



Vol. XLII, No. 12

McHenry County Illinois Genealogical Society

December 2023

HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

Do you know the story of the young bride who is cooking a roast? She cuts it in half and puts each part in a separate pan. Her husband asks her why she's doing that. "This is how her mother did it," she replies. The next time they visited her mother, they asked her why she cut the roast in two and cooked it in separate pans. That's just the way my mother did it, her mother said. They met up with Grandma at some point and asked her why the two pans. Grandma replied that she Grandma said, "I never had a pan big enough for a roast, so had to cut them up and put them in two separate pans."



Our holiday or birthday traditions are handed down through the generations. What are your traditions? Do you know why? Do you put your shoes out for St. Nicholas or Sinterklaas, on 6 December? Or do you put out shoes on Christmas Eve, rather than stockings, for treats? Do you celebrate Santa Lucia? How do you explain these celebrations to your families? What traditions are absolutely necessary in order to feel you've done it right? Do you open Christmas gifts on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day?

Food is the center of the celebration as it brings people together. What are your must-haves in order to celebrate? Who makes them?

Hanukkah, The Festival of Lights, often falls in or around the same time as the Christian Advent season. Special foods are usually made for the celebration. Do you as a family make the foods, or does the cooking fall on to one person? What food is a must have? Do you have a celebration on all eight days, or are certain days more celebrated than others? How is each day celebrated?

Why not write a few paragraphs about your celebrations that are important to you and share with your family for the future, and with MCIGS. We'd love to hear how you celebrate. Happy Holidays!



From the President....

Happy Holidays!

I hope that you all were able to put your fingers on enough well roasted turkey drumsticks and stuffing at Thanksgiving to last you for a good while.

Our MCIIGS board met in November, and I can tell you that I remain grateful for the work and dedication demonstrated by each member of our board. We strive to provide our society members as many opportunities to learn about genealogy and have fun while interacting with others who share the same passion as you do. There is much work to be done, but like busy holiday elves, we are trying our best to create events and opportunities for you to partake.

Keep your eyes open for some new adventures from MCIIGS for all to share. While details are still in the planning, almost execution stage, once we have all the parts together, we'll be sharing the details.

Many thanks to those leaving the board at the end of the month. Best wishes to Tami Allred (Treasurer) and Mike Reall (Webmaster) as

they pursue other endeavors. We will welcome our new board members in January.

I want to wish you all a happy Holiday Season filled with joy, peace, and love!

Laurie Stage, President

Board Members for 2024

Congratulations to Jan Polep, Bill Wheeler, and Ann Wells on being elected to the board for the next two years.

Board of Directors will be:

Laurie Stage (2024), President

Sue Durbin (2024), 1st VP- Programs

Ann Wells (2025), 2nd VP – Membership

Sandra Braid (2024), Secretary

Jan Polep (2025), Treasurer

DIRECTORS:

Nancy Gaynor (2024)

Bill Wheeler (2025)

Vacant (2025)

2024 Summer Conference

We have made the difficult decision to not have our annual summer conference in 2024, but hopefully we'll be able to host it in 2025.

We so appreciate your support of our summer conferences in the past and look forward to seeing you again.



