



# Connections

www.mcigs.org

McHenry County Illinois Genealogical Society Newsletter



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Contact Us: [newsletter@mcigs.org](mailto:newsletter@mcigs.org)

May

## Cook County Social Worker for the Unclaimed Dead

Rebeca Perrone, the Cook County Medical Examiner's first indigent coordinator, handles 700+ cases a year in her role as a Social Worker for the dead. Using a list of names of unclaimed remains, Rebeca searches for potential next of kin, hoping to reunite them with their loved ones. Her stories reflect how basic genealogy techniques can be used to find living relatives.

Rebeca started in the ME job in 2015, after local media exposed the backlog of bodies literally piling up at the morgue. Now, with Rebeca's help, many of these forsaken individuals will have the dignity of a proper burial or casting of ashes; estranged family and friends can also find closure.

Originally from Algonquin, Rebeca studied sociology and criminal justice at Loyola University. She later worked for the Indiana Department of Child Services, investigating abuse and neglect claims. A part of her longed to be a detective, but not necessarily a police officer. Her new position with the Cook County ME's office now affords her the opportunity to bring together her investigative skills and compassion for others.

Come join us for what promises to be a fascinating evening of stories and research tips!

Rebeca was also recently profiled in the Chicago Tribune. Here's a link to the article:

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/ct-cook-county-medical-examiner-burials-met-20170917-story.html>

## Rebeca Perrone



Originally from Algonquin, Rebeca Perrone, is the Cook County Medical Examiner's first indigent coordinator.



Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm  
The Pointe Outreach Center  
5650 Northwest Highway  
Crystal Lake, IL

(Located just west of Target)

## Genealogy Education - Ann Wells

Genealogy is all about education – learning about records, new methodologies, understanding DNA, reading about the history of an area of research. Without it, your research won't go far. There are a number of ways to accomplish all of this learning – being a member of a genealogical society, attending conferences, or taking a cruise.

Wait? What? Well, no one said learning had to be boring! How about taking a cruise, attending some lectures, joining with other people who are doing genealogy and even chatting with others who are members of MCIGS!!

Founders, Fisherman and Family History Cruise 2019, has released information about its New England Cruise, 10-17 August 2019 from Montreal to Boston with calls in Quebec City, Charlottetown, Sydney, Halifax and Bar Harbor. Genealogy classes will be taught during the “at sea” portions of the trip with David Lambert, Daniel Horowitz, Tami Osmer Mize and Gena Philipbert-Ortega as presenters. Details will be coming on the specifics of the genealogy portion of the trip. The price for that portion of the trip is \$199, which is not a bad price for a multi-day conference.

Take a look at the FB page for Founders, Fisherman and Family History Cruise 2019 at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/330001450817674/>. You can also call Terri O'Connell, who is the travel agent for this trip, at 773.962.1609 for details, pricing, etc.

Make your plans now!

### Hint of the Month - Larry Wood



Have you interviewed all of your elderly relatives? Perhaps others too have family stories you should write down? Remember - people do not always tell you the full truth, so crosschecking is important too.

## Welcome to MCIGS By Arlene Basten

Please help us welcome the newest members to MCIGS:

- Jean Reed - Woodstock, IL
- Pam Grant - Huntsville, AL
- Pat McLeod - Lake Villa, IL
- Luann Mayer - Algonquin, IL
- John Gleed - Grayslake, IL

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE !!

The MCIGS Board would like to take this opportunity to thank Bill Wheeler for the past 3 years and 8 months he has served as a Director on the Board of the McHenry County Illinois Genealogical Society. No stranger to service, this former Marine enlisted with MCIGS in July of 2014 and quickly became a huge asset for our organization. In addition to filling the position of Newsletter Editor, Bill also lent his valuable experience in IT (Information Technology) to help us navigate and troubleshoot the world of computers and technology. Regular attendees at our general meetings may recall him as the (only) person not panicking when technology presented challenges for our speakers. If something wasn't working right, Bill calmly went about fixing it. Bill also became our Webmaster and social media guru; he is responsible for making many of our programs available online through video recordings and webinars. His passion for using technology to help reach the next generation of genealogists has helped make our society what it is today. We wish him all the best as he takes on new challenges with the Fort Dearborn Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. Thank you for your outstanding service, Bill!

