



# Connections

www.mcigs.org

McHenry County Illinois Genealogical Society Newsletter



Volume XL, Number 10

mcigs@mcigs.org

October 2021

## October Meeting

October 14, 2021

Jan Polep, 1<sup>st</sup> V. P. - Program Chair



*“Virtual Genealogy  
Escape Room”*  
presented by Thomas  
MacEntee

Imagine you are trapped in an archive and the only way out is to solve a series of genealogy research puzzles. Are you up to the challenge? Based on the popular escape room concept, Genealogy Escape Room turns the typical webinar format upside down! Each registrant will receive a Case Review File used to solve a series of online research tasks BEFORE the live presentation takes place. The presentation is the “reveal” where a step-by-step review of each puzzle, task and clue leads you to the final “key” to open the door. Genealogy methodology concepts will be summarized before announcing who escaped first!

Thomas MacEntee, is a genealogy professional who is also a blogger, educator, author, social media connector, marketer, network

builder and more. Thomas has over 40 years of experience of researching family history.

## A Few Words From the President...

Hello!

I hope you are all working hard on your genealogy and making some great family finds. I'd love to share some of your success strategies, so don't hesitate to send me some tips and tricks that I can share with the rest of our members in future newsletters.

November is election time for us and included elsewhere in the newsletter is the ballot for the upcoming year. One of the most critical openings is that for recording secretary. The job entails attending the board meetings, taking notes, and then distributing them to the board. You would need to be able to attend our board meetings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month (there is no meeting in December). The meetings start promptly at 7:00 pm, and we currently meet at the Cary Area Library, or possibly via

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Zoom if necessary. Right now, there won't be hybrid board meetings. We typically complete all business in about 60-75 minutes. This is an especially helpful position to me, as the minutes really keep track of the agenda items and help organize our discussions which allows us to complete our monthly business. Please consider joining our board and helping out with this much needed position. If you are interested, please feel free to contact me at [president@mcigs.org](mailto:president@mcigs.org) I'd love to talk to you about the details.

I also want to let you all know that we have decided to make the minutes of our meetings available on-line. You will find them on the MCIGS homepage under the heading of Board Meetings. I encourage you all to check out the meeting minutes to see all of the topics your MCIGS Board is working on for you!

We are constantly looking for better ways to meet the needs of our members. With that in mind I'd like to challenge each and every one of you to send me 2 or 3 topics for our monthly meetings. Don't stop at 3, if you're on a roll.

You will be reading about our 2022 Membership campaign later on in this newsletter. I hope that you are getting a sense that we want input from our members!!! We need to know how we can best guide our Society to meet the needs of our members. I'd like to thank all of you in advance for jotting down some ideas and sending them off to me.

I wish you all great success with your researching as we move into the Fall season!!! ~ Laurie

## September Meeting Review

Nancy Gaynor

### Back to School: Making the Most of School Records

Our 9 September general meeting was presented by Tina Beaird from [Tamarack Genealogy](#) and Plainfield Public Library on the wealth of information that can be gleaned from a variety of school records. Her handout was a wonderful synopsis of the presentation. You can access it as a member behind the "Member Access" tab on our home page.

There CAN be a wealth of information found in school records, and the problem can be where to locate them. Ms. Beaird gave terrific examples, not just here in Illinois, of some possibilities.

WHAT kind of records can you find? There can be collections of coursework, including tests and papers; programs and event flyers; awards; and of course, class photos and yearbooks/annuals.

WHERE can you find these gems? You can try school or school district offices, regional board of education offices, historical societies, public and academic libraries and don't forget – newspapers. Town announcements of the goings on at the area schools were quite common and often

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included photos and news of the school and reunion celebrations.

If YOU happen to have any of these types of materials, be sure YOU find a local place to SHARE them to help other researchers.

Yearbooks often contain MORE than just a photo of a student. There may be memorials to students, current and past, who have passed away or served in the military. Ms. Beard had an example of a young man who DIDN'T attend the high school but served in the military FROM that town. So he was mentioned in the annual. Advertisements can also be useful for businesses in the town that may not appear in other easily located records.

Locating the school your ancestor attended can be difficult. Be sure to check plat maps for the LOCATION of schools to discern the name and location of possible records. You may find teacher's registers, school TAX lists, annual tax assessments and annual reports to the Board of Education. Schools also took CENSUSES to find children who were of school age. These censuses were taken to identify children of "school age" up to twenty-one within a district. These records MAY predate vital records in many states.

