Ann Wells is the owner of Wells Genealogical Research, located in Crystal Lake. She is a board member of MCIGS and British Interest Group in Wisconsin and Illinois (BIGWILL). She is a member of a number of county societies both in the US and England.

Years ago one had to know the location of the ancestor in order to find the right microfilm. Today, it is much easier to locate people thanks to the internet and research sites such as FamilySearch and Ancestry. The census is now the MOST important tool for research. Once you find them on the census you can go forward from the clues found there.

Do any of our readers know of a McHenry County High School senior student who might be interested in a $1,000 scholarship? MCIGS is offering a $1,000 scholarship to be awarded in spring 2020. Students must reside in McHenry County and attend a McHenry County high school.

The scholarship is created to encourage and inspire the coming generation to learn and preserve local history as well as personal family history. The scholarship will be awarded to a high school senior with ambitions to study history, preservation of history and/or genetics as it pertains to family history. Criteria to determine the winner will include involvement in community volunteer work and commitments outside of school, letters of recommendation, a high school transcript and completion of a written essay.

A link to the scholarship application will be available on our website in Mid-January 2020. Starting in February, students can be directed to the guidance office at their high school for scholarship and application information. Please pass this information on to any high school student who you believe would be a good candidate. Please contact either of our scholarship committee members with questions: Tami Allred at Tami.Allred@mcigs.org or Laurie Stage at Laurie.Stage@mcigs.org
The Guild of One Name Studies is a registered charitable organization of the U.K. It began in 1979 for the purpose of collecting information about a particular surname from around the world. According to the website for GOONS (Guild of One Name Studies): The objectives of the Guild of One-Name Studies, as laid out in the Constitution, are:

- to advance the education of the public in one-name studies (defined as research into the genealogy and family history of all persons with the same surname and its variants); and
- to promote the preservation and publication of the resultant data, and to maximise its accessibility to all interested persons.

You might find your surname listed with information you didn’t have before or you see a connection. By contacting the “owner” of that name, you will be able to enhance your research. The owner of that study must answer you within a short time. If they don’t, they will be contacted by the society.

If you are a member you can search in a number of ways. One search will connect you with others searching a particular surname that isn’t a study as yet. For example your Fields married into the Bray family and that might show up, but there is no study for one of the names currently.

There is help to set up a website within GOONS and when you are no longer able to participate, your information will be kept forever so others can learn from it.

You can find out more about Guild of One Name Studies by going to their website - https://one-name.org/. GOONS will be represented at our conference in July, so you can bring your questions and chat with them then.