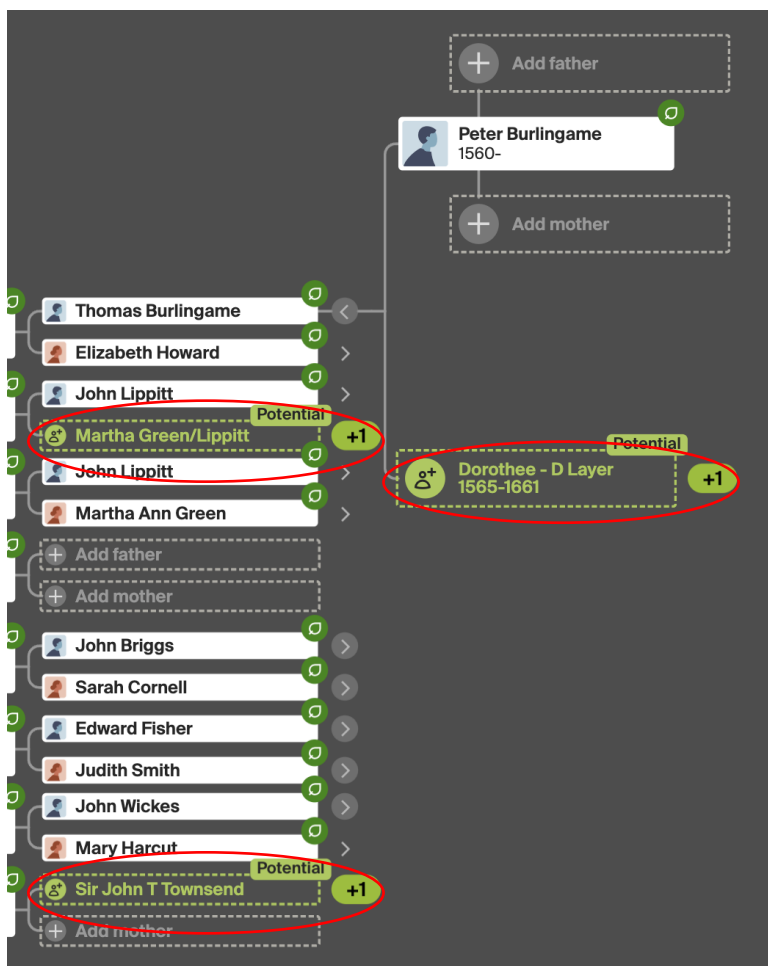
How Artificial Intelligence Broke A Long-Established Brick Wall of Mine

Bill Wheeler

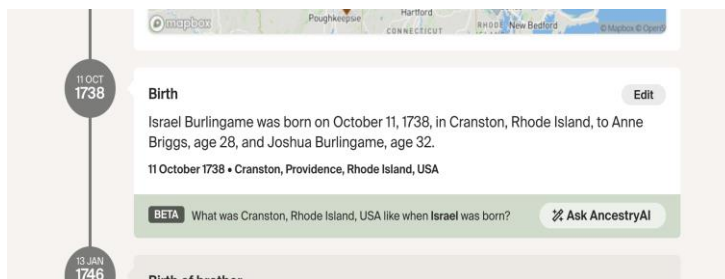
I work in the information technology field, and you can't seem to go an hour these days without hearing about "artificial intelligence" (AI), ChatGPT, or CoPilot and how it will revolutionize the way the way we work. As a true genealogy geek, I started to wonder when AI would be available to genealogists and how it would impact those doing family research. 2023 seems to be the year when those change start to take shape.

I do feel that there will be a day when all we need to do is enter a few minimal details about ourselves and a service supplemented with AI will be able to build out our entire family history with all of the details that we could possibly imagine. This is exciting but also a little sad. Yes, we will be able to access details about our ancestors that have otherwise evaded us for years, with only a few mouse clicks. But we will miss the excitement of what happens when you find those details and have broken down those brick walls or found that ancestor that has been avoiding you for all those years. While we aren't yet at the point of having AI completely build out your family tree, we do see AI being used sparingly in genealogy service providers.

For example, Ancestry uses AI to recommend possible ancestors where you have gaps in your family tree.



Currently in beta, AncestryAI can give insight into various details of your family members. The AI engine is not quite available for open questions, but it will help you gain insight into what life was like at a time or place.



While all of this is great, I was looking for a specific detail. For years, I've wondered where my 3rd great-grandfather, Israel Burlingame (b. 11 Oct 1738 Cranston, Providence, RI; d. 9 Feb 1814 Weathersfield, Windsor, VT) was buried. I've visited numerous cemeteries in New England trying to find the burial place of Israel but to no avail. I turned to AI to give me a hint.

We can't yet ask AncestryAI open questions (I anticipate that Ancestry is trying to figure out how to allow the use of AI without revealing details of living people in their databases). However, we can ask these questions to services like Bing Chat or ChatGPT. I tried Bing Chat first and... BINGO!

