



NEWSLETTER

McLean County Genealogical Society

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UNUSUAL SOURCE RECORDS FOR GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH OR THIS IS SOME COOL STUFF!

Presented by: **Susan Kaufman**

January 18, 2022 6:30pm CST

Susan Kaufman, Senior Manager of the Houston (TX) Public Library's Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research in Houston, Texas. An Illinois native, Susan has more than 30 years of experience as a genealogy librarian and in Special Collections.

The Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research is consistently named one of the ten best genealogical research facilities in the United States. This collection, part of the Houston Public Library, is an international resource in Houston. An overview of the materials available for research and searching strategies will be presented.

A presenter at local, state and national genealogy conferences and meetings, she also has held numerous genealogical society board positions in Illinois, Indiana, and Texas and at the national level with the Federation of Genealogical Societies.

There are many source materials for family history research often not thought of, or out of the mainstream of research. An overview of these really cool and unusual sources will be discussed. At the very least, you will walk out saying...wow, that Was some cool stuff.

Join us on ZOOM to hear an interesting and informative program by this dynamic speaker. Her interest and knowledge of all thing's genealogy comes across in any program she presents. If you have attended any of her programs at past conferences, you know what I am talking about. If you haven't had an opportunity to hear Susan previously, now would be the time to take advantage of this opportunity.

Time: Jan 18, 2022 06:30 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85676093520?pwd=WG4rSGtVYy92VIYxbTE2UnhPM2VUdz09>

Meeting ID: 856 7609 3520 Passcode: 510810

One tap mobile +13126266799,,85676093520#,,,,*510810# US (Chicago)

+13017158592,,85676093520#,,,,*510810# US (Washington DC)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85676093520?pwd=WG4rSGtVYy92VIYxbTE2UnhPM2VUdz09>

President's Message



Have you run across any interesting or unusual stories or incidents that had you giggle or laugh? Maybe you had an opposite reaction—"Oh no, I can't believe that happened"! or "what were they thinking"? As I was scrolling through some websites, I ran across a few items that caused giggles. In the 19th century, a foot race was used to break a tie for an election for the mayor of a town. Another entry told of a family that named their children after different emotions. One was named "Thankful." She married a man whose last name was "Puffer." No smoking habits of Thankful Puffer were mentioned. An individual identified as a "stripper" in census records turned out to be a tobacco stripper who worked at a business that produced tobacco products. In another state, many people that were listed as "hookers" in census records were employed as rug hookers at a local factory.

There are some situations in our family where things have happened that have resulted in these kinds of reactions. George and I met on Halloween 1970 and were engaged on Halloween two years later. (No, we didn't get married on Halloween). One of George's uncles had a visitation on Halloween night, a few years later. Because the visitation was going on, the outside light was on and as you might guess, some Trick or Treaters came to the door and yelled, "Trick or Treat"! when the door was opened. When they saw what was going on inside, they stood there with their mouths open. I don't know if it was because of what they saw or the fact that no one had any candy for them. I guess that was a trick they weren't expecting. Everyone agreed that it was so appropriate because the uncle was a real "trickster."

There were more stories of opposite reactions either by the person or families involved. The parents of a child born out of wedlock got married at a police station after the dad was arrested for non-support. The condition of his release was that the parents be married before he was released. Another shot-gun wedding? Another newspaper article told of a man being castrated during interrogation. No mention of what his crime was to warrant such drastic measures.

Unusual items are often left to survivors in a will. A board was bequeathed to a son-in-law. It was the same board the father-in-law used to hit him over the head. A motorist was killed after crashing through a fence while eating a banana. The moral of the story--don't eat while driving. A hole in the roof of a home that had not been repaired was the cause of the instant death of a person who was standing in the wrong place at the wrong time directly under the hole when a lightning bolt hit right through the hole. No one else in the room was injured.

Now is the time to write down those situations that cause giggles or laughter or "Oh, dear" moments. If you have a story that you would be willing to share, feel free to drop a line to the society at mcs.directors@gmail.org. Any submissions might be posted in a future newsletter or journal.

Best wishes for 2022 and Happy genealogy hunting!

Pat Perkins, President

Our very best wishes for a happy, healthy 2022!

The MCGS Board of Directors

Looking Ahead . . .

January 18, 2022	6:30 pm Public Meeting, Zoom Only, "Unusual Source Records for Genealogical Research OR This Is Some Real Cool Stuff!" by Susan Kaufman, MLIS, 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	Benjaminville Cemetery PowerPoint presentation, 6:30 pm. MCMH Courtroom.
September 2022	TBA
November 15, 2022	6:30 pm Public Annual Meeting & Installation of Officers and Directors MCMH Courtroom
December 2022	MCGS Winter Break

**Our Research Volunteers Are Happy to Assist You!**

Many of you have [ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) or [newspapers.com](https://www.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](https://www.ancestry.com) or [newspapers.com](https://www.newspapers.com).

Email requests should go to: mogs.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.

Don't miss February's Program!

**INTRODUCTION TO HERITAGEHUB AND BLACK LIFE IN AMERICA
BPL'S 2 NEW GENEALOGY RESOURCES**

Presented by: Mimi Davis

Feb 5, 2022 1:00 PM Central Time

Join us in the Courtroom at the Mclean County Museum of History OR by ZOOM

Did you know that the Bloomington Public Library has two new resources to help you research your family tree? Mimi Davis, Electronic Resources Librarian at Bloomington Public Library will introduce them to you and share some tips and tricks in this presentation.

HeritageHub: Discover obituary information spanning more than 200 years with content from all 50 states – including hard-to-find information from the 1940's, 50's, 60's.

Black Life in America: While not strictly for genealogists, there's a wealth of information available in Black Life America. Explore and gain a deeper understanding of the African American experience as recorded by the news media, 1704 through today.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89063249350?pwd=Z2laRDQ0U1RPRUVXNHE4eFpBNXA1dz09>

Meeting ID: 890 6324 9350

Passcode: 743725

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,89063249350#,,,,*743725# US (Chicago)

+13017158592,,89063249350#,,,,*743725# US (Washington DC)

Meeting ID: 890 6324 9350

Passcode: 743725

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kcSulfTj2>

For additional information, log into tmcgs.org or contact Pat Perkins at 309-454-4371

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.

MCGS HAS A NEW WEBSITE!

Visit <https://www.tmcgs.org> for updated news and useful information!

EVERYONE CAN VIEW:

- Future program announcements, emergency or weather-related closures
- McLean County cemeteries
- Research aids
- Items of genealogical interest
- *Gleanings* searchable indexes

MEMBERS CAN ACCESS ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- Gleanings PDFs: All 176 issues of *Gleanings* 1967 through the present
- "Illinois Digital Resources" a webinar presented by Tina Beard

YOU CAN JOIN OR RENEW MCGS MEMBERSHIPS ONLINE!

- Current members can request mailing of future print copies of *Gleanings* for an additional \$15 to the following address: MCGS, Membership Director. P. O. Box 488, Normal, IL 61761-0488.
- Libraries and institutions should sign up for an individual membership and request printed publications.

REMINDER:

The MCGS Library is on the 2nd floor of the McLean County Museum of History (address on page 7). The building is handicapped accessible and has an elevator. Admission is FREE for MCGS members. The library has extended hours on Tuesdays until 8:00 pm.





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 mogs.journal@gmail.com or mogs.directors@gmail.com with attachments or mail to:

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



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: <https://www.tmcgs.org>

Library/Archives: Appointments recommended

Museum: Open to the public.
Masks required. 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.