



Connections

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McHenry County Illinois Genealogical Society Newsletter



Volume XXXIX, Number 11

Contact Us: newsletter@mcigs.org

November 2019

November Meeting
Jan Polep, V.P. Programs
Next Meeting 14 November 2019

2020 Membership Drive
Kristen McCallum, V. P. Membership



Optimizing
Your Online
Genealogy
Research:
What's New &
How to Find It

Presented by
Suz Bates

Come learn how to safely and efficiently navigate what is new and save it so you have access to it again. Suz Bates' program will cover social media, blogs, RSS tips and tricks in order to find and organize your online genealogy research.

Suz has been a family history researcher for over 40 years and a private consultant for 20 years. She earned her B.A. in Modern Foreign Language with a minor in History and an M.S. in education. Suz has been a member of various genealogy and history associations including the National Genealogical Society, the New England Historic Genealogical Society, and the NSDAR, Du Page County Genealogical Society, Fox Valley Genealogical Society, and CAGGNI.

Now is the time to join or renew your MCIGS membership for 2020! Your support helps us continue to provide access to great speakers and a consistent meeting location each month, as well as pay for online services such as our website.

Members also receive benefits such as online access to back issues of our Quarterly and other publications, as well as a discount on pricing for our annual conference.

There is also an opportunity to donate to MCIGS. Your donations are used for special projects we do. Just recently we purchased a camera to record meetings so members can access those events.

We invite you to join or renew online, or download a membership form to send in the mail.

Visit <https://www.mcigs.org/online-membership-application.html> to get started. If you have any questions, please contact Kristen McCallum at membership@mcigs.org. Thanks in advance to the many people who make everything we do possible.

Happy Thanksgiving!!



Upcoming Events

12 November – 7:00 PM – “The Changing Memory of the Civil War” Vernon Hills Village Hall, 290 Evergreen Drive, Vernon Hills, Illinois. LCIGS1170@gmail.com

14 November – 7:00 PM – “Optimizing Your Online Genealogy Research. What’s New & How to Find It” MCIGS, McHenry County College, Route 14 & Lucas Road, Crystal Lake, Illinois

16 November – 10:00 AM – “Find My Past Updates” British Interest Group of Wisconsin and Illinois, 5714 Broadway Street, Richmond, Illinois 60071 bigwillgen@gmail.com

21 November – 7:00 PM – “Members Discussion: Which Lineage Societies Do You Belong To?” Elgin Genealogy Society, Gail Borden Public Library, Elgin, Illinois. <http://www.elginroots.com>

Current MCIGS Officers and Directors
(Term Expiration, December)

MCIGS
PO Box 184
Crystal Lake, IL 60039-0184
website: mcigs.org
email: mcigs@mcigs.org

President (2020) – Arlene Basten, president@mcigs.org

1st Vice President, Programs Chair (2019) – Jan Polep
jan.polep@mcigs.org

2nd Vice President (2020) – Kristen McCallum, Past President;
Membership Chair membership@mcigs.org

Recording Secretary (2019) – Laurie Stage
laurie.stage@mcigs.org

Treasurer (2019) – Tami Allred tami.allred@mcigs.org

Directors:

Claudia Conroy (2019), Library Chair; Early Settlers
Certificate Chair Claudia.Conroy@mcigs.org

Ann L Wells (2019), Newspaper Editor; Conference
Speaker & Venue Liaison annwells@yahoo.com

Director (2019) OPEN
Director (2020) OPEN

Annual Election

Our annual election will be held at our November General Meeting. If you are interested in serving the society as a director, please let us know. We are very interested in your ideas. The terms are two years. The positions up for election are:

1st V. P. – Program Chair – Jan Polep

Secretary – Laurie Stage

Treasurer – Tami Allred

Director – Claudia Conroy

Director – Ann Wells

Director – term ending 2020

Director – term ending 2021

In addition to the two directors, we are looking for a volunteer to chair the Publications Committee. You will be responsible for purchasing books for our two collections, keeping the list of books we own up-to-date and writing a brief article about any new books we obtain. The position is a Committee Chair and the average time spent each month is about an hour or so. Please let us know if you are interested by contacting us at mcigs@mcigs.org.