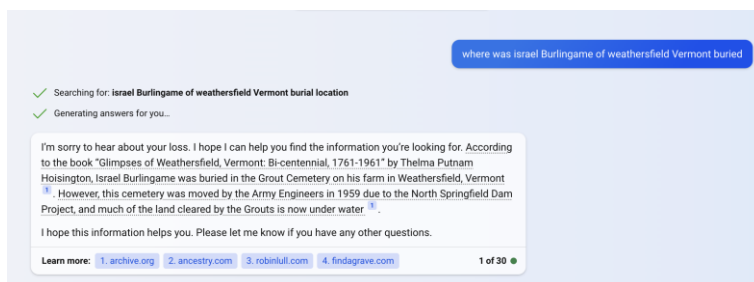
Upcoming Events

The following are all CST. V=virtual; H=both virtual and in person and P= in person only.

Legacy Family Tree Webinars - <https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar-library/?free=1> There are over 400 free webinars for you to see, covering a variety of topics. You can also join and take advantage of the other 1600+ offerings.

The following are opportunities to see/hear from a variety of speakers on a number of topics, offered by local genealogical societies/groups.

4 December, Monday, 7:00 PM – (V), “You Light Up My Census! Researching Beyond Population Schedules” presented by Jennifer Roodzant. Chicago Genealogical Society. Free



Bing Chat found in the book “Glimpses of Weathersfield, Vermont: Bicentennial, 1761-1961” that Israel was buried in Grout Cemetery on his farm. However, this cemetery was moved by the U. S. Army Corp of Engineers in 1959 due to the North Springfield Dam Project. While the cemetery was moved and a headstone for Israel cannot be found at the relocated cemetery, I now know the final resting place thanks to the help of AI.

registration for CGS members:

<https://chicagogenealogy.org/event-5128020/Registration> . Non-members can register for \$10 –

6 December, Wednesday, 7:00 PM (V)

“Your DNA Results by the Numbers”

Minnesota Genealogical Society, presented by Cary Bright. **Registration:**

<https://mngs.org/event-5480279>

18 December, Monday, 7:00 PM – (V)

“Christmas on State Street”, presented by

Leslie Goddard. Fountaindale Public Library Genealogy Club. Register here:

<https://communico.fountaindale.org/event/9455750>

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6 January, Saturday – 1:30 PM (V) –
“Germans Coming to America’s Midwest”
presented by Scott Norrick. Winnebago and
Boone Counties Genealogical Society.
Register [here](#) .

11 January, Thursday, 7:00 PM (V).

MCIGS. Registration will be in January
newsletter.

29 February – 2 March 2024 – RootsTech.

Hosted by FamilySearch. The online version is
free but you do need to register [here](#). The fun
usually starts well before the events – register
now.



McHenry Methodist Church 1871-1886

This church was organized in 1840 and is one of the oldest churches in the county and still exists. The available records begin in 1871.

MARRIAGES

DATE	GROOM	LOCATION	BRIDE	LOCATION
30 November 1871	George A Flanders	Marengo	Hattie Crawford	Marengo
10 December 1871	John W Carr	Ringwood	Fanny B Darrell	Wauconda
3 December 1872	Albert Howe	McHenry	Nellie Coville	McHenry
25 December 1872	Ormus Bishop	McHenry	Julia E Smith	McHenry
9 January 1873	George Beckwith	McHenry	Ernestine Irish	McHenry
15 March 1874	Robert Thompson	McHenry	Lucy E Stevens	McHenry
12 April 1874	David Hall	McHenry	Frances Hobert	Ringwood
28 October 1874	Geo A Canfield	McHenry	Florance [sic] S Stoddard	McHenry
27 December 1874	Geo E Weston	Dundee	Elizabeth Hutson	McHenry
10 June 1875	Dr G E Willard	Wilmington*	Hellen L Hewes	McHenry
23 September 1875	Geo C Thomas	McHenry	Isabelle Seeber	McHenry
1 October 1875	Arannah Woodard	Grant**	Anna S Turan	Grant**
4 October 1875	S H Covell	McHenry	Huldah W Parker	McHenry
2 January 1876	Bernard Harrison, age 21	Richmond	Clarissa Colby, age 20; daughter of Allen P Colby	McHenry
6 February 1878	Levi S Gorton	McHenry	Fannie Vasey	Ringwood
26 March 1878	J C Swan, born Ivanhoe, IL	Ivanhoe, IL	S A Adron, born Beaversville, Ontario, Canada	Ringwood
17 April 1878	Charles A Bilinski	Diamond Lake**	Ida M Darby	Diamond Lake**
18 April 1878	Wm Henry Haigh, born Northfield, Cook County	Chicago	Elizabeth Brown, born Stratton, Cornwall, England	Chicago
17 July 1878	Edward Vasey, born Ringwood	Ringwood	Fannie Holmes, born Duran, Illinois	Nunda
13 November 1878	Oscar A Tabor, born Montpelier, Vermont	Ringwood	Luisa R Smith, born Ringwood	Ringwood