## 2018 Summer Conference

# REMINDER



The MCIGS Summer Conference scheduled for **July 7, 2018** will be here before you know it!

**Have you Registered yet?**

- Outstanding Speakers!
- Fabulous Door Prizes - You could win a MyHeritage DNA kit!
- Lunch Included if registered by 6/15/2018

For more information or to register **TODAY** online go to -  
[www.mcigs.org](http://www.mcigs.org)

## MCIGS Tagline Contest

### By Claudia Conroy

Like most genealogical societies, our organization was named McHenry County Illinois Genealogical Society simply because we are based in McHenry County. Yes, our online databases are focused on McHenry County, but our meetings are not. The programs and conferences we offer are varied and cover topics of interest to anyone researching his or her family history.

We have come across many people who are interested in genealogy but hesitate to join or even come to a meeting because they don't have McHenry County ancestors. We need your help to write a tagline or slogan to help others realize that MCIGS is open to everyone, not just those with McHenry County ancestors. To make this fun we have developed a contest. The details are below.

Goal: Identify a phrase to be included in MCIGS publicity which makes it clear that meeting topics are not focused only on McHenry County genealogy research.

#### Rules:

1. Tagline should be a short phrase which incorporates the idea that MCIGS is not just for those researching in McHenry County.
2. The contest is open to both members and non-members.
3. Tagline must be original, that is, not used by any other genealogical organization.
4. There is no limit to the number of taglines that someone may submit.
5. Submissions need not to be submitted on any special form but must include the submitter's name, email address and the proposed tagline.
6. Taglines can be submitted:
  - a) at the May and June meetings **with the time submitted included.**
  - b) at the July 7th conference **with the time submitted included.**
  - c) by email to [claudia.conroy@mcigs.org](mailto:claudia.conroy@mcigs.org)
  - d) by mail to MCIGS Contest, PO Box 184, Crystal Lake, IL 60039-0184.
7. Contest ends at **4 PM on 7 July 2018.**
8. In case of duplicates, the submission received at the earlier date/time will be the one considered.
9. Winner will be notified by email by 1 September 2018.
10. One prize of a free registration to the **13 July 2019** conference will be awarded.
11. The decision of the contest committee will be final.

## Upcoming Events

**May 5, 2018 NPLG – *Introduction to Library Genealogy Resources*** at Nichols Library, Naperville, IL, 7pm. For more information, visit <http://www.naperville-lib.org>.

**May 10, 2018 MCIGS – *Cook County Social Worker for the Unclaimed Dead*** at The Pointe, Crystal Lake, IL, 7pm. For more information, visit <http://www.mcigs.org>.

**May 16, 2018 DCGS – *What's New on the Internet for Genealogists*** at Wheaton Public Library, Wheaton, IL, 6:30pm. For more information, visit <http://www.dcfgs.org>.

**June 14, 2018 MCIGS – *GOOGLE for Genealogy*** at The Pointe, Crystal Lake, IL, 7pm. For more information, visit <http://www.mcigs.org>.

**July 7, 2018 MCIGS – *MCIGS Summer Conference*** at McHenry County College, Crystal Lake, IL, 7pm. For more information, visit <http://www.mcigs.org>.

**August 9, 2018 MCIGS – *Probate Records*** at The Pointe, Crystal Lake, IL, 7pm. For more information, visit <http://www.mcigs.org>.

**September 13, 2018 MCIGS – *What's New At FamilySearch*** at The Pointe, Crystal Lake, IL, 7pm. For more information, visit <http://www.mcigs.org>.