Ms. Beard's recommendations for finding these records centered on learning as much as you can about an area. Talk to the area libraries about their holdings and other libraries or societies that may hold your records. Don't forget to look into nearby communities or counties too. Ms. Beard had the example of someone who rescued school records from a dumpster and donated them to a nearby facility, although the records

were NOT from that town/township. BUT they were saved.

The Illinois Secretary of State's Office has the IRAD ([Illinois Regional Archives Depository](#)) system using seven regional universities to archive local records. The wide array of records that can be found at these facilities include birth registers, coroner's records, school registers and trustee's meeting minutes and school land records. These records are housed at the universities. Currently appointments must be made to use the collections. Material is NOT transferred around the state.

Other places to look for school records include: ArchiveGrid [researchworks.oclc.org/archivegrid/](http://researchworks.oclc.org/archivegrid/); FamilySearch [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org); Flickr [www.flickr.com](http://www.flickr.com); Internet Archive [www.archive.org](http://www.archive.org); Library of Congress [www.loc.gov](http://www.loc.gov); The Ancestor Hunt [www.theancestorhunt.com/school-records.html](http://www.theancestorhunt.com/school-records.html) and more.

## Upcoming Events

*Please note that the following listed events may be in-person, via Zoom or a hybrid. Be sure to contact society. All times are CDT.*

**October 5, 2021 – 9:30 AM** – Elgin Genealogical Society. "Publishing Your Genealogy Using Window," Jacquie Schattner <https://www.elginroots.com/programs/>

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**October 12, 2021 – 7:00 PM** – Lake County Illinois Genealogical Society. “The Great Chicago Fire,” Raymond Johnson  
<https://lakecountyilgenealogy.org/>

**October 21, 2021 – 7:00 PM** – Elgin Genealogical Society. “Family Treasures in the Attic,” Jane Haldeman  
<https://www.elginroots.com/programs/>

**November 14, 2021 – 7:00 PM – MCIGS.** “Fold3,” Caron Primas Brennan  
<https://www.mcigs.org>

## Early McHenry County Physicians

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

*Dr A B Cornish* -was a physician and also served as the County Coroner from 1838-1839. Algonquin was once Cornish’s Ferry, after the doctor. He also served as the first postmaster there. He had a busy practice, but nothing is known about his skills or education.

*Dr D S McGonigle* – was the first to practice medicine in Alden. He arrived there in 1845 but only remained about a year.

*Dr Allen C Bingham* – started practice in Alden about 1857 and stayed there until 1865, being a successful practitioner. He then moved to Harvard and practiced there until at least 1875.

*Dr David Burton* – physician in Algonquin from 1844 until his death in 1848.

*Dr Colonel M Johnson* – was the proprietor of the Cottage Hospital in Harvard. He was born in Kenosha, Wisconsin 2 May 1854, son of Horace W Johnson, M. D. Dr. Colonel Johnson graduated from Notre Dame in 1871, University of Michigan in 1875 and took a post-graduate course at Bellevue Hospital, New York City. In addition to his medical practice, he was also city physician, treasurer, alderman and mayor of Harvard. Dr Johnson died 24 Jun 1928 in Harvard.

*Dr Charles C Miller* – was born in Pennsylvania 10 June 1831. He studied medicine at the University of Michigan and graduated from there in 1856. His lifelong interest in bees brought him to Marengo where he studied them in a scientific manner, contributed to bee journals and at one time had over four hundred bee colonies. He probably gave up his medical practice, if there was one of substance, and devoted his life to bees and flower growing.

*Dr William Abbott Nason* – was born in Hallowell, Maine 21 June 1841 and died at Algonquin 10 June 1918. He attended Boston public schools, eventually going to Bellevue Hospital in New York to study medicine and then the Chicago Medical College, graduating in 1866. He was appointed assistant surgeon for the U S government and went to Gordonsville Hospital in

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Virginia and later to Yorktown, also in Virginia. He arrived in Algonquin in 1868 and was president of the Fox River Medical Society for a year. He was also president of the school board and one of the founders of the Chicago Academy of Sciences. He had an interest in botany and fauna of Illinois. His collection of flowers and insects was preserved at the University of Illinois.

*Dr Nicholas J Nye* – He was born in Ohio, 15 October 1871. He went to the Starling School of Medicine in Columbus, Ohio, graduated and then attended courses in Chicago and at the Memphis Medical College. He came to McHenry in 1910 and succeeded Dr. Fegers.

