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.** | Mothers, Daughters, Wives: tracing Female Lines with Judy Russell
- **1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.** | Censational Census Strategies with Mary Kircher Roddy
- **3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.** | Big 4: Comparing Ancestry, findmypast, FamilySearch, and MyHeritage with Sunny Morton
- **4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.** | Cross the Atlantic with Religious Records with Jen Baldwin

Saturday, February 11th, 2017

- **8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.** | RootsTech General Session with Cece Moore, Buddy Valastro
- **11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.** | Journaling Principles that Work with Steve Reed
- **1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.** | Don't Just Be a Searcher, Be a Researcher with Crista Cowan
- **3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.** | Creating Google Alerts for your Genealogy with Katherine R. Wilson

Conference Program

More detailed session descriptions may be found at www.dcgs.org

7:30	Registration. Browsing in the Exhibitor area. Beverages & pastries will be available for purchase at the onsite coffee shop/cafe <i>Arbor Vitae</i> .		
9:00	<i>YDNA Testing: Why This is My Favorite Test</i> Come learn basic and intermediate principles of using YDNA to verify and extend your pedigree chart, including how to make the most of your family project.	Diahan Southard	1A
	<i>Beginning your Italian Research</i> By 1920 more than 4 million Italians had immigrated to America. If you have Italian ancestry and have yet to jump across the Atlantic, come learn some helpful research hints to start your journey from home.	Mike Lacopo	1B
	<i>Seeking Your Irish Ancestors Before and After the Famine</i> Before you buy your ticket to Ireland (or other county) you need to look at the roots your ancestor planted in America. Focusing on U.S. resources can give you a real passport to finding your way to the right place and time in your ancestor's homeland.	Donna Moughty	1C
	<i>Discover Your Swedish Heritage in Living Color Using ArkivDigital</i> Learn how to research your Swedish heritage using ArkivDigital online, an online service that provides access to newly photographed color images of the Swedish historical records. Learn how to research in the archives as well as become familiar with the new name searching tools in the product. The demonstration will familiarize you with the types of records that are available in the online archive: church books, passenger ship manifests, estate inventories, military records, tax registers, court records and other types of records.	Kathy Meade	1D
10:00	Break (30 minutes)		
10:30	<i>The Combined Power of YDNA and Autosomal DNA: A Case Study</i> This case study integrating YDNA and autosomal DNA testing can teach you how to navigate your own DNA.	Diahan Southard	2A
	<i>Medical Genealogy: A Primer Of Diseases That Killed Our Ancestors And The Epidemics They Lived Through</i> So many researchers hunt for the death certificates of their ancestors but rarely read or understand the cause of death. Disease and death were commonplace occurrences in our ancestors' lives, and knowing what afflicted them and their communities can help you understand the lives they lived.	Mike Lacopo	2B
	<i>From Rubble and Ruin: Locating Famine Immigrant Families in Land & Tax Records</i> Fire and government destruction of early census records left a void for Irish researchers. Learn to use Griffith's Valuation to find your famine emigrants.	Donna Moughty	2C
	<i>Searching in Older Church Records</i> Researching in the older church records (early 1800's and 1700's) is more challenging because less information is provided in the records and the older handwriting can be difficult to decipher. In this session, we will review a couple of case studies using older records and present some tips and guidelines for navigating these records.	Kathy Meade	2D
11:30	Buffet luncheon served. Browsing in the Exhibitor Area.		
1:00	<i>Circles or Triangles? What shape is your DNA?</i> There is much debate in the genetic genealogy world about the value of a DNA Circle, provided by AncestryDNA, and the triangulation methods of others. Which is best? Which will help us find out how we are related to the long list of cousins on our match page?	Diahan Southard	3A
	<i>Deconstructing Your Family Tree: Re-Evaluating The "Evidence"</i> When information passed on from researcher to researcher doesn't "add up," it's time to tear down the walls and rebuild anew. This methodology lecture shows how erroneous conclusions can sneak into our research uncontested. This lecture is pertinent especially today with so many Internet family trees that get cut and pasted into our own research.	Mike Lacopo	3B
	<i>Unpuzzling Ireland's Church Records</i> No records or burned records! How do you get past the loss or lack of Irish records? Church records may be a solution to this daunting task. Digitized church records and new databases can help find what may be the only records of you ancestors prior to 1864.	Donna Moughty	3C
	<i>Organize Your Genealogy Files, Part I</i> If your paper filing system is lacking, you are invited to learn about PatSy, a filing system that is adaptable whether you are a newbie or a long-time researcher. Tips for getting control of and organizing your image files, plus a brief introduction to the Flip-Pal mobile scanner and Evernote software rounds out this session.	Carole Magnuson	3D
2:00	Break (30 minutes)		
2:30	<i>Genetic Genealogy: Advanced</i> Have you mastered the basics of autosomal DNA testing? There are several advanced tools that can help you glean more information from your DNA test.	Diahan Southard	4A
	<i>The Genealogical Proof Standard In Motion!</i> "Genealogical Proof Standard" is a popular genealogist's buzz phrase, but what does it mean? How does one critically assess the information they have, and how does one document leads to another? How can we bolster our hypotheses with DNA analysis? Follow me as we seek to determine the parentage of Eliza Ann Sample through a slew of records.	Mike Lacopo	4B
	<i>Online Sources For Irish Research</i> The fire at Four Courts in 1922 (the Public Records Office) was devastating, but contrary to popular belief, not ALL records were destroyed. Civil registration from 1864, tax records and church records for many areas have survived. Navigate around the obstacles of Irish research with new online resources.	Donna Moughty	4C
	<i>Organize Your Genealogy Files, Part II</i> Learn the advantages of creating chronology/timeline reports, to assist in your research and in writing an ancestor's biography. This presentation also covers research trip preparation to a library, archives or cemetery. Source documentation tips and an introduction to Evidentia software will be discussed.	Carole Magnuson	4D

Name (Please Print)

Address

City/State/Zip

Phone

E-mail address (Required for confirmation and syllabus)

Registration Form

Postmarked by Saturday, February 18, 2017:

DCGS Member \$55.00 Non-member \$65.00

On-Line Registration after February 18, 2017: \$70.00

There will be no refunds after February 18. Registration closes March 4 or when we reach 280 registrants. Please send check payable to DCGS to:

DCGS Conference

P.O. Box 3

Wheaton, IL 60187-0003

Please indicate which sessions you might attend:

	9:00 am	<input type="checkbox"/> 1A	<input type="checkbox"/> 1B	<input type="checkbox"/> 1C	<input type="checkbox"/> 1D
	10:30 am	<input type="checkbox"/> 2A	<input type="checkbox"/> 2B	<input type="checkbox"/> 2C	<input type="checkbox"/> 2D
	1:00 pm	<input type="checkbox"/> 3A	<input type="checkbox"/> 3B	<input type="checkbox"/> 3C	<input type="checkbox"/> 3D
	2:30 pm	<input type="checkbox"/> 4A	<input type="checkbox"/> 4B	<input type="checkbox"/> 4C	<input type="checkbox"/> 4D

All attendees will receive a buffet lunch: House salad, chicken Marsala, roasted potatoes, green beans, rolls/butter, fresh fruit salad and hot & cold beverages.
Dietary restriction: VG/GF *VG-portabella mushroom with sautéed vegetables.
Lunch not guaranteed for walk-ins or registrations after February 18.