**October 11, 2018 MCIGS – *What's New On the Internet*** at The Pointe, Crystal Lake, IL, 7pm. For more information, visit <http://www.mcigs.org>.

**November 8, 2018 MCIGS – *Ancestry.com Library Edition*** at The Pointe, Crystal Lake, IL, 7pm. For more information, visit <http://www.mcigs.org>.

## New Genealogical Materials Acquired

Nathan Dylan Goodwin has sent his newest publication, *The Wicked Trade and The Suffragette's Secret*, to MCIGS as he has done with all his previous books. This volume contains both a short story of 100 pages and a full-sized book of 350 pages. Both tales are based on Morton Farrier, a British genealogist who has starred in all Goodwin's fiction books. *The Suffragette's Secret* is a story about the women involved in working towards voting rights in 1910 England. Morton's goal was to research his wife's ancestors which has led him back to this women's movement.

*The Wicked Trade* is based on the history of smuggling in England. Morton has been hired to research the people involved in these crimes. Chapters go back and forth from present time to the early 1820's detailing the work of the key characters while keeping readers updated on Morton's personal life.

As in all Goodwin's books, Morton Farrier's family is always an interesting thread. In order to follow Morton's life, the books are best read in order of publication, beginning with *Hiding the Past*. However, Goodwin alludes to Morton's past family adventures in each of his books so one could enjoy each book independently. This new publication will be placed in the Crystal Lake Public Library where all the Morton Farrier series books are located. The book will be allowed to circulate.

MCIGS has received a very generous gift from one of our members, Larry Wood. Larry has written 5 volumes of his family history which he had donated to MCIGS. Family genealogies include Wood, Campbell, Crandall, Dunkle, and Papierski. The volumes were accompanied by a flash drive containing everything from copies of letters requesting information to maps, photos, wills, etc. These volumes will be placed in the McHenry Public Library. Anyone researching their family would do well to review some of Larry's writings to see how a family history could be documented in an interesting and usable way.

# THANK YOU!

## Quarterly Turns Over a New Leaf

It is the end of an era, but also a time of great opportunity. After careful consideration, the Board has made the necessary decision to discontinue publication of the MCIGS Connection Quarterly.

As genealogists have found new ways to share their research and connect with each other online, we have seen a marked decline in member submitted articles, ancestor charts and queries for the journal. As a society, we have also found more effective ways of publishing our indexing projects through our searchable web site. Given the considerable cost, time, and effort that goes into curating, editing, printing and mailing the Quarterly four times a year, we have found that we are no longer able to sustain the endeavor.

We remain steadfast in our commitment as an organization to providing a platform for members to share their stories and research with the wider community. We believe this can be accomplished by publishing these articles on our website through a blog. This format will allow readers to interact with the content through comments, and have access to articles throughout the year. It will also provide a way for us to share "This and That" genealogy news in a timelier fashion.

In order for this new format to be a success, we will need your help. Do you have a research story you would like to share? How about old photographs or family recipes? Would you be willing to provide a biographical sketch of an ancestor? We are still in need of your content which can be submitted via e-mail at [mcigs@mcigs.org](mailto:mcigs@mcigs.org). Additionally, if you have experience blogging and would like to get involved with this exciting new project, please reach out to us at the same address.

We anticipate the new blog will be accessible to the public and not necessarily exclusive to only members. What will be exclusive to members, however, is the entire digital archive of MCIGS Connection Quarterly back issues from 1983-2016! We have already digitized the first 20 years and are working to make that content available to our members online in the coming months.

**We are also seeking volunteers to help us finish compiling a master surname index for the complete run of the publication. You need not live locally to participate in this project. If this sounds like something that might interest you, please contact our new Volunteer Coordinator, Kim McGuigan at [volunteer@mcigs.org](mailto:volunteer@mcigs.org).**

