



Connections

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McHenry County Illinois Genealogical Society Newsletter



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mcigs@mcigs.org

November 2021

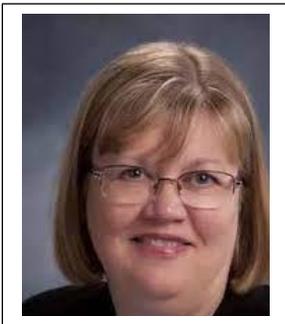
November Meeting

November 11, 2021

Jan Polep, 1st V. P. - Program Chair

A Few Words from the President

Laurie Stage



*Using
Fold3.com
November 11,
2021 - Caron
Primas
Brennan*

Caron will review the resources available on FOLD3.com, including available military and government documents digitized from the National Archives, Library of Congress, and other institutions, not previously available on-line. Her program will also include a tour of the tools available on the FOLD3 and how to use them.

Caron Primas Brennan belongs to several genealogy groups such as the Genealogical Speakers Guild, is a Member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, and is the Webmaster for the Chicago Genealogical Society. Follow Caron on her blog, Your Cousin Caron.

Welcome to Fall!!!! The temperatures are dropping, the leaves are changing colors and falling to the ground and some of us might even be found out hiking around enjoying our final days outside without the need for a winter parka. We might even be visiting a cemetery or two. Maybe with the cooler weather you will be focusing on your genealogy and family research. Our November General meeting, 11 November 2021, will feature Caron Brennan speaking to us about Fold3.com. Fold3 is a valuable website for military records. We hope you will register for this zoom meeting at our website mcigs.org

Our November meeting will include the election of officers for our Board. We continue to have some positions (Recording Secretary and Directors) open. I encourage you all to really consider joining our group. In all honesty, when I joined the board a few years ago, I was nervous and didn't know what to expect. My experience on the board throughout my years has been positive for me. I've learned so much from those around

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me, I've met new friends and I think I've provided some positive ideas from time to time. We CAN NOT do this alone! We need help. If you are at all interested, please email me with questions you may have, or just to talk about how we do things. I'm at president@mcigs.org Thank you!

Jan Polep has put together some interesting programs to lead us in to 2022. We will be learning about the story of Richmond IL settler William McConnell, with Michele Wilson and Rommy Lopat. Annette Burke Lyttle will present on Finding and Using Digitized Manuscript Collections. We are also working on some consecutive programs about writing Personal History, and also presenting about DAR and SAR. You're going to want to stay tuned for updates and details on these and other topics for 2022.

Stay in touch – we are always interested in what you have to say.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Laurie

IN MEMORIAM

Our condolences to Bill Wheeler and his family on the death of his mother, Mary Wheeler, on 22 October 2021.

THANKSGIVING 100 YEARS AGO

On 31 October 1921, President William G Harding proclaimed that Thanksgiving would be 24 November 1921 as a day of “Thanksgiving, devotion and prayer.” In his proclamation of that October day, he wrote: “it is proper that the President should summon the nation to a day of devotion, of thanksgiving for blessings bestowed, and of prayer for guidance in modes of life that may deserve continuance of Divine favor.” (<https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/documents/proclamation-1612-thanksgiving-1921>)

In the Crystal Lake Herald of 24 November 1921, little reference was made to Thanksgiving. The Methodist Episcopal Church noted that they would have a sunrise service at 6 a.m. and would have Bible study that evening.

Ladies of the Afternoon Club moved their meeting day to Friday because of Thanksgiving and Mrs. Anna Collen spent the day with her son, George, in Woodstock.

Crystal Lake Lumber and Coal company had an ad noting what they were thankful for as individuals and as a company.

(Crystal Lake (Illinois) Herald, Thursday, 24 November 1921, page 3, col. 2; www.newspapers.com)

While the 1921 Thanksgiving was on the 4th Thursday, it wasn't set as the official day until December 1941.

Using Online Books for Research

by
Claudia Conroy

I have been spending a lot of time researching my early American families and have found online books to be a huge help. I realize that information in books is suspect but can be used to give clues when you have come to the end of your rope with a family line. It is especially helpful when the author of the book includes footnotes as to where the original information was found. Using the information in footnotes, I was able to find original documents for christenings, marriages, and wills. When I'm looking for books related to my ancestors, I search for county histories, town histories, and family surnames.

The online book sites I have found most helpful were **FamilySearch.org**, **Hathitrust.org**, **Internet Archive** at Archive.org and to a lesser extent **Google Books**. To find books on FamilySearch, use the drop-down menu on the search button. Many times, the books are downloadable, so I save the ones I want in a "book" folder on my computer. Having the FamilySearch books on my own computer in a pdf. format allows me to click on the magnifying glass at the top to search for a specific name or topic. Some of the books on FamilySearch are marked private due to copyright restrictions, but sometimes those same books are available at other websites.

