



Connections

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McHenry County Illinois Genealogical Society Newsletter



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Contact Us: newsletter@mcigs.org

February 2019

A Guide to Overseas Genealogy



**Thursday, Feb 14, 2019
7 - 9 pm
McHenry County College
Building B, Rooms 166-167**

Jacquie Schattner

Crossing the pond is easier than you think. We'll review the history of immigrant travel to the U.S. and how to find genealogical records in most European countries. This program will cover overseas genealogy - emigration, voyage, immigration, naturalization & genealogical websites, both American and European. A list of books & over 70 American & European websites for genealogical research. will be provided.

Jacquie has been actively researching her family's ancestors since 1996. She volunteered at the local Family History Center for 15 years, teaches genealogy at local high schools, and area libraries. She is active in several genealogy societies. Jacquie received her B.S. degree from the University of Illinois.

New Meeting Location Thursday, Feb 14th @ 7pm

Mc Henry County College
8900 Route 14
Crystal Lake, IL



NEW LOCATION MAP OF McHenry County College

Lisa Louise
Cooke



Diahn
Southard

MCIGS 2019 GENEALOGY CONFERENCE

July 13, 2019

Mike
Lacopo



Jay Fonkert

President's Message

Greetings to all MCIGS Members and Friends, It is an honor and a privilege to be asked to serve as the President of MCIGS for the next 2 years. I thoroughly enjoyed working as the Membership VP over the last 5 years, and look forward to the challenges this new role will bring. I would like to personally thank Kristen McCallum for serving as President for the past 4 years. In addition to planning and leading the monthly board meetings, she's also functioned as our webmaster adding registration forms and information about our Summer conferences.

Thanks to the terrific monthly programs arranged by our 1st VP Jan Polep, and annual Summer Genealogy Conferences our membership has grown to 255 in 2018! We hope the trend continues to move upward which means Kristen will have her hands full. Please give her all of your support so she can enjoy her new role as Membership VP as much as I did.

Moving forward, we also hope to see an increase in volunteer interest among our members. There are many opportunities available and we welcome everyone's participation efforts. Ron Peterson has been instrumental as a newspaper indexer, and Joy Zurek has done a great job as the Genealogy Help Desk Coordinator working with Deena Galloy and Lisa Imhoff for our past 2 summer conferences. Our next meeting is Thursday, February 14th, 7 pm at McHenry County College featuring Jacquie Schattner who will present: "A Guide to Overseas Genealogy". Remember, we are now meeting in room B166-167 in building B at McHenry County College in Crystal Lake. You are welcome to join us. Each month we have first-time attendees and invite you to be one of them.

Warm Regards, Arlene Basten

2019 Open Officer Position

MCIGS is actively seeking another member to assist with board operations. The board meets once a month from 7 to 9 pm in Crystal Lake on the third Thursday. The duties are light and will be as much or as little as you can provide. Please consider helping your MCIGS organization out.

If you would like to learn more, please contact Kristen McCallum at membership@mcigs.org.



MCIGS Website Examiner

We're currently looking for a volunteer(s) to examine our organization's website. The position would require **approximately 8 total hours** of service and is open to both local and out-of-town members. No technical expertise is required. However, access to a personal home computer or laptop is necessary to complete the following:

- Check each page of MCIGS website for accuracy
- Make sure all links are working
- Make sure the text is correct and understandable
- Complete the checklist provided to note what changes are needed
- Offer suggestions for information to include, eliminate or update

Please contact Arlene Basten at president@mcigs.org if you interested or for more information.

MCIGS Important Items:

DNA Boot Camp Webinars - MCIGS has purchased these webinars for your education. These are FREE to members and you can access them at the MCIGS website under the "Member Access" tab. If you have forgotten your password just contact us.

Amazon Smile - Are you an Amazon shopper? MCIGS is now registered with the Amazon Smile program, which means that every time you shop Amazon using the link on our homepage at www.mcigs.org, or selecting our organization from smile.amazon.com a small percentage of your total purchase will be donated to our organization.

Upcoming Events

- 12 Feb 2019 KCGS – *The First 5 Things To Do With Your New DNA Test Results*, 6-8:30pm.**
<https://kengensoc.com/>
- 14 Feb 2019 MCIGS – *A Guide to Overseas Genealogy* - **Jacque Schattner** at The McHenry County College, IL, 7pm. <http://www.mcigs.org>**
- 16 Feb 2019 LSCGG - *Healthy Eating* - **Seattle Sutton****
 LaSalle County Genealogy Guild 1pm
<https://www.lscgg.org/>
- 16 Feb 2019 CAGGNI - *Pandemic 1918! Fighting Influenza During the Great War* - **Tina Beard****
<https://caggni.org/>
- 20 Feb 2019 DCGS – *Planning an Ancestral Trip*, **Terri O'Connell**. <https://dcgs.org/>**
- 9 March 2019 DCGS – *Dupage County 44th Annual Conference* at NIU Conference Center, Naperville, IL <https://dcgs.org/>**
- 16 Mar 2019 BIGWILL - *Monthly Meeting*, 10am-Noon <http://www.bigwill.org/meet.htm>**
- 16 Mar 2019 CAGGNI - *What's New in Technology* - **Ed Rosenthal** <https://caggni.org/>**
- 8-11 May 2019 – *Journey of Discovery, National Genealogical Society Conference*, St Charles, MO <http://www.conference.ngsgenealogy.org>**
- 13 July 2019 MCIGS – *2019 MCIGS Genealogy Conference* at The McHenry County College, IL, <http://www.mcigs.org>**



Hint of the Month - Larry Wood

Study History. What was happening at the time and place you are researching. War records, newspapers, influenza epidemic, GOLD RUSH, as well as local events can all be keys to understanding your family. Our relatives were a part of the events of their time.

