



Connections

www.mcigs.org

McHenry County Illinois Genealogical Society Newsletter



Volume XL, Number 12

Contact Us: mcigs@mcigs.org

December 2020

Elections

The following were elected for a two year term at our November meeting, beginning in January 2021. Congratulations to all!

- President:* Arlene Basten,
- 2nd V. P. - Membership* – Laurie Stage
- Director:* Bruce Peterson
- Director:* Dave Stumpf

The bylaws change was passed. This change was to remove the contributing membership level which came with benefits we can no longer offer.

Volunteers

Like all societies, we rely on our volunteers for any number of things. Sometimes its just an hour for a special project, or a project that involves more hours. We appreciate every hour volunteered on our behalf. This year we thank the following:

- Ron Peterson
- Peg Byard
- Bruce Peterson
- Leona Bolton
- Deanna Galloway
- Vicki Roberts

If we missed you, please know that we appreciate your help!

Save the Date!

Our Annual Summer Conference will be held virtually on Saturday, 10 July 2021. Our speakers will be *The Genealogy Squad*: George Morgan, Drew Smith, Cyndi Ingle and Cari Tarpin. If you don't know of them, check out Genealogy Squad on Facebook.

If you are a member of MCIGS, you may attend the conference for free. Non-members will pay \$25.

Stay tuned for more details to come in January.

Next Meeting

The first meeting of 2021, will be Thursday, January 14 at 7 p.m. via Zoom. Further information will be forthcoming in December.



Recap of the Last Meeting

Nancy Gaynor

Telling the Story with Maps: Maps of Early Illinois and Where to Find Them

On Thursday 12 November Ginger Frere of Information Diggers discussed a variety of types of maps with advice on where to find them. While her presentation focused on Illinois mapping, it would be easy to use Ms. Frere's suggestions to finding maps of other locales. The maps she showcased, and the collections they were in, are freely available **online**.

Maps have been used to convey all types of information from: topography, migration routes, boundaries, politics and more. The level of sophistication of maps has also evolved. An early map of the Missouri River created in 1703 by Lahontan shows a vast geographic area, laid out with a different perspective. She showcased the much later map of "The Conflagration in Chicago" which included lithographs of the devastation of the Chicago Fire of 1871 and listings of buildings destroyed.

Maps are held by a number of types of libraries, online and in print format. Locally the Newberry Library has a collection of over 600,000 maps. An online resource you should check out is the ATLAS OF HISTORICAL COUNTY BOUNDARIES. Here you can select a state and county and observe the change in county lines through time. This affects WHERE you should look for ancestral vital records.

Merry Christmas
Happy Holidays!

David Rumsey has made available a collection of over 91,000 maps dating from the 16th century for FREE.

Larger libraries will have map collections. Check out their websites/library catalogs to see what their holdings may be. University libraries also collect maps, often making digital copies a priority. The University of Chicago and University of Illinois at Urbana were mentioned. (This author worked at a state university in Michigan and often provided reference assistance in our map collection.)

The Illinois State Library has a digital platform called IDA/Illinois Digital Archive, that ALL types of libraries throughout Illinois contribute digital content to.

From stagecoach routes and tavern listings, to county lines to highway routes, maps are filled with information that can help you flesh out the story of your ancestors' journey. They can also help you locate places that no longer exist.

Take a look at Ms. Frere's syllabus on our website (mcigs.org) for a listing of all the websites mentioned.

ANCESTRY

One positive thing coming out of the pandemic, is that Ancestry has allowed access to their library version to everyone from home. You need a library card from your local library, but many are arranging that online. If you don't have a card, obtain one and then access Ancestry.

Ancestry has now extended the end date once again, allowing for access until 31 March 2021.

Happy hunting!