



MCIGS

McHenry County IL Genealogical Society

Connections Newsletter



Upcoming Meeting

Thursday, 9 March 2023, 7 PM CT

Doors open 6:30 PM

IN PERSON

Will be recorded and available for members on our website

at

McHenry County College, Room A240

8900 Route 14, Crystal Lake, IL

"Genealogical Research Using Railroad Records"

Craig Pfannkuche, speaker

Craig graduated from Northern Illinois University with a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts. His Master's thesis dealt with the history of central Lee County, Illinois. A resident of McHenry County for most of his life, he is now, at age 80, a happily retired high school American history instructor. He maintains his interest in American history, both national and local, by being a researcher for the McHenry County Historical Society, the archivist for the Chicago and North Western Railroad Historical Society and the Corresponding Secretary of the Chicago Genealogical Society.

Railroad companies were meticulous record keepers. Large amounts of family history data were collected by the numerous railroad companies which spun their web of rails across the nation. These records cover work done by millions of working men and women, in every position and rank, even up to the present day. Much of this material survives and is a potential treasure of family history data to researchers. Craig Pfannkuche, Genealogical Archivist for the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad Historical Society will discuss the type of such records which exist, how they meet genealogical research needs and how to access them by using the archives of the Chicago and North Western Historical Society as an example. Today these records are in Gilberts, but hopefully they will be moving to a permanent home at the Railroad Museum in Union this year.

From the President...

Hello!

Do you know what March 11, 2023, celebrates? According to Nationaltoday.com it's... (wait for it) ... Genealogy Day! According to the website, the 2nd Saturday in March is reserved to celebrate our hobby. In order to celebrate, you can use Genealogy Day to spend an entire day working on your research.

Our general meetings are moving back to an in-person platform during the warmer, longer days of the year. Our first inperson meeting since 2020 will be on March 9th at McHenry County College, in room A240 (Bersted Lecture Hall). Our meeting space will open at 6:30 PM so feel free to come early so we can mingle and reacquaint ourselves. Our "help desk" area will be manned and ready to provide suggestions and guidance for questions you might have. Many of our board members will be available to say hello, and talk about what's going on with the board. It's been so long since we've been able to get together, and I'm so looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible. If you can't make the program, you'll be able to catch it later on our website if you are an MCIGS member.

The position of Recording Secretary is currently vacant. This position requires attendance at our monthly board meetings. The person holding this position takes the minutes of the meeting and distributes them to the board in a timely manner. There is a format in place for recording the minutes if needed started out on the board as a Director for a few months then asked to take the role of secretary. I admit to being

nervous in the beginning but everyone was so helpful and supportive that I quickly learned how to be the secretary.

Board meetings are on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM, at Cary Area Library or via Zoom. I'm happy to answer any questions you might have about this position. You can reach me at president@mcigs.org.

Laurie Stage MCIGS President.

Useful Websites

<https://maps.nls.uk/index.html> - National Library of Scotland. While this is a Scottish site, it covers all of UK and some other parts of the world. There are town maps, military maps, estate maps, among others.

<https://cfh.iaamuseum.org/> - International African American Museum, Center for Family History. This site has a blog covering a myriad of topics. In addition, there is a learning library and digital archives.

<https://convictrecords.com.au/> - Convict Records of Australia. You can search the British Convict transportation register of convicts transported to Australia 1787-1867. Information available includes name of convict, known aliases, place convicted, port of departure, date of departure, port of arrival, and the source of the data.

<https://stadsarchief.rotterdam.nl/english/> Rotterdam City Archive. English version of

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website is available as are English versions of the index, but actual records, etc. are in Dutch.

<https://aad.archives.gov/aad/seriesdescription.jsp?s=5057&cat=all&bc=sl> – National Archives Access to Databases (AAD). Index to Social Security NUMIDENT Index 1937-2007. This record set can give you the principal's name, birthdate and place of birth and parents' names.

<https://www.abmc.gov> – American Battle Monuments Commission. Over 200,000 entries showing military ribbons, medals, where entered service and date of death plus a variety of other records back to the Revolutionary War.

<https://www.okhistory.org/index.php> - The Oklahoma Historical Society. They hold American Indian resources, marriage, divorce, prison, death information, census returns, land and military records, among others.

<http://freeirishebooks.blogspot.com-Free> – Irish Books Index. Over 5000 free books and journals on the topics of Irish history, biography, and genealogy; photographs, maps and documents.

<https://acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy> - Allen County (IN) Library, Genealogy Center. In addition to their thousands of books, they have online records and PERSI. They also offer research help.

<https://www.archives.gov/research/military-records> - National Archives Military Records. You'll find photos, casualty lists, enlistments plus a variety of other military records.

<https://en.geneante.org/postcards> - Geneanet Postcards. You can find postcards of places your ancestors lived. This site's holdings appears to be worldwide.