Monthly Meetings are held at:

Mc Henry County College
8900 Route 14
Crystal Lake, Illinois
Leucht Conference Center
Building B, Rooms B166-167

Chopping a Branch Claudia Conroy

I had all my tree lines worked out, at least for several generations, but my favorite tree branch stemmed from my great grandmother, Adella Norton who married Jefferson Ferguson. Jefferson's parents were Jacob Ferguson and Nancy Cameron. I have many newspaper articles on Jefferson's antics. He had multiple arrests for theft, larceny and cheating, as well as newspaper accounts on his proficiency in billiards, everywhere between New York and Chicago. I have one grainy photo of Jefferson but a nice portrait of Jacob with his half-brothers. Jacob looks like such a nice 2x great grandpa to have.

I traced this line back to Jacob Power who served in the Revolutionary War with Johannes Best whose daughter, Elizabeth, became Jacob Power's wife. I have found great documents on this family including a hand written will from 1768 which freed slaves, multiple Revolutionary War records, entries from a doctor's log regarding some of these family members, and a letter to the safety committee from October 1776 regarding shots fired into Jacob Power's house. These all made me feel I knew these people, and strangely I felt like I loved them.

Here is where I had to prune my tree. Adella Norton and Jefferson Ferguson had two sons, Franklin and Harry Ferguson. The third son, my grandfather, was named Cecil Norton. Wait, what? This was not a close family. The three boys were each born nine years apart. Franklin, deaf, dumb and idiotic according to the census records, was living at the Cook County Alms House at age 14. Harry was at the Chicago Home for the Friendless when he was young and didn't recognize his mother when he was 16 according to a newspaper article. Cecil was born about 1883 so I can't find him until the 1900 census.

I figured Adella who had been living off and on at the Chicago Home for the Friendless, using her maiden name in later admissions there, named their

third son Norton to spite Jefferson whose whereabouts I have not been able to trace after he was arrested in Chicago in 1882. To prove my theory, I asked a cousin to take a Y-DNA test. After additional testing it seems Cecil Norton's father was not Jefferson Ferguson but most likely William Whitson, a married man living near Adella's home. My autosomal DNA matches many Whitsons as well.

CHOP! Just like that one large limb is removed from my tree. I had been attached to the people living on that limb more than I had realized. I felt sad. It is helpful that the Whitson family has welcomed me with open arms. Now I have new research to do and hopefully I'll grow attached to this branch as well, but I'll always look back on Jacob and Nancy Ferguson, and Jacob and Elizabeth Power with fondness.

We would love to hear from you about your favorite or more interesting ancestor. Please share by sending an article to the editor at annwells@yahoo.com.

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2020 MCIGS Summer Conference

Mark your calendars!! Next summer's conference will be on Saturday, 11 July 2020 at McHenry County College in Crystal Lake.

We have four great speakers lined up – Maureen Brady, Peggy Clemens Lauritzen, Michael John Neill and Paula Stuart-Warren.

Topics will range from locating emigrant origins, naturalization, charts, getting ready for a research trip, finding maiden names, New York State research, railroad records, Scottish family research, Chicago research, newspapers, indentured servants, using cemeteries, migration trails and others.

More information and a registration flyer will be coming at the beginning of next year. Keep your eyes open, but in the meantime, mark your calendars!

Welcome to New Member:

Linda Olszak, Crystal Lake

Hope to see you at a meeting soon!

Summer Cruise and Irish Ancestors Ann L Wells

In August of this year I was fortunate to take a cruise from Montreal, Canada to Boston. One of the reasons I decided to take the cruise was to see where some of my family lived. I have a lot of Canadian connections on both sides of my family, but this branch has always intrigued me.

My 3rd great grandmother, Ann Corneille, married John Caswell and had at least three children, who were all born in Ireland. After her husband died in 1824, she brought her children to Québec, Canada in about 1825. There must have been someone there for her to meet up with, but that hasn't been discovered as yet.

On 18 August 1827, in Holy Trinity Cathedral, she married Francis Roberts who was the footman to the Bishop of the Anglican Church in Québec.

Our cruise took us to Québec and we had a day in town, on a Sunday. We were lucky to be able to go in and take a quick tour of the Cathedral before the service began.



Holy Trinity Anglican Cathedral, Québec, Canada