



# MCIGS

McHenry County IL Genealogical Society

## Connections Newsletter

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### *June 9, 2022 Meeting*



#### ***Recording Your History: Tips and Tools for Sharing Memories***

Mike Reall has been involved in genealogy off and on since he created his first Four Generation Pedigree Chart as a Cub Scout. Although he has participated in personal genealogical research, indexed records on FamilySearch, and contributed histories and sources to his family line, he considers himself a family history novice.

However, Mike is very enthusiastic about helping people contribute to their family history by recording and sharing their personal history. He is the founder of Early Me, which has developed an app to help families and close friends

rediscover their past through engaging social interactions. He also leads the Early Me Project, a volunteer effort to assist community members in sharing life experiences with each other.

While we love getting lost in the exciting family memories, we all-too-often neglect recording our own. As the second session in the series, “Recording Your Personal History,” we’ll explore ways to record and share your individual experiences and get others in your family to similarly share theirs. We’ll use everyday resources to help you rediscover your memories and preserve them for generations to come.

Register here: [HERE](#) for June 9 Meeting

## 2022 Summer Conference



Our conference is just over a month away! This year's conference will again be free to members and \$25 for non-members. The conference will be virtual on Saturday, 9 July 2022 beginning at 9:00 AM CDT. You can register [here](#).

This month we highlight Paula Stuart-Warren, and her presentations are:

### **Finding Maiden Names: Let Me Count the Ways**

This session presents myriad ways to determine what was Great Grandma Margaret's maiden name. Clues and a checklist will guide you in the search.

### **Railroad Records and Railroad History: Methods for Tracking**

When this lecture is over you will know where to turn to find out more about the railroad, its records, and where to find them.

### **The Art of Successful Genealogical Research Trips**

This session details steps both online and off to help you plan a successful research trip.

### **New York State Research: The Changing Face of the Modern Era**

This lecture focuses on some of the new things in

New York research that have come about in the last several years.

### ***From the President...***

Hello and welcome to whatever season we are currently experiencing here in McHenry County. It seems we go from winter, to spring, to summer in the matter of a few days, and then it all repeats! Personally, I love the days when it is warm enough to begin digging in the ground and starting on all my garden beds. If I'm being honest, it's harder for me to concentrate on digging around for my lost relatives, with all the digging around I'm doing in my yard. I have recently started to keep "to-do" lists with my genealogy research, and I think it's truly helping me when I'm trying to find my way back to wherever it was that I left off.

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish all the dads in our group a happy Father's Day on June 19<sup>th</sup>. I hope we can all find some time to celebrate the dads in our lives in some fashion. Typically, I see lots of fun posts on Facebook where people put great pictures of their Fathers with some amazing stories added to go with the pictures.

I have a few event reminders to share with you. You're going to want to take a moment to register for our MCIGS General Meeting on June 9<sup>th</sup>. Our very own Mike Reall will be presenting on "Recording Your History." This meeting will be virtual and starts at 7:00 CST. Current members should take advantage of the FREE registration for our MCIGS Summer Conference on Saturday, July 9<sup>th</sup>. There is a \$25.00  
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registration fee for non-members. This conference is virtual and begins at 9:00 ending at 4:00. Check out our website for more information on both of these events.

For those of us who live in the McHenry County area, I'm excited to tell you that the Family History Center in Crystal Lake IL is now open. Current hours are on Tuesday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm and Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 9 pm. The History Center is a great resource for those of us who live near enough to visit them. They have helpful staff and many databases for usage too.

I'd like to end this letter to you, but closing with a huge thank you to all our MCIIGS Board Members! Your board meets a minimum of 1 time per month, plus there is always something to be worked on outside of a meeting. The meetings are usually held at the Cary Area Library and a tremendous amount of work is completed in the 1 ½ hours that we are together. You can see the minutes of the board meetings on our website. We post the previous month minutes once they are approved at the following board meeting. We are also working on long range planning for the society and that requires additional time to get together. Personally, I am so impressed with how well everyone works together and helps to support each other through various projects. Don't hesitate to consider attending a board meeting to see first-hand what we are up to. I invite you all to read the minutes of the meetings too once they are posted.

