

NEWSLETTER

McLean County Genealogical Society

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LISA LOUISE COOKE PRESENTS TAP YOUR INNER PRIVATE EYE: 9 STRATEGIES FOR FINDING YOUR LIVING RELATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2023, 6:30 p.m.

Lisa Louise Cooke is a nationally known presenter on everything genealogical. She has a free podcast, Genealogy Gems, which is available thru your podcast provider.

Do you have hundreds of DNA matches that are unnamed because they are living? Does your tree die out as you get into modern times?

Let Lisa help you to find those living relatives and complete your tree.



Join us for this free ZOOM presentation [here!](#)

Visit [our website](#) for details

President's Message

FUN, COOL, INTERESTING & FREE!



I want to make everyone aware of something I recently discovered that I think is Fun, Cool, Interesting and FREE concerning genealogy. I recently discovered I am related to George Washington. Yes, that George—the guy on the ONE DOLLAR BILL.

While it is known in genealogy that going back far enough, many of us are likely related to one another; but documenting that tree of relations to see who the common ancestor is can be overwhelming. Fortunately, FamilySearch has done the heavy lifting and I only had to do a small part.

FamilySearch (www.familysearch.org) has an annual genealogical conference with top presenters around the world discussing topics that range from DNA to Irish church records. With Covid, the conference went virtual in 2021 and 2022. Coming March 2-March 4, 2023, will be RootsTech 2023. You can attend in person in Salt Lake City at a cost of \$98 or virtually for FREE. Sign up today at:

<https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/event/rt2023>

For the last two years, if you attended RootsTech, you would be asked if you would like your tree to be submitted to the big tree that results when all attendee's trees are combined. Last year I was told that I had over 2,000 relatives attending. I could click on any of those names and a tree would appear showing our relatives back to the common relative. Of course, you may attend RootsTech and keep your information private if you choose.

FamilySearch has added a discover genealogy page (<https://www.familysearch.org/discovery/>) to their website such that after you create a login and password and input a basic tree - you can see your famous ancestors and how you are related to them. George Washington is my 5th Cousin Eight Times Removed. Our common ancestor is John Halstead II (1535-1632) – gosh that man lived a long time for those days. I hope I got a lot of his DNA (mathematically not possible). John was born in Westbury, Gloucestershire, England.

This is not the same as being a direct descendant of George Washington, but it is close. We still share DNA, just not as much as if I was a direct relative. Still very FUN, COOL, INTERESTING, and FREE

I encourage everyone to sign up for RootsTech and see the thousands of new connections that await you without any trips to the library on your part.

Fight COVID and FLU boredom and sign up today!

<https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/event/rt2023>

If you need assistance using ZOOM, please contact me at <https://tmcgs.org/events/>.

Looking Ahead . . .

January 17, 2023	6:30 pm Public Lisa Louis Cooke: "Tap Into Your Inner Private Eye: 9 Strategies for Finding Your Living Relatives" ZOOM
March 21, 2023	6:30 pm ZOOM Program to be announced
May 16, 2023	6:30 pm ZOOM Program to be announced
September 19, 2023	6:30 pm ZOOM Program to be announced
November 21, 2023	6:30 pm Annual General Membership Meeting – Officers Election (If we have a program, it will be announced in advance.)



Let's have a conversation...

**MCQS NEEDS A FEW PEOPLE
TO PITCH IN SHORT-TERM OR
WITH MORE EXTENDED PROJECTS.**

**And maybe you need to be
more engaged!**

**What are your talents?
Finance / Publicity / Creative Writing
Indexing / Editing / Digitizing / Other**

**Email us if you can contribute some time—lots or a little—
and tell us what you like to do.
We'll have some ideas for you.**

IT'S YOUR CALL—HOW CAN YOU HELP?

mcqs.directors@gmail.com

The McLean County Genealogical Society

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MCGS WEBSITE NEWS – tmcgs.org

NEW! We have added hundreds of family trees to the members side of the site. Trees that were submitted by our members over the years are now a resource for you. If you would like to assist in making an index for these trees, please contact Rand at mcgs.president@gmail.com.


Visit tmcgs.org for announcements about future programs along with weather related or emergency closures. Our website highlights McLean County cemeteries, research aids, and other items of genealogical interest.

Benefits for members include access to past webinars:

- “Illinois Digital resources” by Tina Beaird
- “Becoming a Census Sensei” by Tina Beaird
- “Unusual Sources” by Susan Kaufman
- “New Databases at Bloomington Public Library” by Mimi Davis

Members can also enjoy 177 PDF issues of our journal, *Gleanings*. Members and non-members have access to *Gleanings* indexes.


Regular feature on tmcgs.org—Peak into the past with Jack Keefe as he presents “Back in the Day” a daily history of events from the past at <https://tmcgs.org/jack-keefe/>




GLEANINGS

FROM THE HEART OF THE CORNBELT

The McLean County Genealogical Society
Bloomington, Illinois




SCOGIN HILL CEMETERY



"...The General and His Street"

McLean County MLB Players



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***GLEANINGS* Needs Your Family History!**

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 your family history for possible inclusion in *Gleanings*.

Information you hold in your personal collections could be a treasure trove for other genealogists and might help you make connections as well!

Send submissions or questions to mcgs.journal@gmail.com or mcgs.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.
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.