Although Gail Lukasik writes about mystery, there was a family mystery she was never able to solve. When Genealogy Roadshow solicited applicants with family mysteries related to New Orleans and with historical relevance, she sent them her family mystery. The show was so intrigued by her family's story, they sent a film crew to Libertyville to tape her, and then filmed her and her family in St. Louis where they revealed her mother's life-changing secret. Gail will discuss her experiences from the initial application to the final reveal, as well the research that went into her family discovery. Even after the show aired, the story is still unfolding.

Gail Lukasik writes the Leigh Girard mysteries—a seasonal series set in Door County, Wisconsin. Peak Season for Murder won a Lovey Award for Best Traditional Amateur Sleuth. Her stand-alone mystery, The Lost Artist, involves the quest for one of the greatest lost art treasures of sixteenth-century America. Lukasik began her writing career as a poet. Her most recent book of poems is: Homeless, In My Own Words: True Stories of Homeless Mothers. She is already working on a book about her family's story as seen on Genealogy Roadshow. Her website is: www.gaillukasik.com.
From the Editor

September 23rd officially marks the end of the 2015 summer season. While we are all sad to see summer end, the fall and winter months are typically the time of the year where we as genealogists dive deep into our family research.

The MCIGS board has been hard at work. Our speakers are booked through May 2016. The digital version of the newsletter includes a flyer of our schedule for the next several months. The schedule is also available at the MCIGS website http://www.mcigs.org.

Speaking of the MCIGS website, if you know of anyone that may be interested in reading the newsletter we have added the ability for people to subscribe to receive the newsletter once it is available.

Ann Wells and the MCIGS Summer Conference Committee have been working on the 2016 conference. Speakers for the Summer Conference include D. Joshua Taylor, Thomas MacEntee, Jennifer Holik, and Tina Beaird which will be at McHenry County College. Be sure to save the date of July 9th, 2016!

New Member Spotlight
Please join us in welcoming our newest member:

Janna Heuer – McHenry, IL
Social Media and Genealogy

Social media is playing an ever-increasing role in genealogy. The following are just a few of the many social media resources that you can leverage for your genealogy research.

On August 27th, Mark Zuckerberg (founder and CEO) of Facebook reached a monumental milestone. On that day, one billion people were connected to Facebook in a single day. That means that 1 out of every 7 people were connected to Facebook. As of August 22nd, there were over 5,400 genealogy links. Katherine Willson maintains an updated list of genealogy links on Facebook available for download as a PDF at http://socialmediagenealogy.com.

A blog is simply a website typically run by one individual that is written with an informal style. Access to free blogging sites like WordPress and Blogger, there are thousands of blogs about genealogy. Thomas MacEntee created a website http://www.genealeabloggers.com which lists most genealogy blogs.

Ben Silvermann created Pinterest (http://www.pinterest.com) at the age of 27 with the knowledge that people are better than algorithms at finding content that people care about. With over 73 million users it is no surprise that Pinterest has become a hotspot for genealogists.

Instagram (http://www.instagram.com) is a photo editing and photo-sharing site. Facebook acquired the company in April, 2012. The site grew from 15 million users to 80 million users when the company after acquisition. The application now boasts over 300 million users! The Allen County Public Library (@GenealogyCenter) is just one site that is using Instagram.

Be sure to look at one or all of these resources to see how they can help your research.

McHenry County [IL] Genealogical Society (MCIGS) Officers & Board Members

President
Kristen McCallum
kristen.mccallum@mcigs.org

1st Vice President
Jan Polep
jan.polep@mcigs.org

2nd Vice President
Arlene Basten
arlene.basten@mcigs.org

Recording Secretary
Jan Knight
Jan.knight@mcigs.org

Treasurer (Past President)
Ann Wells
ann.wells@mcigs.org

Directors

Library Chair
Claudia Conroy
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Director
Steve Polep
steve.polep@mcigs.org

Director
Laurie Stage
laurie.stage@mcigs.org

Director
Richard Stermer
richard.stermer@mcigs.org

Newsletter Editor
Bill Wheeler
bill.wheeler@mcigs.org

Corresponding Secretary (VACANT)
Upcoming Events (continued)

**Sept 26, Zion Genealogical Society – Family Tree Maker:** at Beach Park Village Hall, Beach Park, IL, 7pm – 9pm. For more information, go to [http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ilzgs/](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ilzgs/).