*Laurie Stage*

## ***May Meeting Recap***

From Nancy Gaynor

May's program was the kickoff to a series of three programs on the importance of keeping our family stories and the creative ways to share them. Amy Veloz from the web site JRNL introduced attendees to the idea of writing our stories and some of the key concepts of today's journaling possibilities.

People approach journaling a variety of ways, including the "historian" who chronicles EVERYTHING that happened on a given day and the secret journaler who locks and hides away their diary. There is NO one correct way to keep our memories alive.

A sobering thought was brought forward that we are but one generation away from being forgotten. How many of us no longer have the stories of our grandparents' lives? Some of us may have benefitted from personal knowledge and acquaintance with grandparents and may have stories from them personally.

Ms. Veloz shared her reasons for journaling for her children. She lost a brother-in-law when he was rather young, then just a short time later her sister passed away. Now she keeps a journal for each of her children, filled with stories about family and things the children have been doing. Journaling is NOT just dutifully writing a page a day in a locked, dated diary. Our social media platforms can be considered a form of memory keeping. Posting photographs and memories share them with as wide an audience as you wish. Photos in your possession are now shared

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with close family and friends. You can use apps on your phone to keep video journal “entries.” How precious a gift is it to not only SEE a loved one, but to maintain the memory of their voice? An alternative would be to simply keep it as an audio recording your memories. And of course, you can keep a journal on your laptop/personal computer.

There are also, for the more artistic amongst us, loads of journaling tools available. You can start with a plain book and, using templates and colored pencils or pens, decorate the pages to further enhance your stories.

Inspiration for getting started can be found on the Internet. Simple searches on “gratitude journals” or “bullet journaling” or “journal jar” will help you begin the journey to writing down things you would like your family to know about their family.

We love the hobby of genealogy and the hunt of locating “lost” ancestors. How many of their stories have you found and where have you kept them? A family history is a journal pulling together all those stories, into a readable format, another way to hook our families on learning their family background.

Start writing, no one is going to grade your work. Your stories will live on.

### *Did You Know...*

The Family History Center (FHC), 480 North Walkup Rd. Crystal Lake, Illinois, is now open on **Tuesdays** from 10 AM to 2 PM and on **Thursdays** from 6:30 to 9:00 PM. Use the NE door – the one on the right of the front of the building and ring the bell. Someone will come and let you in. Happy Hunting!

## *Upcoming Events*

All events are in CDT. Some are via Zoom (Z), in person (P) and hybrid (H). Be sure to contact the event host for registration details.

**7 June**, Tuesday, 9:30 am (Z) “Where, oh Where, have my Ancestors Gone? Finding them on FamilySearch Databases” - Jean Wilcox Hibben, PhD. Gail Borden Public Library District: Main Library, 270 N Grove Ave, Elgin, IL 60120, <https://www.elginroots.com>

**12 June**, Sunday, 1:00 pm (P) - Lineage Societies: The What, the Why, and How, followed by an open house. Presenter Dr. Kimberly Nagy. Cary Public Library, 1606 Three Oaks Road, Cary, IL  
<https://carylibrary.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails?EventId=19575&backTo=Calendar&startDate=2022/06/01>

**14 June**, Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. (H), “40+ Sources for Finding Maiden Names – Katherine R Willson. Lake County Illinois Genealogical Society. Vernon Hills Village Hall 290 Evergreen Cr., Vernon Hills.  
<https://lakecountyilgenealogy.org/>

**16 June**, Thursday, 7:00 pm, (P), “Researching Canadian Records” – Maureen Brady. Gail Borden Public Library District: Main Library, 270 N Grove Ave, Elgin, IL 60120, <https://www.elginroots.com>

**18 June**, Saturday, 2 p.m. (P), Irish American Heritage Center. Meeting and discussion of all things Irish genealogy. 4626 N Knox Ave, Chicago, IL 60630 [genealogy@irishahc.org](mailto:genealogy@irishahc.org)

**9 July**, Saturday, 9 am – 3 p.m. – McHenry County Illinois Genealogical Society, 2022 Summer Conference.  
<https://www.mcigs.org/conference.html>

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2022

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## ***Family History Research***

Phyllis Bauer

One of our longtime members has written a few notes on family history research and information. We can all learn from those who have been researching for a long time, and many before the advent of computer and internet.