Hathitrust.org is an online site that requires no login, is simple to use, but does not allow books to be downloaded. Do not let that deter you. Just add your title or topic to the search

box. When you click on the book you want, there is a yellow box on the left of the page into which you can add whatever topic or name you wish to search. When you find the section you like, you can use the snipping tool on your computer to clip and save the piece in whatever format you choose. Hathitrust.org also gives you the option to copy the actual citation to use for your source. Just remember to note the page number to complete your citation.

Archive.org is a little more complicated as the first search box you see is for the WayBack Machine, which is another topic in itself. Scroll down until you see the next search box which has several options. I usually choose text contents, but you can choose metadata or even use the advanced search option. Like Hathitrust, Archive.org does not allow you to download books so keep your snipping tool handy. Archive.org has many additional features of which I am not familiar, but you may learn about them by exploring this site.

I use Google Books to find out if there is a book published about a surname, county, or town. Sometimes when Google Books shows the book title, the book can be searched to see if the specific topic you want is mentioned in the book. Sometimes all you can see is a book title. In either case, I go to WorldCat.org, enter the book title and see if a copy is located anywhere near me. My library will request books from other libraries but many times a book is marked reference and cannot be sent out from its home location. Often a book is located in the Newberry Library in Chicago, an easy

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day trip for me. Newberry allows you to set up a login on their website, enter the book title you want, and then save the list until you get to their library. Check to see if a library near you has a copy of the book you want.

I hope you find some success using online books in your research as I have. They are additional tools for your genealogy toolbox.

Last Meeting Recap

By

Nancy Gaynor

Thomas MacEntee presented his program “Genealogy Escape Room: The Case of Handsome Harry” on Thursday October 14th. Rather than the audience being passive receivers of Thomas’ information, we were challenged ahead of time to answer a number of questions dealing with the life and death of “Handsome Harry,” better known as Johnny Stompanato, a McHenry County native. The questions came from the documents found – leading researchers to what standard practice should be in researching. The death record was “torn” apart by asking about it which should lead the researcher to further research.

For example, one of the questions was “what type of accident is listed on the death record?” This could lead the researcher to other information, such as a coroner’s report or autopsy report. Another question asked for the cause of death-code. This is important to know as it is a standardized labeling of a

cause of death designated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Thomas centered this particular presentation around McHenry County by using John Stompanato as the subject. Johnny was the boyfriend of movie star Lana Turner whose teenage daughter stabbed Johnny to death in 1958. As Thomas showed us the documents located to answer the questions, we were given a sort of roadmap into his research methodology. He shared his Excel sheets he maintains for all of his research. These sheets DOCUMENT any information he has for a subject in a RESEARCH LOG, what needs to be investigated in a TO DO LIST, another list where he details all spelling variations on a NAME VARIATION sheet and more. Since Thomas is quite used to using Excel, he knows many of the shortcuts to use along the way to streamline his data input. Many researchers use spreadsheets to track family, research, and to-do lists. As Thomas showed, it does keep everything at hand. This is certainly something to investigate in your own research.

Members of MCIGS have the opportunity to view this, and other past programs, behind our MEMBER ACCESS portion of our website.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Please note that these may be virtual or in person. Go to the website for more details. All times are CDT/CST.

November 2, 2021 – 9:30 AM – “Try-It Illinois” – Tina Beard. Elgin Genealogical Society. Register: info@elginroots.com

November 2, 2021 – 8 PM - Uncovering the lives of your London (England) ancestors. From Legacy Family Webinars FREE. Register: [London Ancestors](#)

November 16, 2021 – 7 PM – Planning Research. From Legacy Family Webinars FREE. Register: [Planning Research](#)

November 17, 2021 – 6:30 PM- Irish Family History Research: The Essentials, by Maureen Brady. FREE BYU Library Webinar – register: <https://fh.lib.byu.edu/>

November 18, 2021 – 7 PM – “Using Yearbooks for Genealogy” with Jeanne Larzalere Bloom. Elgin Genealogical Society. Register: info@elginroots.com

November 20, 2021 – 10 AM – “Genealogy Trivia Game” with Bob Allen. British Interest Group of Wisconsin and Illinois (BIGWILL). Register: [Genealogy Trivia](#)

Early McHenry County Physicians

From History of McHenry County Illinois, Vol. I, 1922 (Munsell Publishing Company, Chicago)

Theodore W Stull – Dr Stull was the first medical practitioner of Marengo. He died 8 May 1879 in Marengo at the age of 46.

Almon King – settled at Woodstock and was the first physician there.

Luke Coon- came from Indiana and stayed about two years in Woodstock.

