



# Connections

"Meeting Locally - Researching Globally"

www.mcigs.org

McHenry County Illinois Genealogical Society Newsletter



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

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## What's New at FamilySearch?



**Maureen Brady**

FamilySearch gathers, preserves, and shares genealogical records worldwide. It offers free access to its resources and service online at FamilySearch.org. The website is constantly changing, so Maureen will share the latest developments concerning FamilySearch features, historic records, classes/webinars, and more.

Maureen Brady is a former school librarian and computer educator. She has over 25 years experience with family history research, is a professional genealogist and owner of Bare Roots Genealogical Services

## Tagline Contest WINNER!! By Claudia Conroy

### We Have a Winner

Thank you to everyone who submitted a tagline and to those who voted for their choice. The tagline committee has chosen "Meeting Locally; Researching Globally" as the winning tagline. This phrase was submitted by two individuals with the earlier one being JoAnn Schindler. You will see this tagline on our newest membership flier soon.

The prize for the winning tagline is a free registration for the MCIGS Summer Conference on 13 July 2019. JoAnn, though a member, has never had the ability to attend a conference so she is in for an exciting day next summer.



Thursday, September 13<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm  
The Pointe Outreach Center  
5650 Northwest Highway  
Crystal Lake, IL

(Located just west of Target)

### New Meeting Location beginning in 2019

Mc Henry County College  
8900 Route 14  
Crystal Lake, IL  
January 10<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm

## The 15 Habits of Highly Frugal Genealogists by Thomas MacEntee

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Researching your family history can be fun, but like many hobbies, it can turn into an obsession, and an expensive one at that. There are many ways to save money while you pursue the “hunt” for your roots: some are just common sense while others are, quite frankly, ingenious. Also keep in mind that it doesn’t pay to be so focused on “frugal” that in the long run you either lose money or that genealogy is no longer “fun.”

### Why Genealogy Isn’t “Free”

It isn’t easy to consolidate the “why aren’t genealogy records free?” argument into a short paragraph, but here goes: Yes many vital records and other records are public domain or owned by federal and state governments. But it takes money to scan and digitize these items and then not only host the images on a website but also index them in such a way that you can find what you need. In addition, some vendors like Ancestry.com employ proprietary methods of making images easier to use and read – these too cost money to develop. So most of the records are free, if you are willing to travel to the closest NARA location or a state archive, then search through the items.

### The 7 Habits

Ready to save some real money when it comes to genealogy? Who knows, some of these habit might just rub off and be useful in other areas of your life!

**1. Holidays Mean Freebies.** If you don’t have a membership to a subscription site like Ancestry.com or MyHeritage, look for “free days” around specific holidays. Very often the week before Memorial Day or Veterans Day will allow you to access military records. Labor Day offers occupational records for free. Sign up for a site’s e-mail alerts to stay on top of the latest offers.

**2. Cycle On and Cycle Off.** A common technique many genealogists use to save money is to purchase a short-term membership on a research site like Ancestry.com. Instead of signing up and paying for a year, get a three or six month membership. Once the membership has expired, take a break and then use other websites for research. Maintain a research log “wish list” of records you want to access or find, and then sign up for that genealogy website again. Get to work locating what you need, then drop off again for a few months.

**3. Don’t Be Shy – Ask for a Discount!** Have you ever tried to cancel your television cable service and the company offers a huge discount so you won’t go to a competitor? Use the same technique when dealing with genealogy vendors. Don’t accept the listed price on the website or in an email you receive when it is time to renew a subscription. Actually call the company and get right to the point: ask if there is a discount for being a loyal customer. You might be surprised at the low price offered since the company wants to maintain its subscriber base; the cost to recruit new subscribers might allow for a discount to existing customers.

**4. Leverage Coupon Websites.** The genealogy business is not as insulated and small as you think! Many vendors such as Ancestry.com and others offer discounts and promo codes on the big coupon sites such as **Retail Me Not and Coupon Cabin**. Always get in the habit of searching these sites BEFORE you use the Checkout option and plunk down your money!