***Talk to the older generation, before they are gone.*** They may have information that you don't know or ever thought of asking about. For instance: Someone directed me to a lady whose mother lived to be 107 years old. The distant cousin I had been directed to, was the daughter of that lady. Family connections had been important in the years that lady had lived. She made notes about it on the back of an envelope that told me how the family sorted out, and her daughter had saved those old envelopes. I didn't quite understand what she wrote, until I talked to an elderly member of the family who was still living, and she was too embarrassed to say it out loud, but she indicated how it all played out. One of the relatives was born out of wedlock and that was why it wasn't quite adding up for me, as to who was who.

Those notes on the back of the envelope also gave me the maiden name of an ancestor which led to more research in the *Early Records of Illinois*, which led to more connections. The *Early Records of Illinois* are probably a little-known source, but back in the 1980's when I started my quest, they became an important part of my research, because several of my ancestors were here in Illinois before statehood. When I used those records, they were notes on index

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cards and were available on a wall of drawers at the Illinois State Archives. They apparently have been digitalized and are now available through the Secretary of State collection of records known as the Perrin Collection. In that collection, I found one of my ancestors was here as early as 1817 when he and his brother were “WANTED” for borrowing money and not paying it back. I suspect they arrived in Illinois Territory “without a nickel to their name,” borrowed the money from a better set man, but never found work to cover what they owed. Of course, they wouldn’t have done that purposely – after all, my family was and is, totally honest. The two brothers and their father left St. Clair County and escaped across the Mississippi River. After the “heat was off” they came back to Illinois again, but entered the state a bit farther north, in Greene County.

Through the notes on the back of that envelope, I found an ancestral name that I did not have. He too was an early settler, and it appeared his daughter married a man name Isaac Hill. There was no marriage record found for Isaac Hill and the man’s daughter, which would have been in the early 1820’s. It also appeared to be more than one man by the name of Isaac Hill in the early records, or maybe he just “got-around.” I had no way of confirming this conclusion, as I could not find a will record for the man I had identified as the father of my third great-grandmother. Isaac Hill would have been his son-in-law and should appear in that record.

In the early years of searching for answers to my ancestry, I had met a well-known genealogist from Salt Lake City (sorry—don’t recall her name) at the Illinois State Genealogical Society Fall Conference held in Springfield. She was to be the main speaker at that Conference. This

professional genealogist advised a plan of “*searching every record in the jurisdiction in which your ancestor lived.*” That seemed like an overwhelming task, but one of the FamilySearch reels of film I ordered to look at was the “School Records” for the small county my Great-grandfather had lived in, as he had been a schoolteacher. I found nothing on that reel that referred to my great-grandfather, but “low and behold” from his wife’s family line, I found the name of my third great-grandmother’s father. There were will and probate records for that county on the roll of film, *after* the School Records. Apparently, they had been added to the roll of film because the school records had not filled the roll. Unfortunately, the early will and probate records were not part of the FamilySearch early index, because no one knew they were there, so I had no clue that was where I would find them. Yes, my Isaac Hill was a beneficiary, as he was the husband of the daughter of the deceased. It was a “Serendipity Moment.”

The Computer Age has shone a bright light on family history research, but if not enlightened about all the possibilities, i.e., just searching, and finding what someone else had concluded or found, then a researcher can be “short-changed” in not finding something that is “hidden in plain-sight.”