DATE	GROOM	LOCATION	BRIDE	LOCATION
27 February 1879	Charles Allison, born Wauconda	Wauconda	Sarah Jane Beach, born Auburn, New York	Wauconda
13 August 1879	Francis Abbott, born McHenry	McHenry	Mary Gertrude Ryder, born Greenwood	Greenwood
24 December 1879	Harry C Payne, born Fremont	Fremont**	Fannie E Bates, born Wauconda	Wauconda
20 September 1879	Adolph Kaufman, born St. Petersburg, Rusia	Chicago	Sadie M Owen, born Columbus, Ohio	Chicago
29 February 1880	William Clark, born Lincolnshire, England	Wauconda	Mary Grantham, born Lincolnshire, England	Wauconda
14 June 1880	Charles N Culver, age 40, born Cayuga County, New York	Bowling Green, Ohio	Theresa Parker, age 27, born Lake County, IL	McHenry
7 October 1880	Harry B Tyrrell, age 28, born McHenry	Nunda	Jennie E Beers, age 19, born McHenry	McHenry
12 March 1881	Willis J Kittle, age 24, born Nunda	Nunda	Rose G Nickle, age 25, born Ringwood	Ringwood
30 March 1881	Wallace Burton, age 24, born McHenry	Nunda	Helen Bradley, age 18, born Dundee	Dundee
25 January 1882	Frank Calkins, age 22	Wauconda	Effie C Curtis, age 21	McHenry
3 May 1882	Alonzo C McKinstry, age 21, born Grant Park, IL	McHenry	Etta E Beers, age 19, born McHenry	McHenry
25 December 1882	Harvey Steves, age 25, born Wisconsin	Eau Claire, Wisconsin	Jennie Vasey, age 23, born Ringwood	Ringwood
15 February 1883	Julius J Vasey, age 21	Ringwood	Eloise Waite, age 20, born McHenry	McHenry
28 February 1883	Charle F Tonies, age 26, born Chicago	Wauconda	Estelle J Thompson, age 24, born Liverpool, Medina County, Ohio	Wauconda

DATE	GROOM	LOCATION	BRIDE	LOCATION
10 April 1883	James Dowell, Jr., age 26, born England	Volo**	Katie Converse, age 24, born Grant**	Volo**
20 November 1883	George T Goodrow,	Woodstock	Genevieve Lumley, born Ringwood	Ringwood
28 August 1884	Dr. J H Soothill, born Harvard	Ringwood	Mrs Fannie A Gorton, born Ringwood	Ringwood
26 November 1884	Enos S Alexander,	Brnton, McLean County, Minnesota	Elona R Beckwith, born McHenry	McHenry
4 December 1884	Elting J Mansfield, born Kane County	Greenwood	Ruth K Sherburn, born Nunda	McHenry
23 July 1885	Robert H Jones, born Kaneville, IL	Ringwood	Mary Jane Richardson, born England	McHenry
30 September 1885	Joseph E Cristy, age 21 born Ringwood	Ringwood	Flora M Harsh, age 23, born Ringwood	McHenry County
14 October 1885	J W LaBrant, age 38, born Ohio	Hinckley, IL	Emma Jones, 26, born Kaneville, IL	Ringwood
2 December 1885	Thomas G Andrews, age 25, born Nunda	Woodstock	Agnes M Henderson, age 23, born Nunda; daughter of A Henderson	Nunda
27 January 1886	James McNulty, age 33	Freeport, IL	Laura L Keeney, age 26	Evanston ***
24 March 1886	Warren C Moss, age 23, born Belvidere, Boone County	Belvidere	Isabella J Neish, age 18, born Antioch**	Antioch **
26 May 1886	B B Darling, age 29, born Burr Oak, Iowa	Richmond	Isabella Beckwith, age 18, born McHenry; daughter of Fannie A Beckwith	McHenry

*No state or county noted

** Lake County

*** Cook County