**Sept 26, Rock Island County Gen Soc – Climb Your Family Tree:** at Butterworth Education Center, Moline, IL, 1pm – 4pm. For more information, contact Linda Polich at 309-236-1985.

**Oct 1, Cook Memorial Library Genealogy Networking Group – Digging Your Roots:** at Cook Memorial Library, Libertyville, IL, 7:00pm – 8:45pm. For more information, visit [http://www.cooklib.org](http://www.cooklib.org).

**Oct 3, Newberry Library – Newberry Library and Local History Tour:** at Newberry Library, Chicago, IL, 9:30am – 10:30am. For more information, visit [http://www.newberry.org/programs-genealogists](http://www.newberry.org/programs-genealogists).

**Oct 3, Northwest Suburban Genealogy – Cemetery Sleuthing:** at Arlington Heights Senior Center, Arlington Heights, IL, 10am – 12pm. For more information, visit [http://www.nwsgenealogy.org](http://www.nwsgenealogy.org).

**Oct 6, Elgin Genealogical Society – German Farm Names:** at Gail Borden Public Library, Elgin, IL, 9:30am – 11:30am. For more information, visit [http://www.elginroots.com](http://www.elginroots.com).

**Oct 10, DuPage County Genealogical Society – File Organization:** at Wheaton Public Library, Wheaton, IL, 1pm – 3pm. For more information, visit [http://wheatonlibrary.org/](http://wheatonlibrary.org/).

**Oct 17, Computer Assisted Genealogy Group of Northern Illinois (CAGGNI) – Lost Children: Orphans, Vagrants, Delinquents, Half-Orphans, Dependents, Surrendered, Adopted**: at Schaumburg Township Public Library, Schaumburg, IL, 10:30am – 12:30pm. For more information, visit [www.caggni.org](http://www.caggni.org).

**Oct 17, Tri-County Family History Fair:** at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Lake Geneva, IL, 9am – 3pm. For more information, visit [http://walworthcgs.com](http://walworthcgs.com).

**Websites for Genealogy**

*All websites are accurate as of 25 August 2015 and all are free.*

- **Our Time Lines**

- **Small Town Newspapers**

- **Newberry Library**
  [https://www.newberry.org/research](https://www.newberry.org/research)

- **100 Search Engines for Academic Research**
  [http://www.teachthought.com/technology/100-search-engines-for-academic-research/](http://www.teachthought.com/technology/100-search-engines-for-academic-research/)

- **Online Military Indexes and Records**

- **Online Searchable Death Indexes and Records**
  [http://www.deathindexes.com/](http://www.deathindexes.com/)

- **Geneanet Internet Database**
  [http://www.geneanet.org](http://www.geneanet.org)

- **Vintage Genealogy Photos**
  [http://www.ancientfaces.com](http://www.ancientfaces.com)

- **Genealogy In Time Magazine**
  [http://www.genealogyintime.com](http://www.genealogyintime.com)

- **Commonwealth War Graves**
  [http://www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org)

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**FINANCIAL REPORT**

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**PBS Genealogy Roadshow experience in St. Louis**  
Gail Lukasik – September 10, 2015  
Although Gail Lukasik is a mystery author, there was a family mystery she was never able to solve. When Genealogy Roadshow solicited applicants with family mysteries related to New Orleans and with historical relevance, she sent them her family mystery. The show was so intrigued that they filmed her and her family in St. Louis where they revealed her mother’s life-changing secret. Gail will discuss her experiences from the initial application to the final reveal, as well the research that went into her family discovery. Even after the show aired, the story is still unfolding.

**Genetic Genealogy & Bassett Y-chromosome DNA Project**  
Jeffrey Bassett – October 8, 2015  
Mr. Bassett will discuss Genetic Genealogy and the Bassett Y-chromosome study. It will include the basics about DNA testing associated with genealogy research and then give case studies showing how the Bassett DNA project has used DNA results to link different Bassett families together.