## Monthly Question...

In May the questions were:

1. *What is the most interesting given name amongst your ancestors?*

The answers we received: Delos, Butts, Thankful, Godsgrace, Uzziel, Tamazine, Iceyfeene and Fauntella

2. *What bit of advice would you give to new researchers?*

- a. Write down your sources when discovering new information.
- b. Have a lot of patience and persistence.
- c. Document the information collected and back up.
- d. Learn how to do citations and use some sort of research log/journal.
- e. Talk with people face to face. Go to a library or historical museum and find the reference librarian, historian, or on-site genealogy person and ask questions. These people are generally knowledgeable, helpful, and most of all, enthusiastic about the subject. They have insights to resources or paths of investigation you may never have heard about.
- f. Internet resources are vast. Digital communication allows valuable contacts you could not otherwise make. But face to face conversation can provide a surprisingly rich exchange that can't be replicated electronically.
- g. When you run out of answers and ideas on one branch of your family, jump to another branch. The change will do you and your brain good!

Editor's Note: Great ideas! Thanks for sharing.

The questions for this month:

How old were you when you started researching your family?

What is the database that you use the most?

Answer here:

<https://bit.ly/MCIGSQuery6>

## MCIGS Research Help

There are several indexes on our website which lead to a publication, obituary, or other bit of information that you can obtain by requesting them. For a small fee we will look up your request and mail/email it to you.

**The Early Settler** project has a list of ancestor names. You can request a copy of the application.

<https://www.mcigs.org/early-settlers.html>

**Every Name Index 1981-1999.** This alphabetical list represents the names of all individuals recorded on ahnentafel and pedigree charts submitted to MCIGS from 1981 through May 1999. <https://www.mcigs.org/ancestor-charts.html>

## Crystal Lake Herald Marriages 1880-1979

These indexes represent a list of couples whose notice of marriage license issued, marriage performed, wedding conducted, or news items for anniversaries celebrated, appeared in the newspaper.

<https://www.mcigs.org/marriages.html>

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The indexes represent a list of deceased individuals whose notice of death appeared in the weekly Crystal Lake Herald obituaries, death notices, police reports, and newspaper articles and is not necessarily limited to residents of Crystal Lake and/or Nunda Township. <https://www.mcigs.org/death-notices.html>

**Index to Death Notices Appearing in the Woodstock Sentinel Newspaper, 1856-1894** – This was the earliest newspaper in the county. Very few deaths or marriage are to be found in the early papers, but many more are available as time went on. <https://www.mcigs.org/woodstock-sentinel.html>

**Marengo Republican Newspaper** This paper had various names. It began publication in 1872 and continued until 1989 when the *Northwest Herald* bought them. <https://www.mcigs.org/marengo-republican.html>

**McHenry Plaindealer, 1875-1880** – McHenry Library has the films of all the existing Plaindealer issues. <https://www.mcigs.org/mchenry-plaindealer-1875---1880.html>

Request form for obituary and marriage items: <https://www.mcigs.org/uploads/7/8/5/8/7858714/noticerequestform.pdf> OR <https://www.mcigs.org/obituary>

**Every-Name Index to the 1880 Federal Census of McHenry County, Illinois** – while the 1880 is available online, it often helps to find the family in the index if it has been misspelled, or otherwise not easy to find. Then you can go to

the online index and find the census.

[https://www.mcigs.org/uploads/7/8/5/8/7858714/1880\\_census\\_index.pdf](https://www.mcigs.org/uploads/7/8/5/8/7858714/1880_census_index.pdf)

**Every-Name Index to the 1930 Federal Census of McHenry County** – useful for the same reasons as for the 1880 census. <https://www.mcigs.org/1930-census.html>

**MCIGS Connection Quarterly Every Name Index 1981-1991** A comprehensive every-name and subject index reference to more than 25,000 names appearing in the newsletters and quarterlies of MCIGS, plus hundreds of excellent research source articles. 170 pp. arranged alphabetically. <https://www.mcigs.org/quarterly-surname-indexes.html>

