

LOCAL "BRICK AND MORTAR" RESOURCES

SANDRA WHITESIDE TRAPP

May 27, 2021

SOME GENEALOGICAL GROUPS THAT MEET IN THE CHICAGOLAND AREA

Always check the organization's web site for the most current meeting information.

AFRO-AMERICAN GENEALOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CHICAGO

<http://www.aaghsc.org/> aaghs@yahoo.com

This society meets every 2nd Sunday at 1:15 pm at the Atlas Senior Citizens Center, 1767 East 79th Street, Chicago.

BRITISH INTEREST GROUP OF WISCONSIN AND ILLINOIS - BIGWILL

<http://www.bigwill.org> BIGWILLGen@yahoo.com.

Meets at the Community Church, 5714 Broadway Street, Richmond, Illinois, on the 3rd Saturday in the months of January, March, July, September and November at 10 am.

CAGGNI

COMPUTER ASSISTED GENEALOGICAL GROUP OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS

<http://caggni.org/> webmaster@caggni.org

Membership meetings are on the 3rd Saturday of the month at 10:30 and are usually held at the Schaumburg Public Library, 130 S. Roselle Road. No meeting in December. Special programs are offered the 2nd Saturday of some months. Also, Special Interest Groups (check web site for times and dates) for Family Tree Maker, The Master Genealogist, and Reunion computer genealogy programs as well as a Storytellers Group

CHICAGO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

<http://www.chicagogenealogy.org/> info@chicagogenealogy.org

Usually meets at the Newberry Library, 60 W. Walton, Chicago on the first Saturday at 1:30 pm. Check their web site for meeting dates and locations.

THE CZECH & SLOVAK AMERICAN GENEALOGY SOCIETY OF ILLINOIS.

<http://www.csagsi.org> info@csagsi.org

Devoted to Bohemian, Moravian, Slovakian, Silesian & Carpatho/Ruthenian (Ukraine) heritage. Meetings are held about four times a year at the 1st Presbyterian Church, 150 S. Ashland, LaGrange. The CSAGSI Paul Nemecek Library materials are located at the Riverside Library.

DUPAGE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

<http://www.dcgs.org>

webcoordinator@dcgs.com

Meets September through May on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7 pm usually at the Wheaton Public Library, 225 North Cross Street, Wheaton.

ELGIN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

<http://www.elginroots.com>

[Online Contact Form](#)

Meets twice monthly except in December on the first Tuesday of each month at 9:30 am and the third Thursday of each month at 7 pm. Meetings are held at the Gail Borden Public Library, 270 N. Grove, Elgin.

FOUNTAINDALE LIBRARY GENEALOGY CLUB

<http://fountaindalegenealogy.wordpress.com/>

<http://fountaindale.org/adults/genealogy>

Meets the second Wednesday, January through June and September through November, at the Fountaindale Public Library, 300 West Briarcliff, Bolingbrook at 7 pm.

FOX VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

<http://www.ilfvgs.org/>

ilfvgs@gmail.com

Nine monthly general meetings on the 2nd Thursday, September through June (except December) at 7:30 PM in the Naperville Municipal Center, 400 South Eagle, Naperville.

INDIAN PRAIRIE LIBRARY GENEALOGY GROUP

<http://ipgg.wordpress.com/>

630-887-8760

Meets at the Indian Prairie Library at the corner of Plainfield Road and Clarendon Hills Road in Darien on the 4th Thursday of the month with the exception of the month of November, when they meet the 3rd Thursday, and the month of December when there is no meeting. Meeting time is 1:00 pm.

JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF ILLINOIS

<http://www.jgsi.org>

info@jgsi.org

Usually meets monthly on Sundays at Temple Beth-El, 3610 Dundee Road, Northbrook, at 2 pm. Their library opens on meeting dates at 12:30.

KANE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

<http://www.kcgasillinois.org> kcgsinfo@gmail.com

They, usually, meet monthly on the 4th Thursday at the Geneva History Center, 113 South Third Street, Geneva, at 7:30 pm.

LAKE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

<https://www.lakecountyilgenealogy.org> lcigs1170@yahoo.com

Meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday, January through October at 7:00 pm at the Mundelein Park District, 1401 N. Midlothian, Mundelein.

LOCKPORT AREA GENEALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

<http://www.lockporthistory.org/> Info@lockporthistory.org

Meetings of the general membership are held at least 10 months out of the year. Some meetings are held courtesy of the Lockport Township Park District, at the Gladys Fox Museum located at the SW corner of 9th and Washington streets. Please note that all times, locations and speakers subject to change.

MCHENRY COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

<http://www.mcigs.org/> [Online contact form](#)

Usually meet 2nd Thursday of each month at The Pointe, 5650 Northwest Highway in Crystal Lake

NORTH SUBURBAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

<http://nsgsil.wildapricot.org> NSGS@nsgsil.org

Meetings are on the 2nd Saturday during the months of January through October at the Northbrook Historical Society, 1776 Walters Avenue, Northbrook, at 1 pm.