*Dr Charles H Fegers* – He was born in Germany in 1846 and went to West Point, Iowa in 1850. His father, John H Fegers was also a physician. Dr Charles Fegers was a druggist in Keokuk, Iowa but studied under Dr. Andrews in Chicago. He graduated in 1879 from Chicago Medical College. He originally practiced in Johnsbury, but then went to McHenry where he practiced until retirement.

*Dr Charles C Peck* – He was born in Marengo, 19 December 1870. His father, Daniel C Peck was one of the earlier physicians of Marengo. Dr Charles Peck studied at Hahnemann College and Hospital in Chicago and graduated from there in 1895. He was elected coroner of McHenry County.

*To be continued*

## Elections

At our November meeting we will elect officers for the coming year. Our officers are elected for two years; some being elected in the “odd” year and some in the “even” year. This way there is continuity on the board.

This year we need to elect six positions. The names next to the position are those willing to run again, but all positions are open for nominations. Should you wish to join the board, please let us know – either by contacting Laurie at [president@mcigs.org](mailto:president@mcigs.org) or [mcigs@mcigs.org](mailto:mcigs@mcigs.org).

1st VP- Programs~ Jan Polep  
Recording Secretary – open – *see President's article*  
Treasurer ~ Tami Allred  
Director: Newsletter Editor ~ Ann Wells  
Director ~ Dave Stumpf  
Director - open

Again, if you are interested in any of these positions, please let us know.

What board members do:

- Fulfill duties according to title
- Bring thoughts and ideas for the membership to the board meetings
- Attend all board meetings
- Vote on motions
- Represent the membership in their wishes and interests

The board meetings are monthly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, and they last about 60-75 minutes. Currently our meetings are held in person at the Cary library, but we have used Zoom in the past as needed.

Please consider sharing your talents with our board.



One of the latest genealogy applications that can help you was not created for genealogy but is growing in popularity.

Clubhouse was created in Fall of 2019. It is a social audio app for both IOS and Android. Using the mobile application, people can communicate in audio chat rooms with groups of thousands of people. The application was originally released to support podcasts (under the name Talkshow) but has been rebranded to Clubhouse and focuses on live audio conversations.

If you have heard about Clubhouse, you've no doubt heard that the application started out with a select few individuals and was invite only. The application has since done away with its invite-only system and has moved to a waiting list model. There are currently over ten million people using Clubhouse and another ten million people on the waiting list.

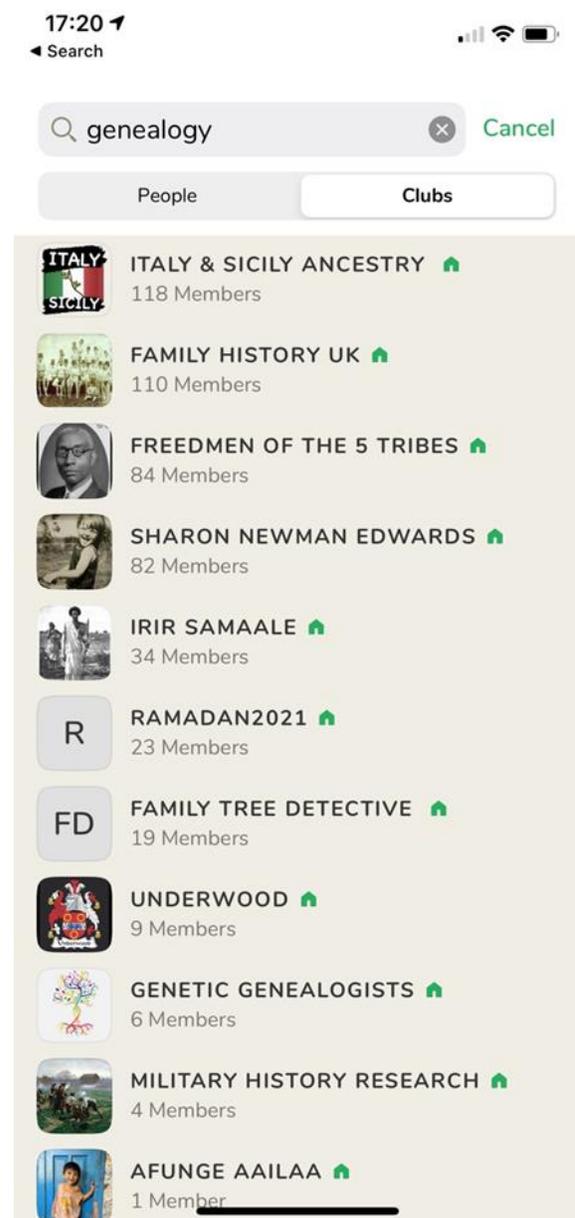
Who is on Clubhouse today? Noteworthy genealogists include Terri O'Connell, Diahn Southard, David Allen Lambert, Crista Cowan, and Paul Allen (founder of Ancestry). If you don't want to be limited to genealogy, people like Satya Nadella (Microsoft), Tim Ferris, Elena Cardone, Elon Musk, Mark Zuckerberg, and Bill Gates are also on Clubhouse.

