



NEWSLETTER

McLean County Genealogical Society

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GENEALOGY TREASURES IN CEMETERY RECORDS

Presented by Suz Bates

Tuesday, July 19, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

Join us on Zoom



Q: I have found cemeteries I need to visit. How do I even start?

R: Cemetery, funeral home, and stonecutter records hold clues to your family history whether you are searching online, locally, or out of state.

Suz Bates, a local genealogist, will give some onsite and online hints for this unique research including often overlooked cemetery record treasures. She has been researching her family history for over 45 years. After a full career in education, she now combines teaching skills with extensive genealogy research experience and training as a presenter, researcher, and consultant. Suz's presentation specialty is step-by-step instruction for researching, archiving, and using technology for genealogists and family historians.

This program is free and open to the public.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81411781991?pwd=c2NVclcrSIRnaDNrNXJVVjhRR2dRdz09>

Meeting ID: 814 1178 1991

Passcode: 552884

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kVKBBa0tX>

President's Message



One of my favorite research places because of all the interesting topics is the National Archives in Washington, D.C. It is a “must” place to see if you are planning a trip to this area. Just make sure that you have checked on all the requirements in order to know what you must do to make your time there beneficial. There are many books and other items that require you to make an appointment in advance. However, there are many things that you are able to receive tips on how to treat the items in your possession. The following category was of special interest to our family for some of the situations.

To see a small section of information, check on the following:

<https://www.archives.gov/research>

Choose the area listed as:

Research in the National Archives Catalog

Click on “Research our Records”

Click on “Catalog Guide for Genealogists”

Click on “Preserving Family Records”

How to Preserve Family Archives (papers and photographs)

Handling Family Papers and Photographs

Storing Family Papers and Photographs

Displaying Family Papers and Photographs

Digitizing Family Papers and Photographs

Repairing Damage to Family Papers and Photographs

What to do about Moldy or Insect-infested Family Papers and Photographs

More About Caring for Family Papers and Photographs

Converting Home Movies to Video Tape

Unfortunately, you may need to hire a conservator to evaluate and treat the treasured item with great care. Check the tips for other papers and photographs before you attempt any restoration.

Happy researching!

Pat Perkins, President

Looking Ahead . . .

July 19, 2022	6:30 pm Public Meeting. Join us on Zoom. "Genealogy Treasures In Cemetery Records" by Suz Bates, local genealogist with a presentation specialty of step-by-step instruction in researching, archiving, and technology skills.
August 2022	MCGS Summer Break
September 17, 2022	1:00 pm Public Meeting. Join us on Zoom for this prerecorded webinar. "3 Cool Cases Solved: How to Identify Your Photos" by Lisa Louise Cooke, <i>Genealogy Gems</i> .
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: mcgs.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.

REMINDER:

The MCGS holdings are located in the Stevenson-Ives Library on the 2nd floor of the McLean County Museum of History (address on the last page of this Newsletter). 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.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:

The Museum is getting a new elevator in late summer. Please visit [mchistory.org](https://www.mchistory.org) for updates on scheduled events and alternative accommodations.

MCGS May 2022 Highlights

BECOMING A CENSUS SENSEI

Tina Beard presented a very interesting and educational program on May 17, 2022 on ZOOM.

Topics covered:

United States Federal Census—Federal Law that the Census be done every 10 years.

Non-population Schedules

State-Territorial Census

School Census

Military Census

Native American Census

The first Census began August 2, 1790 and was completed May 1, 1791. There were nearly 4 million Americans counted, however 5 state records were lost-Delaware, Florida, Georgia, New Jersey and Virginia.

Prior to the 1850 Census, the records were recorded with hash marks. The 1850 Census was the first time that every name was listed. The 1890 Census was largely destroyed in a fire in Washington, D.C., in 1921. A few fragmented county records remain for some states. In Illinois, only McDonough County, has some of their county records.

The Federal Census was not conducted in one day but over several weeks. Some Census takers added notes including addresses, location of the home with details on how to find the place (such as: down a dirt road, lives in a trailer), relationship to residents of the home, length of residency, etc. Incorrect information was recorded 50% of the time-most often incorrect area recorded was age. Institutions (jails, poor farms, hospitals, orphanages, institutions etc.) can be at the end of the regular census volumes, but a handful are separate.

Non-population schedule books were also recorded during certain years during Census surveys.

Schedules are separate books recording additional questions pertaining to dedicated subjects.

The 1950 census was released on April 1, 2022 and included two new questions. How much money did you make last year and how much money did others in the household make last year? There was also a bonus question for males only regarding military participation. Women were not allowed to answer military questions for men in the family.

State Census records were recorded at Statehood and at the 5-year mark. The records varied from a single sheet to multiple sheets. Not all states conducted this type of Census records-Ohio, Vermont, West Virginia, and Texas (Texas, taken in 1826 while still a Mexican Territory).

School Census (schedules)-by district and school age up to 21 years old regardless of attendance. The head of the household would verify the number of children of school age.

Military records-quite a list of Census records is at Illinois Regional Archives Depositories. This is just a selection of some of the records that you could find. Different Regional Archives would hold information for the Illinois Counties they cover. Check with them to verify what Military information they have available at their location.

1818-Revolutionary War Pensioners

1862- Illinois Civil War (Illinois Civil War Military Census records can be found on microfilm at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois or through an LDS Affiliate).

1840-Federal Pensioners

1890-Veterans Schedule (Alabama destroyed in fire).

1930-Veterans Status

1940-Questions on the Census if you, spouse, or parent served in the military

1950-Two new questions and the bonus question for males only

Native American-Census records were sporadic until 1884 then the Bureau of Indian Affairs began collecting data for reservations annually from 1884-1930. Records incomplete.

For more information, check out The McLean County Genealogical Society Website to join and for more information on "Becoming A Census Sensei" by Tina Beaird, log into "Member's Only" section for programs.

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 Beaird

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.



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:mchg.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.
Handicapped accessible. For details visit:
<https://www.mchistory.org/visit/>
FREE admission for MCGS members.

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