Do you have a favorite site? Please share with us, whether it is a locale or ethnic specific or generic. You can send that information [here](#).

Upcoming Events

All event times are in CT or CDT (P)- in person; (V)- virtual; (H) hybrid presentation

2-4 March, Thursday-Saturday – (H) – RootsTech. Free conference. Registration: familysearch.org/rootstech/registration.

4 March, Saturday, (H) 1:30 PM, Winnebago-Boone Counties Genealogical

Society. Speaker: Eleanor Brinsko, “Farming, Factories, and The Frontier: Midwest Genealogy Basics.” Register:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcrdeivrD4sGt1SicSEnKP7jrhWEIOXkZCq>

18 March, Saturday, 10 AM (V) British Interest Group of Wisconsin and Illinois (BIGWILL). Speaker: Christine Woodcock.

“Colonizing Canada.” Register at

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcvc-pqDsje9I4KALE36cnS_4B5zy2vfIY

1 April, Saturday, 9 AM – 5 PM. (H) Indiana State Genealogical Society Annual Conference, Fort Wayne, IN. Speakers: Amy Crow, Michael Maben, Ron Darrah, Curt Witcher and Elizabeth Hodges.

Registration:

<https://www.indgensoc.org/2023conference.php>

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9 April, Thursday, 7 PM, (P) McHenry County Illinois Genealogical Society. Presenter: Mark Walczynski. “Early French/Native American History of Illinois and the Western Great Lakes.” McHenry County College, Room A240, 8900 Route 14, Crystal Lake, IL mcigs@mcigs.org.

Recap of Last Meeting

Submitted by Nancy Gaynor

Tina Beard, always an informative speaker, didn't disappoint in her February 9 presentation “Cyber Sleuthing Your Family Tree”. She also offered up not only one, but two handouts packed full of helpful links and comments.

Ms. Beard discussed both subscription databases and free websites for genealogists, pointing out many aspects that make them different from one another. Tina noted the differences between home subscription and library editions. She also mentioned features available even without a subscription.

Ancestry Library Edition is available at many public libraries, large and small, and offers a selection of U.S. and international records. You can also view public trees and access the Learning Center full of videos, forms and guides. The Ancestry Library Edition gives you the opportunity to email home your findings. (You are sent a link that will retain those findings for quite a while.)

[Fold3](#) also offers a Library Edition. (You can access your library's subscription from home.) While it's predominately a military database, Fold3 does include over 280 million nonmilitary record sets, including the Social Security Death Index, city directories, Homestead Records and more, plus records from other countries. There are a number of other features available, including the ability to make memorial pages for those who have served in the military.

Tina discussed the varied newspaper databases and their differences. When considering what website to subscribe to, be sure to look at the lists of newspaper titles included. Some sites also offer different levels of subscription which may affect which titles and dates are included. Again, like Ancestry, there are differences between the library and personal subscription lists. Take a look at the region and period you are researching and examine closely the title lists before you sign up for a newspaper database. [GenealogyBank](#) offers many historic newspapers from 1690-1977 and historical documents from the American State Papers. [Newspapers.com](#) added many papers during COVID expanding their coverage. [NewspaperArchive](#) includes a great collection of central and southern Illinois newspapers. Often you will find that a subscription or membership to another site will have newspapers or other sites available as a bonus. Be sure to check that out.

[FindMyPast](#) also includes a Library Edition. Mainly a United Kingdom database, the personal subscriber also has access to U.S. census records, Irish parish records and a large collection of newspapers. FMP routinely offers free record sets to nonsubscribers.

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Heritage Quest is now owned by Ancestry. Many public libraries offer this to card holders to search from home. Historical documents from the American State Papers, a large number of digitized books plus Revolutionary War Pension and Land Bounty Records can be found here.

Ms. Beard discussed a number of free databases beyond the typical FamilySearch and Internet Archive. [CARLI](#) is a consortium of academic libraries throughout Illinois, public and private institutions whose holdings can be identified here. Resources she mentioned include the Chicago Genealogist from 1969-2007, the Monee Township Tax Assessor's records and the Pullman Company's digital collection. Lots of early Illinois history to be found here.

[Illinois Digital Archives](#), or IDA, is a project hosted by the State Library and provided by the Illinois Secretary of State where a variety of institutions throughout Illinois post digital copies of images and records – for free. Prison records of Alton and Joliet are found here. Map and postcard collections and newspapers are also available. The [Chicago Jewish Sentinel](#), a number of Elgin newspapers and many telephone and business directories are but a few items that can be located on IDA.

[Archivegrid](#) can help you identify special collections within libraries and archives throughout the United States. This is a catalog of holdings; you will not find digitized collections here. Once you identify a collection at an archive, you can visit their website to see what is available online and their rules on accessing things in person.