Early Settler Report - Claudia Conroy

New Early Settler Proven

Charity M. Boone, born in 1827 in Ohio, settled in Greenwood Township in 1837 when her father, Lewis Boone, brought her here. Charity married Aristedes Stevens in 1843. Charity died in Greenwood Township on 5 January 1904. Gregg Scott Garrison, Esquire, submitted the application for an Early Settler Certificate as he is a direct descendant of Charity.

Library Report - Claudia Conroy

Two Great Book Additions

Two MCIGS members have asked us to look into purchasing specific books. After searching for these books in nearby libraries and finding none, we decided to purchase them. *Puritan Pedigrees: The Deep Roots of the Great Migration to New England* by Robert Charles Anderson was published by the New England Historic Genealogical Society. The author looks back on the Pilgrims who arrived in New England and traces their ancestry back across the Atlantic. This hardcover book of 414 pages has different chapters for each of the researched ancestors. There are multiple pedigree charts that just might be the hint that a researcher needs to connect their ancestors. The book will be housed in the Crystal Lake Library and be allowed to circulate.

One of our members raves about *Research Like A Pro: A Genealogist's Guide* by Diana Elder with Nicole Dyer. The book is a guide on how to conduct research. Chapters include such topics as setting objectives, analyzing sources, maintaining a research log, and how to write a report. The appendices contain excellent examples of timelines, research plans, evidence analysis and more. After reviewing this book, the reader might want to purchase a copy and use it as a workbook. Our copy will be housed in the Crystal Lake Library and be allowed to circulate.

After You're Gone: Future Proofing Your Genealogy Research

by Thomas MacEntee

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Try as we might, we really have little control over what will happen to our possessions, even our bodies, after we die. Yes we can draw up legal documents, we can express our wishes to family members and more; however, there are no guarantees when it comes to these matters. The best we can do is prepare, plan and communicate now.

When it comes to your years of genealogy research and material, what plans have you made to ensure that it doesn't die with you? Here's some advice on creating a realistic plan to get your "genealogy affairs" in order so that the next generation of researchers can benefit from your years of hard work.

The Perils of Inaction: Lost Genealogy

To gain some insight as to what could possibly happen to all your genealogy stuff, simply read the haunting story *Cleaning Mother's House* by genealogist Michael John Neill. As you hear the words, just imagine one of your children or grandchildren being in the same situation and not knowing the importance of your genealogy research.

You have a responsibility to safe guard your research and to make sure it gets passed on properly. If you don't act now, someone else will act on your behalf.

Basic Planning and Data Successorship

How can you create a plan for the future of your genealogy research without knowing what you have? The first step is to create an inventory of ALL of your items.

Hard Copy Items

Use a special notebook, a document on your computer, or a spreadsheet. Just get it down in writing and also realize that you should update it periodically. Items to include:

- Genealogy research binders, folders and stack of paper
- Genealogy books and magazines purchased over the years
- Photos, slides, negatives, videos, CD-ROMs
- Technology items such as scanners, software programs, flash drives
- Miscellaneous items such as audio recordings, gadgets, etc.

It helps if you label each item or include a note; remember that the person cleaning out your possessions may not be a genealogist.

Digital Items

And what about your genealogy data? You may not realize how much information you have and where it is stored. The easiest way to organize all your digital assets is to create two backups: one in the cloud and one on an external drive or CD-ROM.

- Genealogy database files

- Scanned photographs and documents
- Digital books, magazines and guides
- Digital writings such as PDFs and blog posts you've written
- Emails from family and other researchers as well as emails that you've sent
- Any other items you believe are important including social media posts

Online Profiles

More and more, genealogists are leveraging online websites, apps and social media for research purposes and to connect with others. While you may not have valuable information stored at these sites, at a minimum you should allow family members to disable or shut down accounts. This way your followers are informed and also it avoids having these accounts hacked or misused.

Create a list of website names, their URLs (addresses) and login credentials. Keep the list in a safe place - print out and keep with estate planning papers or store online with a master password to access the list; make sure your executor knows the password.

Working with Societies, Libraries and Archives

There are many "myths" about being able to donate your genealogy to organizations:

- "You can donate any and all of your genealogy 'stuff'" to the National Archives." **False:** The National Archives is the archivist of record for the United States government; it does not typically archive personal items.
- "You can donate your genealogy to the Library of Congress." **Partially true:** The Library of Congress does accept published genealogies and other items of importance.

If you plan on donating anything related to your genealogy to an archive, a library or a genealogy society, here is a plan you should follow:

- **Contact the organization.** Always check a repository's policies before making a donation or directing your executor to make a donation.
- **Inform family members.** Let your family or friends know what your plans are involving the organization.
- **Include a monetary donation.** It costs money to process donated materials no matter how well organized those items may be. If possible, make sure you include a financial donation to the institution. Another option is to direct your executor to sell off specific items to raise money for preservation of the collection.

Finally, realize that you can always donate items NOW rather than after your passing. By donating now you have more power to direct how the items will be used and which organizations can benefit from those items.

(To Be Continued Next Month "TECHNOLOGY TO THE RESCUE" - Editor)