**Archivist’s Notebook: Gleaning Genealogical Evidence from Ephemera**  
Laura Cosgrove Lorenzana – November 12, 2015  
Laura Cosgrove Lorenzana is a Consulting Archivist, Genealogist, Writer and Lecturer. Laura spent years researching an ancestor but it wasn’t until she realized she had a physical piece of ‘evidence’ that gave credence to that ‘crazy’ story that she was able to break down the wall. Researchers look at family ‘memorabilia’ as potential clues to move research forward. It can be anything from china to buttons to embroidery to furniture; we just have to open our eyes to the possibility.

**Annual Christmas Party**  
Colonial Café – December 10, 2015  
Come and join fellow MCIGS members for dinner at the Colonial Café at 5689 Northwest Hwy, Crystal Lake, IL. This is an informal get together when each of us tell about the most interesting genealogical piece of information we’ve found this past year, and our genealogical goal(s) we have for the New Year. Dinner is from the regular menu and each person pays for their own meal and drinks.

**Panel Discussions**  
MCIGS Board Members - January 14, 2016  
Stumped? Looking for help finding an ancestor? Maybe it’s time to come and ask others who may have busted through the same genealogy brick wall themselves. Come and bounce your family history questions off a panel of MCIGS Board Members. Maybe an answer to your question, or hints and tips shared will jumpstart your genealogy research in a whole new direction.
SAVE THE DATE!!
Saturday, 9 July 2016
2016 MCIGS Summer Conference

SPEAKERS:
D Josh Taylor – co-host of PBS’ Genealogy Road Show
Thomas MacEntee
Jennifer Holik
Tina Beaird

Check our website for additional speakers and information

Conference will held at McHenry County College, Lucas Road & Route 14, Crystal Lake, IL
Watch for conference registration forms in early 2016

McHenry County Illinois Genealogical Society
PO Box 184
Crystal Lake, IL 60039-0184
www.mcigs.org
e-mail: mcigs@mcigs.org
Phone: 815.687.0436
The Nordic Family Genealogy Center/Swedish American Genealogical Society

Upcoming Events

The Genealogy Center/Genealogical Society hosts genealogy sessions from 10 a.m. to noon the fourth Saturday of each month excluding June and December. Check the website for any exceptions or updates.

July 25
“Finding Home” viewing and discussion

Aug. 22
“National Archives – Great Lakes Region” presented by Ellen Kondrot

Sept. 26
“Today’s Immigration in Sweden” presented by Kris Nicholson

Oct. 24
“Writing a Family History” presented by Dan Hubbard

Nov. 21
Discussing Our Own Family Histories

Cost is free for Center/Society members; non-member cost is $10. Reservations appreciated. You may email the Genealogy Center at genealogy@samac.org to RSVP or ask any questions you may have about sessions or call the Museum at 773.728.8111 and leave a message for the Genealogy Center volunteer, or visit SwedishAmericanMuseum.org/genealogy.
2015 Webinar Series

Online Educational Opportunities for the Genealogist!

Schedule

Using Google Earth for Genealogy
January 13, 2015 at 8pm (Central) with Lisa Louise Cooke

Basic Scandinavian Research
February 3, 2015 at 8pm (Central) with Diana Crisman Smith

Finding Your Femme Fatales: Exploring the Dark Side of Female Ancestors
March 10, 2015 at 8pm (Central) with Lisa Alzo

Using Evernote as Your Primary Tool for Capturing Notes and Ideas
April 14, 2015 at 8pm (Central) with Drew Smith

Need Direction? Try City Directories!
May 12, 2015 at 8pm (Central) with Jean Wilcox Hibben

Understanding Our Families, Understanding Ourselves
June 9, 2015 at 8pm (Central) with Ron Arons

Dissect Obituaries for New Clues
July 14, 2015 at 8pm (Central) with George G. Morgan

School Daze – Finding and Using School Records to Trace Our Ancestors
August 11, 2015 at 8pm (Central) with Peggy Clemens Lauritzen