Don't forget the free sites of **RootsWeb** and **USGenWeb**. RootsWeb was a message board

popular for crowd sourcing family questions. It is now owned by Ancestry, and it will be shut down on 7 April 2023. The WorldConnect family trees will be removed from RootsWeb on April 15, 2023 and will eventually make their way to Ancestry sometime in 2023. [USGenWeb](#) is a free site for state and local records. A wealth of information can be found here, but not all areas will have the same records available. The site was started by a group of genealogists who shared a desire to create free online resources for genealogical research.

If you are an MCIGS member, you can check out Tina's two handouts on our website, as well as the recording of her presentation.

2023 Stephen Polep Scholarship



McHenry County Illinois Genealogical Society offers a onetime \$1000 scholarship, awarded yearly, to a McHenry County High School senior. This year the scholarship is named after Stephen Polep who was an educator in

McHenry County for a number of years. The applicant will be someone who plans to study ***history, preservation of history or genetics***. The criterion for applying

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Specifies that the student be a high school senior living in McHenry County, be involved in volunteer work or service work in the community and will provide a transcript with grade point average listed, an essay describing the student's interest in learning about history, learning to preserve history or historical records/or genetics. Each student will provide two letters of recommendation, one from a counselor or instructor and the other from a community member.

The deadline for this application is 30 April 2023. The application can be obtained by contacting [Laurie](#) or [Tami](#).

2023 MCIGS Summer Conference

Our conference will be on Saturday, 8 July 2023 at McHenry County College, Crystal Lake. One speaker will be highlighted each month through June. This month, James Beidler is featured.

James M Beidler, Interim Executive Director for the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania, was born in Reading, Pennsylvania and raised in nearby Berks County, where he currently resides. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Hofstra University in Long Island, New York, with a BA in Political Science in 1982.



Jim is the author of four genealogy books as well as a number of articles in various publications.

He writes "Roots & Branches," an award-winning weekly blog/newspaper column on genealogy. He is also a columnist for *German Life* magazine and is editor emeritus of *Der Kurier*, the quarterly journal of the Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society.

He has served in various positions for a number of societies and conferences over the years. In addition, he also is a contributor to a number of periodicals such as *The Pennsylvania Genealogical Magazine*, *Family Tree Magazine* and is often seen on "Genealogy Quick Start" television program.

Jim is an Enrolled Agent tax preparer and owner of James M LLC and previously was a for *The PatriotNews* newspaper in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Beidler will be presenting the following topics at our conference:

Time and Place – Using Genealogy's Cross Hairs- Learn how understanding an area's history will help you with your research. Putting your ancestors in time and place will help you do the most thorough of searches.

Zigzagging Through German Church Records – Explaining the methodology of using baptismal, confirmation, marriage and burial records from German church registers most effectively. Utilizing the different bits of information found in each will let researchers zigzag their way to adding centuries to a pedigree

Your Immigrants' Germany: Microstates and Microbreweries-A concise history of Germany; details of some types of records affected by disunity, major state by major state. Case studies of some microstates as examples.

Secondary Uses for Primary Sources – Learning how to use whole data sets rather than one record to open genealogical roadblocks.

March General Meeting

March 9, 2023, 7 PM

Meeting will be at McHenry County College, 8900 Route 14, Crystal Lake, Room A240,
Use Lucas Road entrance to Parking Lot A. Enter building A. Ask at desk or follow signs.



Happy St. Patrick's Day

2023

McHenry County Genealogical
Society
Board of Directors

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Nancy Gaynor & Ann Wells – 2023
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ST MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH DEATH INDEX

The following index is from St. Mary's Catholic Church in McHenry of all the funerals conducted there between the late 1890's to 1959. Burial may or may not have taken place in St. Mary's Cemetery. This is the final installment.

NAME	AGE AT DEATH	DATE OF DEATH	PAGE #
Worts, George H	61 yrs	20 June 1954	127
Worts, Lena	66 yrs	11 January 1932	69
Worts, Michael	43 yrs	28 August 1932	70
Worts, Michael Sr	62 yrs	8 September 1932	70
Young, Catherine	84 yrs	15 November 1957	140
Young, Edward	58 yrs	22 August 1951	118
Young, George J	52 yrs	28 December 1943	98
Young, John	62 yrs	17 December 1921	47
Young, Raphael	12 yrs	11 September 1927	59
Young, Stanley	18 yrs	27 April 1936	79
Zens, Anna	68 yrs, 7 mos, 6 days	10 January 1920	42
Zens, Clemens	68 yrs	10 January 1944	99
Zens, John	59 yrs	31 December 1950	117
Zens, Nicolaus	55 yrs, 1 mo	9 January 1978	7
Zink, Johann	2 mos, 28 days	31 August 1900	11
Zuchmitt, John	74 yrs	5 April 1939	86

