



NEWSLETTER

McLean County Genealogical Society

Pat Perkins, President

Susie Pope, Interim Editor

2021 Board of Directors

President

Pat Perkins

Past President

Ardys Serpette

Vice President—*Open*

Recording Secretary

Carol Jones

Corresponding Secretary

Cheryl Budde

Treasurer

Rand Veerman

Directors

Acquisitions

Nola Marquardt

Cemetery

Cheryl Budde

Computer

Mike Limer

Distribution

Ruth Wilkerson

Finance

Robert Cullen

Journal—*Open*

Library

Robin Siebert

Membership

Pam Veerman

Newsletter—*Open*

Program—*Open*

Publication

Pam Veerman

Publicity—*Open*

Website

Rand Veerman

**Join MCGS on Tuesday, November 16, 2021 at 6:30 pm
in-person at the McLean County Museum of History
(masks required)**

MCGS 2021 ANNUAL MEETING

Everyone is invited to attend the Annual meeting and Installation of Officers of The McLean County Genealogical Society beginning at 6:30 pm in the Courtroom at the McLean County Museum of History.

Activities for the evening will include a short meeting, approval of the 2022 budget, nominations from the floor for open Board positions, election and installation of officers and directors. The program will offer time for attendees to share genealogy research or treasures and brickwall questions.

For additional information contact Pat Perkins

309-454-4371, <mailto:patp728@outlook.com>

2022 PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Officers

President: Pat Perkins

Vice-President: **Open**

Recording Secretary: Carol Jones

Treasurer: Rand Veerman

Corresponding Secretary: Cheryl Budde

Past-President: Ardys Serpette

Directors

Acquisitions: Nola Marquardt

Cemetery: Cheryl Budde

Computer: Michael Limer

Distribution: Ruth Wilkerson

Finance: Robert Cullen

Journal: **Open**

Library: Robin Siebert

Membership: Pam Veerman

Newsletter: Interim-Susan Pope

Program: **Open**

Publications: Pam Veerman

Publicity: **Open**

Website: Rand Veerman



President's Message

Until I began searching for information on Thanksgiving and how it became a national holiday, I had no idea that it was due to a cause championed by Sarah Josepha Hale in 1827.

Hale was a prominent writer and editor. In 1830, she helped found the *American Ladies Magazine* and became editor of *Godey's Lady Book* in 1837. In 1846, she began a 17-year letter writing campaign to American Presidents to convince them that it was time to make Thanksgiving a National Holiday. By 1854, more than 30 states and U.S. Territories recognized Thanksgiving as a day to celebrate. It wasn't until 1863, when President Lincoln responded to her plea and signed a Proclamation recognizing the last Thursday of November as a National Holiday.

The idea of a national Thanksgiving had been around during the American Revolution and many days were proclaimed by the Continental Congress as days of thanks in honor of many military victories. Confederate President Jefferson Davis issued Thanksgiving Day Proclamations after Southern victories in 1861 and 1862 during the Civil War. It wasn't until 1863, when President Lincoln responded to Hale's plea and signed a Proclamation recognizing the last Thursday of November as a national holiday. The Proclamation was issued in an attempt to help heal the wounds of the nation after the Civil War.

Additional information on the history of Thanksgiving can be found on History.com

"Thanksgiving: A Timeline of the Holiday" <https://www.history.com/news/thanksgiving-timeline>

Happy Thanksgiving, everyone!

Pat Perkins, President



Looking Ahead . . .

November 9, 2021:	7:30 pm Board Meeting Zoom
November 16, 2021:	6:30 pm Public Annual Meeting, "A Time to Share" (see below)
December 2021:	MCGS is on Winter Break
January 18, 2022	6:30 pm Public Meeting, Zoom Only, "Unusual Resources" by Susan Kaufman, MLIS, FTxSGS Senior Manager, Houston Public Library, Clayton Library Center for Genealogical research, Houston, TX
February 5, 2022	1:00 pm Public Meeting, MCMH Courtroom & Zoom "Introduction to HeritageHub and Black Life in America, BPL's 2 New Genealogy Resources" by Mimi Davis, Electronic Services Librarian, Bloomington Public Library
April 19, 2022	6:30 pm Public Meeting, MCMH Courtroom "Resources at the McLean County Clerk's Office" by Kathy Michael, McLean County Clerk
May 17, 2022	6:30 pm Public Meeting, MCMH Courtroom & Zoom "1950 Census" by Tina Beaird, genealogy and local history librarian, author, lecturer and owner of Tamarack Genealogy
July 19, 2022	Cemetery Program, 6:30 pm. Details forthcoming.
September 2022	TBA
October 2022	TBA
November 15, 2022	6:30 pm Public Annual Meeting & Installation of Officers and Directors MCMH Courtroom
December 2022	MCGS is on Winter Break



MCGS is THANKFUL for its members!

MCGS September 2021 Highlights

Illinois Digital Resources

by Tina Beaird

ILLINOIS DIGITAL RESOURCES was presented by Tina Beaird, owner of Tamarack Genealogy, local history and genealogy librarian, author, and lecturer. During her presentation, Tina reviewed many online resources that genealogists can access as they explore their family history. Many of these resources are available for free. Check with your local library to see if they subscribe to databases such as Ancestry, Family Search, Internet Archive, Find A Grave, Linkpendium, and Archivgrid. If you have a library card for your home library, these databases may be available to use from other places with a WIFI connection or may be restricted to use only at the library.