Using Tax Records for Genealogical Problem Solving
September 8, 2015 at 8pm (Central) with Michael Lacopo

Polish Genealogy – Four Steps to successful research
October 13, 2015 at 8pm (Central) with Steve Szabados

In-laws and Outlaws: The Bylaws of Talking About The Family Skeletons
November 10, 2015 at 8pm (Central) with Janet Hovorka

The US Federal Census: Good, Bad and Ugly for Genealogists
December 8, 2015 at 8pm (Central) with Gary Smith

FAQs

What is a webinar? A webinar is a live lecture/presentation that you can attend via a computer with an internet connection.

Is there a cost to attend an ISGS webinar? No, ISGS offers the live broadcast of its webinars to the public for free.

How do I sign up to attend a webinar? Visit the Webinars page at http://bit.ly/ISGSWebinars and click the “register” link for each session you want to attend. Fill out the short form to complete your registration.

How do I attend the webinar? After you sign up for a session, you will receive an email that provides instructions to join the live broadcast online at the scheduled date and time. A reminder email will be sent a few days prior to the scheduled webinar with the same instructions.

What if I cannot attend the live broadcast? We understand that the live broadcasts may not fit into your schedule. If you are an ISGS member you will have to access the recorded version of past webinars through the Members Section of the ISGS website, to watch at your convenience. Not a member? Join ISGS at http://bit.ly/joinisgs.

Learn More & Register

For a description of each webinar, or to register, visit http://bit.ly/ISGSWebinars.

2015 Webinar Sponsor

Top Archived Recordings

Recordings of all past webinars are available to ISGS members through the Members Section of the ISGS website. Some of our top webinars from 2012, 2013, and 2014 include:

- Treasures and Hidden Secrets of the Illinois Regional Archives Luana Darby
- Going Nuclear: DNA Discoveries to Trace All Lines of Descent Debbie Parker Wayne
- 7 Habits of Highly Frugal Genealogists Thomas MacEntee
- Ready-Set-Plan! Developing a One-Step Research Plan J. Mark Lowe
- Timelines: Placing Your Heritage in Historical Perspective Laura Prescott
- Digging Through Documents Word by Word Debra Mieszala
- Going Digital: Organizing Your Research Files Electronically D. Joshua Taylor


**Workshop Program**

8:00 am Registration and browsing. **Coffee and doughnuts will be available for purchase.**

9:00 am **How Do I Keep All This Stuff Straight: Organizing Your Research**
Billie Stone Fogarty
Sooner or later every genealogist reaches the point when the stuff of genealogy – papers, books, heirlooms, letters, photocopies – becomes overwhelming. How do you find anything in that mountain of material and where do you store it? No filing system is without flaws, but your motto should be “files not piles” if you expect to be successful in your genealogy research. Organized research can save you time and money and can help guide you to the next step in your quest for family information.

10:30 am **Finding & Using Historical Newspapers in Genealogical Research**
Billie Stone Fogarty
It is not clear when information about people in the community began to dot the pages of local newspapers, but it was certainly a gift for genealogists. Newspapers allow us to glimpse into the daily lives and social customs of our ancestors and give us detailed information about our ancestors and their family relationships. They can help us break through genealogy “brick walls” and can help us find the “stories” of their lives. Newspapers can serve as a substitute for nonexistent vital and civil records, filling the void before official records were kept or where records have been destroyed.

**Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Hanover Military Records**
Teresa Steinkamp McMillin, CG
Learn how to find male ancestors in the kingdom of Hanover's military records available to researchers in the United States. Even if an ancestor did not serve, conscription lists might name him. Military records spanning roughly 1708-1866 will be discussed.

Noon **Lunch**

1:00 pm **The Homestead Act and Land Entry Files**
Billie Stone Fogarty
The Homestead Act has been called the most important act for the welfare of the people ever passed in the United States. More than a million homesteaders would agree and the records prove it! More than 270 million acres were transferred to individuals under this act. Today about 93 million people are descendants of homesteaders and those records are pure gold.