**5. Use Virtual Credit Card Numbers.** Have you ever had a subscription service renew automatically especially when you decided you wanted to cancel? Most genealogy research sites force you to accept the auto-renew option (it is in the Terms of Service that, of course, you read before making your purchase, right?). One way around this is to go to your credit card or bank website and ask for a virtual credit card. By doing so, you can pay for a service from your bank or credit card, but the payment credentials won’t allow more than one payment generation.

### 6. Access Your Local Library.

A card at a public library can be your ticket to savings when it comes to genealogy research! More and more municipalities are providing access to Ancestry.com, fold3 and ProQuest as well as other subscriptions to their citizens. And don’t think you have to use these databases in person at the library! Very often, after getting your library card, you can access sites from home. As an example, in Wisconsin, state residents can access BadgerLink.

### 7. Stay Alert and Be Alerted!

Sign up for a vendor’s newsletter where often you’ll be the first to know about a new product or a discount. Also, if the site has a blog, make sure you subscribe to the posts either via email or RSS feed. Concerned about receiving too much junk email? Create a special email account at Google or Yahoo that you use just for signing up for deals and specials. Also learn how to use Google Alerts to get notified: create alerts using keywords such as genealogy and sale or a product name and sale.

*(15 Habits to be continued next month)*

## Upcoming Events

- 7 Sep 2018** *Getting the most out of your Ancestry DNA Results*, **Jane Haldeman** – Cary Public Library, 5-8 pm. <http://www.caryarealibrary.info>
- 11 Sep 2018** – *The Most Helpful Genealogy Tools You've Never Used*, **Marsha Peterson-Maas**. *Lake County Genealogy Society*. 7pm. <http://lakecountyilgenealogy.org/>
- 13 Sep 2018** MCIGS – *What's New At Family Search*, **Maureen Brady** at The Pointe, Crystal Lake, IL, 7pm. <http://www.mcigs.org>
- 15 Sep 2018** – *Discovering your UK/Irish Roots*, **Debra Dudek**. *BIGWILL Genealogy Society*. 10am-12pm. <http://www.bigwill.org/>
- 29 Sep 2018** – *25th Annual Conference 9-4 at the Fox Valley Genealogical Society of Naperville, IL.*, **Jill Morelli CG**. <https://ilfvgs.org>
- 6 Oct 2018** – NWSGS -- *Newspaper Research: Beyond the Birdcage*, Arlington Heights Senior Center, 10am. <http://www.nwsgenealogy.org>
- 11 Oct 2018** MCIGS – *What's New On the Internet*, **Caron Primas Brennan** at The Pointe, Crystal Lake, IL, 7pm. <http://www.mcigs.org>
- 26-27 Oct 2018** – **Illinois State Genealogical Society Fall Conference**, President Abraham Lincoln Hotel, Springfield, IL <https://ilgensoc.org>
- 27 Oct 2018** *Paying it Forward*, **Maureen Brady** – Cary Public Library, 1:30 - 3 pm. <http://www.caryarealibrary.info>
- 3 Nov 2018** – NWSGS -- *DNA Doubleheader*, Arlington Heights Senior Center, 10am. <http://www.nwsgenealogy.org>
- 8 Nov 2018** MCIGS – *Resources on Ancestry Library Edition*, **Jane Haldeman** at The Pointe, Crystal Lake, IL, 7pm. <http://www.mcigs.org>
- 10 Nov 2018** – *Illinois at 200: Where Was Your Family?* at Lake County IL Genealogical Society, 8am-5pm. <http://lakecountyilgenealogy.org/>
- 8-11 May 2019** - **National Genealogical Society Conference – Journey of Discovery**, St Charles, MO <http://www.conference.ngsgenealogy.org>

## Member Spotlight

By Arlene Basten, Membership V.P.

Please help us welcome the newest members to MCIGS:

- **Andrew Costa, Lincoln, NE**
- **Jeff and Sharon Hill, Woodstock, IL**

## Library Report By Claudia Conroy

Thank you to all who have suggested book purchases. Please keep your ideas coming, as part of our mission is to make current resources available to our members as well as to anyone researching their family history. We have recently purchased the following two books.

