



McHenry County Illinois Genealogical Society
Connections Newsletter

www.mcigs.org

Volume 43, Issue 3

McHenry County Illinois Genealogical Society

March 2024

March Monthly Meeting

Thursday, 14 March 2024, 7:00 PM CDT

Zoom

***Introduction to Genealogy Research at
The Newberry***

Register [here](#).



Matt Rutherford, MLIS, is Curator of Genealogy and Local History at the Newberry Library. In addition to managing Newberry's renowned genealogy collection, Matt has also answered thousands of questions on a wide range of genealogy topics. He has spoken at the Illinois State Genealogical Society and the Conference on Illinois History, as well as several local genealogy societies, including the North Suburban Genealogical Society, the Elgin Genealogical Society, Genealogical Forum of Elmhurst, and the Illinois St. Andrew Society. Matt was the 2023 Filby Award recipient, given by the National Genealogical Society. In addition, Matt teaches seminars on a variety of genealogy topics, including beginning genealogy, researching at the Newberry Library, using repositories and archives, researching pre-fire Chicago, adoption searches, non-population census schedules, and the history of the federal census. He is the co-author of *A Bibliography of African American History at the Newberry Library* (2005).

The Newberry has been collecting genealogy and local history materials since 1887. Learn how you can explore Newberry's rich collections of family histories; local histories; censuses, probate, deed, court, tax, and cemetery records; military rosters; periodicals; genealogical guides; and reference works.

Join us for this presentation and overview of the Newberry Library extensive resources as presented by Matt Rutherford, Curator of Genealogy and Local History at the Newberry.

From the President..

Hello!

Spring time can be such an energizing time. Personally, I look forward to spring so that I can re-energize my focus on my genealogy research- get organized and make plans for future projects, etc. Hopefully, spring is beginning to sprout near you, and you have plans for your own research.

Each year we offer a \$1000 scholarship to graduating seniors from McHenry County. Our winner will be a student with ambitions to study history, genealogy, preservation of history or genetics. You can find more information about our scholarship in this newsletter and on our website. If you know of a graduating senior – relative, friend or acquaintance, please let them know.

In April we return to in-person meetings at McHenry County College. It'll be great to be back in the room together. We're still working on the exact location, so be sure to check out next month's newsletter.

Laurie Stage
MCIGS President

Early Settler Application

Contributed by Claudia Conroy, Early Settler Chair

Elizabeth Dee Kidera applied to recognize her ancestor, Vaclav KVIDERA, who had previously been proven to have settled in Algonquin Township in 1861. Elizabeth submitted all of the documents necessary to prove her descendance from Vaclav KVIDERA including land records and obituaries.

Vaclav (James) KVIDERA
b. 10 June 1814, Plzen-Jhi, Bohemia
m. Ludmila PETROVA, 26 January 1841, Bohemia
d. 25 August 1900, Algonquin Township, McHenry County, Illinois

Child:

Prokop (Patrick) KVIDERA
b. 6 July 1860, Bohemia
m. Marry A PEKNY, 2 May 1881, Barrington, Cook County, Illinois
d. 27 January 1950, Kane County, Illinois

Child:

Edward Jerome KVIDERA
b. 22 February 1882, Algonquin Township, McHenry County, Illinois
m. Mary A NADHERNY, 11 September 1906, Chicago, Cook County, Illinois

Child:

Edward Jerome KVIDERA
b. 16 January 1908, Chicago, Cook County, Illinois
m. Dorothy Mary JELINEK, 17 October 1928, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois
d. 15 June 1988, Chicago, Cook County, Illinois

Child:

Edward henry KVIDERA/KIDERA
b. 13 July 1930, Chicago, Cook County, Illinois
m. Betty Jo Wilson, 7 June 1953, Chicago, Cook County, Illinois
d. 20 June 2019, Pleasant Prairie, Kenosha, Wisconsin

Child:

Elizabeth Dee KIDERA

For information about applying for an Early Settler Certificate for your ancestor, go to our [website](#) for details.

The C&NW and Harvard

Submitted by Craig Pfannkuche

Harvard, Illinois was an especially important McHenry County community for the Chicago and North Western Railroad . Two lines intersected there (from Chicago to and beyond Janesville, Wisconsin and between Kenosha, Wisconsin, and Rockford). In those days, it was considered to be a "division point" where train crews were exchanged. Just recently, a listing of engineers, firemen and dispatchers who worked out of Harvard in the 1874 - 1875 period has been found among a vast collection of papers held at the archives of the Chicago and North Western Historical Society (cnwhs.org) located at Union, Illinois. That listing is:

NAME	RESIDENCE	POSITION	DATES
Alexander, James	Harvard	Engineer	1874-4,5,6 9
Bissell, James	Harvard	Fireman	1874-4
Bliss, H R	Harvard	Dispatcher	1874-4, 7,
Bliss, H R	Harvard	Fireman	1874-5
Cotton, C A	Harvard	Engineer	1874-4
Denio, M	Harvard	Engineer	1875-3
Dolan, James	Harvard	Engineer	1874-5, 7
Dolan, P	Cary	Fireman	1874-4, 7
Farran, J	Harvard	Dispatcher	1874-10
Flynn, James	Harvard	Engineer	1874-8
Frothingham, C	Harvard	Engineer	1875-3
Griffin, Jonathan	Harvard	Fireman	1874-7
Hammond, W	Harvard	Fireman	1874-4
Hammond, William	Harvard	Dispatcher	1874-12/1875-3
Hamond, William	Harvard	Engineer	1875-2
Irwin, A	Harvard	Dispatcher	1875-3
Johnson, R C	Harvard	Fireman	1874-5
Jordan, L B	Harvard	Engineer	1874-5/1875/2, 3
Joslyn, L	Harvard	Fireman	1874-5
Joslyn, Leroy	Harvard	Dispatcher	1874-4, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12/1875-2, 3
Kingsbury, E	Harvard	Fireman	1875-3
Kingsbury, E	Harvard	Dispatcher	1874-4, 9, 11, 12/1875-2
Learned, L E	Harvard	Fireman	1874-5
Learned, L E	Harvard	Dispatcher	1874-7/1875-3
Lynch, F	Harvard	Fireman	1874-4/1875-3
Marquisae, F	Harvard	Engineer	1874-6
Moran, Larry	Harvard	Fireman	1874-4
Newell, D	Harvard	Engineer	1874-9
Pierce, E	Harvard	Engineer	1875-2
Pierce, Edward	Harvard	Engineer	1875-2
Shepardson, M	Harvard	Dispatcher	1874-4/1875-3

Sherman, E S	Harvard	Fireman	1874-4
Sherman, E S	Harvard	Dispatcher	1874-4, 5, 10/1875/3
Turner, H	Harvard	Engineer	1875-2
Wellington, E	Harvard	Fireman	1874-4, 9
Wellington, E	Harvard	Dispatcher	1874-7
Wheelwright, William	Harvard	Dispatcher	1874-8, 9, 12
Wheelwright, William	Harvard	Engineer	1874-4, 10
Winters, James	Harvard	Dispatcher	1874-8, 9, 10/1875-3
Young, William	Harvard	Engineer	1874-8



The train photo was taken from the US 14 overpass looking east to the once existing Borden plant. (Chicago and North Western Historical Society)



Scholarship Available

Do you know anyone who...

- Is a resident of Illinois?
- Is a high school senior in McHenry County?
- Plans on studying history, preservation of history, and/or genetics in college?
-

Has been involved in community service?

- Would like to win a \$1,000 scholarship?

Information and application at mcigs.org/scholarship.

Application deadline is May 5, 2024.

February Meeting Recap

Submitted by Sandra Braid, Secretary

Claire Gene Esker was our speaker in February. Her topic was “Fast Forward Polish Beneficial Records in Genealogy.”

According to Claire, the word “Beneficials” as it is referred legally, is an inherent right that cannot be revoked. Beneficials began in Britain out of the commercial insurance system, especially to fill in the gaps for working class men, widows, children, and the elderly. There are five characteristics of a “Beneficial”:

1. A local chapter system with hierarchical leadership.
2. Elected leadership.
3. Ritualism and traditions.
4. Provision of social and medical aid.
5. Provision of aid to families of deceased members.

Claire indicated that there were both “fraternal beneficials” as well as “sororal beneficials.” Beneficials” are a broad record type. They include insurance applications, death claims, meeting minutes, membership rolls, fiscal management data, photographs, various publications (newsletters, magazines, pamphlets) and statistical data about the community. Claire stated that there were four major Polish American beneficials. They are the Polish Roman Catholic Union of American (PRCUA), dating from 1889 to the present; the Polish National Alliance (PNA), dating from 1880 to present; the Polish Falcons, dating from 1887 to the present and the Polish Women’s Alliance of America (PWAA), dating from 1889 to 2017 when they merged with

FCSLA Life, a fraternal benefit society founded in 1892 .

Fraternal records can be found at various locations from the Newberry Library to the University of Wisconsin, Madison, to the University of Illinois, Chicago, to the [Polish Museum](#) of America (the photograph collection), among others.

Language found in these records is a mix of Polish and English, with Polish being what was regionally used. In order to identify a male name, the endings were either “em” or “iem.” A female name usually ends with an “a.”

A Week at the National Archives in Washington, D. C.

Submitted by Nancy Gaynor,

The Genealogical Institute on Federal Records (Gen-Fed) is an annual, week-long seminar held in person at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) in Washington, D. C. according to their website, it says it is an in-depth study of federal records held at NARA in both Washington, DC and College Park, Maryland.

I first heard about Gen-Fed in late 2018 and applied to attend. Upon application, I was given a waitlist number of thirteen. About 40 people are chosen each year, by lottery, to attend. I thought about how to improve my chances on attending and discovered there are scholarships

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one can apply for. I applied and was awarded the 2020 Richard S Lackey scholarship. This assisted in funding the trip, but most importantly, it assured me a spot in the 2020 class.

The 2020 institute was canceled due to COVID, as was the 2021 institute. In 2022, Gen-Fed was offered as a virtual program. I was torn at that point between wanting to learn more about the archives and records, but also wanting to take advantage of being in Washington, D.C. So, I put it off to the class of 2023.