**Ancestry.com Tips and Tricks**
Jane Haldeman
Ancestry.com, one of the largest genealogy sites, offers a wide variety of resources for the genealogist. This continually evolving website can be personalized to suit the needs of the researcher. Both subscription and library versions are discussed. Tips for easy navigation, successful searches and personalization will highlight this presentation.

2:30 pm **The Great Madrid Earthquake and Other Calamities That Shook Our Ancestors**
Billie Stone Fogarty
When the course of the Mississippi River was altered by the New Madrid earthquakes of 1811-12, lives were changed. That and other disasters, both natural and manmade, have altered ancestors’ lives through the decades and sometimes changed the locations where we now live. Our ancestors did not live in a vacuum isolated from calamities and world events. Our goal as genealogists is to place our ancestors in the circumstances that surrounded, and sometimes, overtook them and to examine how those events may have affected their decisions and life choices.

**From Land Records to Google Earth: Mapping Your Family’s Place**
Jane Haldeman
There are numerous sources that give our ancestor’s legal land description; where are they and what do they mean? Learn where to look and how to convert section and range into Google Earth to see how that property looks today.

All sessions are one hour long. There is a 30-minute break between the 1st and 2nd sessions and the 3rd and 4th sessions.

For further information, visit our website at www.rootsweb.com/~illcgs or find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/pages/Lake-County-IL-Genealogical-Society/284057881619229
Lake County (IL) Genealogical Society

23rd Annual Genealogical Workshop

Retracing Their Journeys

Saturday, Nov. 21, 2015

Hosted by the Round Lake Beach Cultural & Civic Center
2007 Civic Center Way
Round Lake Beach, Illinois 60073
847-201-9032

Registration/Browsing: 8 a.m.
Programs: 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

About the Speakers

Billie Stone Fogarty, a full-time professional genealogist and Life member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, has served the genealogical community in several capacities. Currently an APG Board member, she has served several different times in this capacity and on several different committees of APG. She recently completed her fourth year as President of the Genealogical Speakers Guild. A frequent speaker at national conferences, she is also active on the regional, state, and local level in advancing genealogical research and open records access as the state liaison for the Records Preservation and Access Committee. She has worked diligently for the Oklahoma Genealogical Society (seven terms as President) and the Oklahoma Historical Society (Board of Directors and Executive Committee, Research Committee, and Publications Committee). Her background as an educator shows through in her passion for continuing education and she believes genealogists must continue the pursuit of learning if they are to continue to grow as genealogical researchers.

Teresa Steinkamp McMillin, CGSM, specializes in German-American and Midwest research. She has been interested in genealogy since she was a child, and has actively researched her German ancestry, as well as her husband’s Chicago Irish ancestors. She presents quality genealogy lectures for local and national organizations. She has attended the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research and the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy and has taken college-level German courses.

Jane Haldeman is a professional researcher and speaker. Her passion for genealogy began in 8th grade with a school assignment. Her other passion is technology which lead her into theater as a professional stagehand. Today she has blended her love of family history and technology and shares that love with others. She is owner of the website It’s Relative <www.itsrelative.net>; a past president of Illinois State Genealogical Society; and a past president of Fox Valley Genealogical Society. Jane lives in the suburbs of Chicago and her lectures focus on technology as applied to genealogical research.

About the Workshop and Location

The Round Lake Beach Cultural & Civic Center, 2007 Civic Center Way in Round Lake Beach, is located one block from the corner of Route 83 and Rollins Road on Hook Drive between the Round Lake Beach Village Hall and the Metra Station.

Directions: Via I-94, exit at IL 132-West (Grand Ave.) to N. Rollins Road, which turns into W. Rollins Road. Turn right at Rt. 83, and at the first light, turn left onto Hook Drive. The Center is one block on the right, past the Metra Station. Watch for signs. Overflow parking is available at the Metra Station.

-Lunch is not guaranteed for those who register after Nov. 1 or at the door.

-A variety of vendors will be available with books and supplies for purchase.

-A Silent Auction will be held during the workshop. Proceeds are used to purchase material for the LCIGS collection at the Vernon Hills Village Hall.