The first book suggested for purchase is Thomas MacEntee's *The Genealogy Do-Over Workbook*. MacEntee began his do-over journey in 2014 as a way to fine tune and verify what he had already done. This book is a month by month plan on how to go back to the basics in your research. MacEntee begins with reviewing his Golden Rules of Genealogy and encourages the reader to write his or her own rules. Each month's plan offers topics to use to get your family history research in order. This book will be housed at the Crystal Lake Public Library and will be allowed to circulate.

The second newly purchased book is *The Adoptee's Guide to DNA Testing* by Tamar Weinberg. The author begins with a discussion of how to use proven strategies that don't involve DNA, and then offers a crash course on DNA with basic principles explained in an easily understood way. Each test is discussed and the major testing companies are compared. The book concludes with 7 case studies. This 239-page paperback could be just the tool an adoptee might need to break through that parental wall, though anyone interested in genetic genealogy could benefit from the comprehensive discussions involving DNA tests and their interpretation. This book will be placed in the Crystal Lake Public Library and will be allowed to circulate.



MCIGS is looking for a volunteer to help out with our Publicity. We're currently looking for someone who could:

- Spend up to 1 – 2 hours per week
- Work at home (or from work – we won't tell)
- Help us advertise our monthly meetings and other events by posting notices on our Facebook page.

If you like using social media and would like to show off your creative side please contact Arlene Basten at [arlene.basten@mcigs.org](mailto:arlene.basten@mcigs.org) for further information.

Or for other volunteer opportunities contact:  
Kim McGuigan, Volunteer Coordinator at  
[Volunteer@MCIGS.org](mailto:Volunteer@MCIGS.org).

## Editor's Corner, - Larry Wood

After the article last month on Ida Ellen Walsh, I thought it would be fun to write about her brother-in-law: Fernando Wood, (*yes another of my relatives*) **Fernando WOOD – New York City Mayor and other things.**

Fernando can be found in most any encyclopedia and is best remembered for his election to Mayor of New York City. He was a truly "larger than life" character and greatly influenced the world around him. He is not well remembered because his life and professional work was constantly surrounded with graft, corruption

and controversy. He could not have been guilty of all his enemies accused him of, but probably some of it was true. He was a product of the 19th century political machines and cut his career out to suit the times and other people of the era. I hope you find this cousin an interesting study.

Fernando Wood's 1856 biography lists his ancestor as a Henry Wood. The second book I found was published in 1990 and critiques the older 1856 one. The 1990 book written by Jerome Mushkat starts out explaining the 1856 book was written under the funding of Fernando and parts were even ghost written by him to further his career and ensure his reputation as a famous person remained in print. I talked this all over with Mr. Mushkat and he confirmed his information puts the facts in the earlier book into question, as well as confirming we may never know the whole truth about Fernando.

[Notes from Jerome Mushkat): 14 Dec 2007 email] "FW generated a great deal of misinformation about his life and ancestry, so much in fact that even today separating truth from his fictions is difficult. I found two sources vital in trying to ascertain FW's background. John Wood's *An Index of Wood Families in America* (Baltimore, 1966) contained the most material. In the mid-1890s, one of FW's daughters joined the *Daughters of the American Revolution*, containing more information."

Highlights of Fernando' career:

Fernando Wood, (14 June 1812 - 14 Feb 1881)

Mayor of NYC 1854 and reelected in 1856 and 1859. Many Republicans accused Wood of graft and Tammany Hall Democrats charged him with failing to award patronage to his own party, FW succeeded in creating Central Park and making important reforms.

In 1860 FW led a pro-Southern delegation to the Democratic National Convention, and as civil war loomed early in 1861, he called for New York City to secede and become a free city.

Elected to Congress in 1862 and again from 1866 to his death in 1881.

**You should consider reading:**

MUSHKAT, Jerome (1990) "Fernando Wood: A Political Biography", Kent State University Press.

And possibly Watch the 1990 movie "LINCOLN" which shows FW as an adversary to Abraham Lincoln..