The screenshot on the right shows a handful of the genealogy clubs that are active in

clubhouse. But you don't need to limit yourself to those. If you want to create a club for McHenry Genealogy, click 'Start a room.'

Clubhouse is working on a new way to invite friends called 'Waves.' This will allow people to chat directly with people that are already on Clubhouse one-on-one while they wait for their invitation.

Learn more at <https://www.joinclubhouse.com>



## Did You Know?

The Family History Library has now completed scanning of all of its microfilm and it is available on their site [FamilySearch](#). Every last roll! That means 2.4 MILLION rolls of film. Many are not indexed (you can volunteer to help with that), but they are available now. The Library will now go on to complete scanning their microfiche collection. And the best part of course, it is all free!

## Try-It Illinois

Every year the Illinois State Library offers to Illinois residents the opportunity to use a number of sites which normally require payment of some kind. In the months of October and November, these sites are free. They may not be the same from year to year depending on the vendor. There are newspapers, Sanborn Maps, legal papers, etc. The list covers a multitude of subject matter.

Unfortunately, you must have an Illinois library card in order to sign-up for the program. There is no fee involved, just your library affiliation. You need to request the sign-on information from the site and within a few hours you will be sent the needed information.

For more information check out the Try-It site <http://finditillinois.org/tryit/>. Logon instructions are on the right. It should be there by 1 October.

## MCIGS Board Recap September Meeting

Members present: Laurie Stage, Jan Polep, Bill Wheeler, Claudia Conroy, Nancy Gaynor, Mike Reall and Ann Wells. And Tami Allred

Absent: Dave Stumpf

A decision was made to use the donations received in memory of Alice Wagner to honor her by naming the 2022 MCIGS Scholarship after her.

We received a \$5000 grant from the Illinois Humanities History Grant, and it will be used to support the conference.

A Code of Conduct was approved.

### FINANCIAL RECAP

Checking Account – as of 31 August - \$4724.93

Savings - \$0

EdwardJones- as of 31 July 2021 - 127,850.20



**McHenry County Illinois Genealogical  
Society  
Board of Directors  
2021**

**OFFICERS:**

**President: Laurie Stage –**  
[president@mcigs.org](mailto:president@mcigs.org)

**1<sup>st</sup> V. P. Programs - Jan Polep –**  
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**2<sup>nd</sup> V. P Membership – Bill Wheeler –**  
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**Secretary – Claudia Conroy -**  
[claudia.conroy@mcigs.org](mailto:claudia.conroy@mcigs.org)

**Treasurer – Tami Allred –**  
[tami.allred@mcigs.org](mailto:tami.allred@mcigs.org)

**BOARD DIRECTORS:**

**Ann L Wells –Newsletter Editor**  
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[annwells@yahoo.com](mailto:annwells@yahoo.com)

**Dave Stumpf –**[dave.stumpf@mcigs.org](mailto:dave.stumpf@mcigs.org)

**Nancy Gaynor – Librarian**  
[nancy.gaynor@mcigs.org](mailto:nancy.gaynor@mcigs.org)

**Mike Reall – Webmaster**  
[mike.reall@mcigs.org](mailto:mike.reall@mcigs.org)

**Director - Vacant**

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

**Sue Durbin – Volunteer Chair**  
[sld@suedurbin.com](mailto:sld@suedurbin.com)

## Membership Renewal Time

October is that time of the year, to add paying your dues to your list of things to do. Your dues help in presenting a variety of speakers for the coming year, plus any incidentals we may have.

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 brackets of membership, so please check the one that makes the most sense for you. Early in 2022, you will receive a passcode to access our Member's Only area of our website.

You'll also see a bracket for donations. We use any 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.

*Membership Committee*