NORTHWEST SUBURBAN GENEALOGY SOCIETY

<http://nwsgenealogy.org/> info@nwscg.com

Meets on the first Saturday of each month, except the months of June, July, August and December at the Arlington Heights Senior Center, 1801 West Central Road, Arlington Heights. Meeting time is 10 am.

HELEN PLUM LIBRARY GENEALOGY GROUP
<http://helenplum.org/resources/genealogy>

This group meets the 4th Tuesday of every month at 7 pm at the Helen Plumb Library in Lombard. Research assistance is offered on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month from 6 to 8 pm.

POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
<http://www.pgsa.org/> PGSAmerica@pgsa.org

Meetings are held usually on the 2nd Sunday during the months of February, August, and November. May meeting is on the 3rd Sunday. Meetings are held at 984 North Milwaukee, home of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America at 2 pm.

SOUTH SUBURBAN GENEALOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY
<http://ssghs.org/> info@ssghs.org

Membership meetings are on the second Saturday of each month at 10 am in the Municipal Center, 3000 West 170th Place, Hazelcrest. There are no meetings in December or January. Non-members are charged \$3 per meeting.

SCHAUMBURG LIBRARY GENEALOGY GROUP
<http://genealogywithtony.wordpress.com/> [Online contact form](#)

Meets 2nd Tuesday of the month at the Schaumburg Township District Library at 130 South Roselle Road, Schaumburg at 7:30. Some meetings have speakers and some have break-outs groups.

TINLEY MORAINÉ GENEALOGISTS
<http://tmgenealogists.wixsite.com/tmgenealogists> tinleymoraine@yahoo.com

Meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of the month at the Tinley Park Public Library, 7851 Timber Drive, Tinley Park, starting at 6:45 pm. No meetings in the summer.

ZION GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ilzgs/> ziongenealogy@aol.com

Meetings are usually held the third Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Beach Park Village Hall, 11270 West Wadsworth, Beach Park.

SOME LIBRARIES WITH GENEALOGY RESOURCES

ABRAHAM LINCOLN LIBRARY, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

<http://presidentlincoln.illinois.gov/learn/scholars-researchers/research-divisions>

Resources include family genealogies, county histories, atlases, plat books, vital records transcriptions and indexes, etc. Has historical newspapers. Many materials can be acquired through interlibrary loan.

ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY, FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

<https://acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy>

Second largest genealogical library in the United States. Unique resources: state censuses, Native American records, city directories for many cities including foreign, family genealogies, manuscript collections on microfilm, good resources for the UK and Germany and selection of genealogical and historical periodicals.

AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY LIBRARY, MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

<http://uwm.edu/libraries/agsl>

Western Hemisphere's foremost geography and map collections of the world. Collection has maps, atlases, books, periodicals, film media and digital data files.

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS MEMORIAL LIBRARY, ARLINGTON HEIGHTS

<http://www.ahml.info/research/genealogy>

One of the best genealogical collections of the Chicago area public libraries. FamilySearch affiliate.

CASA ITALIA, STONE PARK

**<https://casaitaliachicago.org/libary-museums/#Roselli>
info@casaitaliachicago.org**

Library and Museum devoted to Italian history and culture.

CHICAGO HISTORY MUSEUM RESEARCH CENTER, CHICAGO

**<http://www.chicagohistory.org>
<http://libguides.chicagohistory.org/research>**

Holdings include Chicago directories 1839 to the present and some suburban directories, Chicago newspapers, yearbooks from public and professional schools, newspapers (some foreign language), some fire insurance maps for Chicago and adjacent suburbs. Chicago related books, periodicals, manuscripts, prints, photographs, maps, and architectural information.

FOUNTAINDALE PUBLIC LIBRARY, BOLINGBROOK
<http://www.fountaindale.org/>

Collection includes Bolingbrook-area related materials along with other resources. This library is a FamilySearch affiliate.

HAROLD WASHINGTON LIBRARY, CHICAGO
CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARIES
<http://www.chipublic.org/>

This library has a good collection of historical newspapers, city directories and telephone directories. 9th floor has neighborhood information for central and south areas of the city.

ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS
<http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/>

Holdings include county histories and atlases, maps and Illinois Civil War records.

INDIAN PRAIRIE LIBRARY, DARIEN
<http://www.ippl.info>
<https://www.ippl.info/learn-research/databases-all-topics>

This library is an affiliate LDS Family History Center

IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER LIBRARY, CHICAGO
<http://irish-american.org/>

Resources include Famine Immigrants series, Families of County Galway, Kerry, Clare, clan books, Belfast and County Down gravestones, immigrant and passenger lists, Search for Missing Friends series.

NEWBERRY LIBRARY, CHICAGO
<http://www.newberry.org>
Finding Aids - <http://www.newberry.org/genealogy-collection-guides-and-research-tools>
Requesting materials – <http://requests.newberry.org>

This library has the largest genealogical collection in the Chicago area. They have a good selection of subscription databases that can be accessed at the library. FamilySearch affiliate.