The wait was definitely worth it. The class met every day from about 8 AM to 4 PM at the National Archives in a classroom on the second floor. While I have a decent amount of experience in researching my family line, many of my classmates probably had more research under their belt. They were professional genealogists and people working towards genealogical credentials. I did recognize some of my classmates from conferences and papers I'd read. Our instructors included experts in military records, land records and the National Archives itself.

One of my longtime research goals involves trying to narrow down my relationship to one of two men who served in the American Revolution. They had the same name, relative age, and came from the same state. These two men have had their information and records comingled in the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) files. I wanted to speak with an expert and see if what I've pulled together makes sense and gain ideas for further research.

As I gathered things together in advance of my week in Washington, DC, I created spreadsheets, timelines, and documents, and realized my ancestor's service is still a question. The military expert and he reviewed the information I had and confirmed what I thought – the service is questionable. The expert and I discovered we have a connection to the Massachusetts town where my ancestor lived and a possible family connection.

While the information was somewhat disappointing, it gave validity to my conclusions and avenues for further research. Another research success was being able to read and photograph my great-grandfather's Civil War file. As it wasn't yet digitized and on Fold3, I was able to see the actual file. Typically, if on Fold3, you can't get to the original.

Would I do this again? Absolutely! However, once you've attended Gen-Fed, you have to wait five years to reapply. Should you decide to attend, don't forget those scholarships which may help pay for some of it and allow you to be put on the roster.

Registration information can be found at – <https://www.gen-fed.org/home/news/> . Online registration takes place for one week, usually in February. When registration closes, a lottery takes place to pick the attendees for that year. The lottery drawing is live.

Trip to Newberry Library in Chicago

Join us on a field trip to the Newberry Library on Saturday, 27 April 2024. This will be an opportunity to have a tour of the library, learn how to use it and research your family.

Before the trip, Matt Rutherford, Curator of the Library, will be our guest speaker in March, talking about the library. This presentation will be informative on using the library.

The fee for the trip is \$20, which includes a bus trip, provided by Rainbow Transportation, from Crystal Lake to the front door of the library and gratuities. The library allows for 15 people in a group, so be sure to register early if you want to go. MCIGS members will be given priority.

There are several restaurants within a block or two, or you can bring your lunch. There is a small lunch room at Newberry, or if the weather permits, there a park across the street from the main entrance to the library.

Please email susan.durbin@mcigs.org to register. Include name, phone number and email address. Susan will contact you about payment and other particulars. We are looking forward to a fun research day and hope you can join us.

Susan Durbin
MCIGS Program Chair

SCHEDULE FOR TRIP TO NEWBERRY

Before 9 AM meet at Pingree Train Station, 570 E Congress Parkway, Crystal Lake.

9 – 10:30 AM – depart train station for trip to Chicago.

10:30 AM – 12:30 PM -check in, obtain library card and research

12:30 PM – lunch on your own.

1 PM – 3 PM – research

3 PM – depart library for return trip to CL

4:30 PM – approximate arrival time in Crystal Lake.

Upcoming Events

All times are Central Time. P- in person only; H- hybrid and Z- Zoom

16 March, Saturday, 10:30 AM (H), CAGGNI, “DNA: Everything You Wanted to Know.” The presenter is Michelle Bray Wilson. In person at Arlington Heights Public Library, 500 Dunton Ave, Arlington Heights. To register for Zoom: <https://www.caggni.org/event-5566564>

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5 March, Tuesday, 9:30 AM (H), Elgin Genealogical Society. Suz Bates presenting “Cool Tools and Tricks for Genealogy.” For information and registration [here](#).

13 March, Wednesday 7 p.m. CST (H) Fountaindale Library Genealogy Club, Presented by Jennifer Warner, “Finding Family Bible Records.” In person at Fountaindale Library, 300 W Briarcliff Drive, Bolingbrook. To join Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83509408893>

16 March, Saturday, 9 AM (P) Lake County and Zion Genealogical Societies, 2nd Annual Workshop “Bringing History and Genealogy Together.” Zion-Benton Library, 2400 Gabriel Avenue, Zion. Register [here](#). For more information [here](#).

23 March, Saturday, 10 AM (P), CAGGNI Storytellers Special Interest Group. Topic: A relative you didn’t meet until later in life. Meet at Schaumburg Public Library, 130 South Roselle Road, at rear of main floor. For more information, contact cygnetnest@aol.com .

27 March, Wednesday, 11 AM (Z), Fountaindale Library Genealogy Club. “They Lived Where? Tips for Researching Locations,” speaker, Laura Kovarik. Register [here](#).

McHenry County Illinois
Genealogical Society
2024 Officers and Board

Term of office ends in December of year in parentheses.

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COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Early Settlers Chair – Claudia Conroy
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Did You Know?

You can Google name of town, vicinity, name of person to find out more.

Use Facebook to look for county genealogical and historical societies in area of your research? Also Facebook has sites for people researching in your area.

IRAD – Illinois Regional Archives Depository – has just updated their holdings. Contact [here](#).