If you haven't tried it yet, you are able to access the Illinois State Archives that is found at www.cyberdriveillinois.com. Indexes to database records are available for Illinois civil war muster rolls, birth, death, marriage, servitude and emancipation records. The IRAD (Illinois Regional Archives Depository System) contains county specific records. Information is also available from the Illinois State Library (Illinois Digital Archive), Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries and Chicago Collections Consortium.

There are so many options to try such as: Digital Public Library (<https://dp.la/>), Digital Research Library of Illinois (<http://livinghistoryofillinois.com>), and Illinois Digital Archive (www.idaillinois.org). They may have just the information that you may need!



Our Research Volunteers Are Happy to Assist You!

Many of you have ancestry.com or newspapers.com accounts which help you locate information about your McLean County ancestors. For those of you who don't have those accounts and for those of you who aren't able to come to McLean County to do research, our researchers are happy to assist you. Local resources could, and many times do, include materials not available on ancestry.com or newspapers.com.

Email requests should go to: mcs.research@gmail.com. Emailed requests should be followed with a \$10 check for the first two surnames and, if needed, a \$5 check for each additional surname. Please send your check, along with a copy of your request to MCGS, Attn: Corresponding Secretary, P. O. Box 488, Normal, IL 61761-0488.

Please submit a family group sheet, or at least as much information as you have about an individual or family, so that research isn't duplicated and that a foundation for research is provided.



IF ONLY THEY COULD FIND IT!

Did you know that MCGS' Gleanings is distributed throughout the United States and Canada and is available to anyone at many genealogical societies and public libraries? Please consider contributing any of the following for possible publication. MCGS is always interested in reviewing publishable material.

*Information you hold in your personal collections could be a treasure trove for other genealogists, and maybe help you make connections, **if only they could find it!***

- Have you created a database for information referring to McLean County, a surrounding county, Illinois, or even other areas of the U.S.?
- Have you walked a cemetery and recorded all of a specific name such as Armstrong, Miller, Wilson, etc. and created a database of this information? Did you take pictures of the monuments? Do you or someone in your family have the sexton's records?
- Was one of your family members the first to own property in Illinois?
- Can you share information about a family-owned business in McLean County?
- Do you have an ancestor's Bible? An image of the original pages with recorded information would be great along with a transcription.
- Family oral history can provide many clues. Do you have an interesting story to tell?

These are just a few examples of what could be submitted. Questions about whether a specific article would be suitable can be sent to one of the email addresses shown below. Any number of submissions will be appreciated.

Word or Excel format is preferred, between 1/2 to 4 pages in length. Send submissions or questions to mcsjournal@gmail.com or mcsdirectors@gmail.com with attachments or mail to:

MCGS, Attention: Journal Editor, PO Box 488, Normal, IL 61761-0488

Whether you make an in-person visit, or request information via email, the MCGS and MCMH Library and Archives staff and volunteers are here to help with your research questions. See our contact information on the last page of this Newsletter.



McLean County Museum of History

Photos by
William P. LaBounty



On the Courthouse Square, Bloomington, Illinois

Contact: P.O. Box 488, Normal, IL 61761-0488
Library: 309-827-0428, ext. 28
<mailto:mcgs.directors@gmail.com>

Visit: McLean County Museum of History
Stevenson-Ives Library
200 North Main Street, 2nd Floor
Downtown Bloomington

Online: mcgs.org

Library/Archives: Appointments recommended

Museum: Opened to the public May 1, 2021.

For details please visit:

<https://www.mchisory.org/visit>

During their shifts, volunteers in the Stevenson-Ives Library are available to help visitors with their research.



The McLean County Genealogical Society

P. O. Box 488, Normal, IL 61761-0488

Email: mcgs.directors@gmail.com

coming soon - NEW WEBSITE ADDRESS: tmcgs.org

January 1 through December 31

Membership YEAR -

Please complete this form. Mail with your check to: MCGS at the above address.

Please inform us if you change your Mailing Address or Email Address at the above Email address. Newsletters and Journals are sent electronically via Email Addresses.

PLEASE ENCLOSE A SASE if membership card is needed. Cards can also be printed online at tmcgs.org. MCGS memberships allow FREE entry to the McLean County Museum of History where our library is housed.

NOTE: NEW MEMBERSHIP CLASSES: INDIVIDUAL - \$20 OR FAMILY - \$25

☐ Mr ☐ Mrs ☐ Mr & Mrs ☐ Ms ☐ Miss ☐ Dr Current Memb No. _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip + 4 _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Spouse/Other Names _____

We welcome new MCGS Board members. If you have a desire to participate and share your ideas and knowledge, please contact us at: mcgs.directors@gmail.com

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!!

Ask what you can do to help.

Data entry / typist are always needed

You could write an article for the Journal sharing your Genealogy and how it relates to McLean County

Suggestions for programs for the public meetings are needed.

Become a Board Member or Committee Member

☐ Send Newsletters & Journals via USPS (additional \$15.00 required for printing & postage enclosed)

DONATIONS TO MCGS		Please enter \$ amounts enclosed:	
Undesignated donations will be applied to our Endowment Fund.			
We appreciate your tax-deductible donations towards:			
Acquisitions	\$ _____	Individual membership @ \$20	\$ _____
Endowment	\$ _____	Family membership @ \$25	\$ _____
Equipment	\$ _____	USPS mailing = \$15	\$ _____
Website	\$ _____	Total Donations	\$ _____
		TOTAL ENCLOSED	\$ _____

Mailing charges are based on members living in the 48 contiguous states. If you live in Alaska, Hawaii, Canada, or another country, please feel free to contact MCGS at mcgs.directors@gmail.com for printing and postage fee requirement.

Family membership consists of up to 5 additional people in the same household. They can be a spouse and/or children under the age of 21.