BITS AND PIECES

John Wolfe and Miss Emma Stevens were married at Genoa Junction [WI] Saturday night and thus two more of Richmond’s children sail out on matrimonial’s dangerous sea. *Woodstock Sentinel, 4 December 1884.*

From MCIGS Quarterly, 2007, page 94:

R Diesel has just manufactured a corpse-freezer which he intends to use, when necessary, in his business. Mr D informs us that he can keep the remains of a person for two weeks without risk in the warmest weather. *Woodstock Sentinel, 2 November 1881.* *Continued on page 6*

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Mr Diesel, our popular furniture dealer and undertaker, has placed in his window a beautiful coffin covered with white cloth and elegantly trimmed, for the purpose of advertising his business. Mr D now has one of the largest and best stock of furniture ever on exhibition in Woodstock and proposes to sell the same at the lowest living rates. If any of our readers want anything in his line give him a call and he will be pleased to accommodate you. *Woodstock Sentinel*, 27 April 1882.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following is the ballot as it now stands. Should you wish to be included for one of the positions, please contact our president, Laurie at president@mcigs.org.

The vote will take place online during the upcoming meeting.

1st VP- Programs: Jan Polep
Recording Secretary: open
Treasurer: Tami Allred
Director: Ann Wells
Director: open
Director: open

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

Now is the time!! Dues are due. If dues are not paid by 31 December, you will not automatically receive new login information to access our site. It's so easy to overlook, so do it now by going to mcigs.org.

You can pay your dues online or send us a check. The choice is yours! You can go online to <https://www.mcigs.org> and download the application or pay on the site. The payment goes through PayPal and neither they nor we keep information as to your payment details. If sending a check, please mail to MCIGS, PO Box 184, Crystal Lake, IL 60039-0184.

There are several levels of membership, so please check the one that makes the most sense for you. You'll also see a bracket for donations. We use donations for things other than operating expenses. If you wish to donate, we'd be so appreciative!

We look forward to your renewal for 2022.

Bill Wheeler, Membership Chair

OUR BOARD

Did you know that you can learn a little about the current board members? If you go to <https://www.mcigs.org/mcigs-board.html> you'll find out more about them. Let us know what you think. What's your story? We can share it in our newsletter.

SOCIAL MEDIA FOR GENEALOGY

SOCIAL MEDIA FOR YOU?

Using social media for genealogy? Over the years people have been heard saying, vehemently, “I don’t use social media.” Ok, if you don’t want to show holiday snaps, plates of food, or have to deal with an increasing number of unhappy people, that’s fine. But you are missing opportunities to connect with family or help for your research project.

Katherine Willson created a list of Facebook sites (groups and pages) that included over 16,700 separate places to look at. Look for it [here](#). Katherine’s list has been turned over to [Cyndislist](#) to update and maintain. One of those 16,000+ sites must have something for you. Maybe you have something to add to a Facebook page?

While these sites are both pages and groups, the fact that not using Facebook leaves you out. Perhaps you need some help in Ontario County, New York, for example and you join one of the available sites and all of a sudden, you’re connected with a distant cousin who has posted on the site. Or you find a comment about a source you’ve tried to track down.

You can also join groups that support your genealogy program. Learn the ins and outs of it and get questions answered. Maybe you just can’t get how to use a particular feature of your program and low and behold someone else has had the same problem. You can now connect with them and figure out how to deal with your issue.

History sites are also helpful with research. Besides genealogy sites, history sites of all kinds may be a help with background information. Maybe you’ve always believed that your ancestor arrived in an area very early on, only to discover that’s probably not true by what the history site indicated.

Maybe you’ll find someone who is willing to get a copy of a record for you or has an index of deaths on his/her computer that would never see publication someplace.

While this has dealt with Facebook, there are other social media groups such as Twitter and Pinterest which may be hiding something you need.

So, take a leap, jump into at least Facebook, and see what comes up. Be sure to read the posts, look at the heading at the top and see if there is an index or topic heading to help with finding something of interest.

Good luck!





Happy Thanksgiving!

DID YOU KNOW?

Try-It Illinois (for Illinois residents only) ends on 30 November.

Ancestry.com free access ends on 31 December 2021 and will not be extended. At least that's the word right now.

Your local FHC Library may very well be open or opening soon. Also check your local library to see if they are an affiliate to FHL.

Do you know what an SASE is? It's a self-addressed stamped envelope. You include it when you send a letter via USPS for genealogical information of any sort.

McHenry County Illinois Genealogical Society Board of Directors 2021

OFFICERS:

President: Laurie Stage –
president@mcigs.org

1st V. P. Programs - Jan Polep –
jan.polep@mcigs.org

2nd V. P Membership – Bill Wheeler –
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Secretary – Claudia Conroy -
claudia.conroy@mcigs.org

Treasurer – Tami Allred –
tami.allred@mcigs.org

BOARD DIRECTORS:

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