NORDIC FAMILY GENEALOGY CENTER, CHICAGO
<http://www.swedishamericanmuseum.org/genealogy/>

This center is devoted to Swedish research but also offers programs on general genealogical subjects. Genealogy sessions are held on the 4th Saturday during the months of January through November from 10 am to noon. Non-members will be charged \$10 to attend.

OAK LAWN PUBLIC LIBRARY, OAK LAWN
<https://www.olpl.org>

Excellent selection of genealogy materials in book form.

PLAINFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT, PLAINFIELD
<http://www.plainfieldpubliclibrary.org/>

This library serves as a FamilySearch affiliate

WHEATON PUBLIC LIBRARY, WHEATON
<http://www.wheatonlibrary.org>

Good collection of books for U. S. research and is a FamilySearch affiliate.

WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY LIBRARY, MADISON, WISCONSIN
<http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/genealogy>
Resources: <https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Article/CS15324>
(Click on Browse)

Resources for all of North America including passenger lists, federal censuses and Wisconsin state censuses, city directories, vital records transcriptions, county histories, etc. They have the 2nd largest newspaper collection in the U.S

SOME ARCHIVES IN THE AREA

ILLINOIS STATE ARCHIVES, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

RESEARCH SERVICES - <http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/services.html>

The Archives houses records created by state and federal agencies such as census records, records of Illinois land bought from the federal government, Illinois military records, etc.

ILLINOIS REGIONAL ARCHIVES DEPOSITORIES, ILLINOIS UNIVERSITIES

<http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/IRAD/home.html>

Record topics vary from county to county, but may include probate, land, naturalization, civil and criminal court records and more.

WISCONSIN STATE ARCHIVES, MADISON, WISCONSIN

<https://www.statearchives.us/wisconsin.htm>

The archives holds unpublished materials which may include maps, posters, church records, naturalization, divorce, probate, deeds, military records, manuscript and photograph collections

WISCONSIN AREA RESEARCH CENTERS, WISCONSIN

<https://wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Article/CS4000>

Check their web site to find the repository that has the holdings for the county you are interested in. Holdings may include probate case files and indexes, justice dockets, tax rolls, rural school districts records, naturalization papers, business records, city directories, local newspapers, and records produced by private organizations and individuals.

JOSEPH CARDINAL BERNARDIN ARCHIVES & RECORDS CENTER, CHICAGO

<http://archives.archchicago.org/>

Holdings include sacramental, orphanage, and school records, along with deceased priest files (with restrictions), parish commemorative books, cemetery records, the Archdiocese's Catholic newspaper, school yearbooks and class photographs. An appointment is necessary to access the records.

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA ARCHIVES, ELK GROVE VILLAGE

<http://www.elca.org/archives/>

Be sure to make an appointment with a reference archivist in advance of your research visit. Microfilm, which may be used at the archives, rented or purchased, is of baptisms, marriages, funerals, confirmations, sometimes communions, and membership lists of mostly closed parishes.

CIRCUIT COURT CLERK OF COOK COUNTY ARCHIVES, CHICAGO

<http://www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org/NewWebsite>

Records found at this archive include naturalization, probate, law and chancery cases, divorce, criminal felony, and county court cases.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION GREAT LAKES, CHICAGO

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

chicagoarchives@nara.gov

Finding Aids - <http://www.archives.gov/chicago/holdings/>

Federal records include census, military, civil and bankruptcy court records, agriculture, Native Americans, immigration, naturalization, and much more for sections of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin. If you plan to do research in original records, call before visiting and bring a photo i.d. You can email them.

SOME OTHER RESOURCES

COMMUNITY COLLEGES

College of DuPage

Harper College

College of Lake County

McHenry County College

Joliet Junior College

Moraine Valley Community College

Morton College

Oakton Community College

Prairie State College

Triton College

Waubonsee Community College

CHICAGO CATHOLIC CEMETERIES

Locations - <http://www.catholiccemeterieschicago.org/locationsStart.php?page=1>

Interment Search Request - <http://www.catholiccemeterieschicago.org/genealogicalsearch.php>

Kiosk Locations - <http://www.catholiccemeterieschicago.org/selfServeKiosks.php>

LATTER-DAY SAINTS' FAMILY HISTORY CENTERS

Naperville FHC - <https://sites.google.com/site/napervillefamilyhistorycenter/home>
<https://www.facebook.com/Napervillefamilyhistorycenter>

Each Center has a web site – FamilySearch.org > Get Help> Find Local Help> Type your town name or zip code.

Family History Centers

Buffalo Grove
Chicago Heights
Crystal Lake
DeKalb
Hyde Park
Joliet
Naperville
Orland Park
Schaumburg
Westchester
Wilmette

Affiliate Family History Centers

Algonquin Public Library
Arlington Heights Public Library
Batavia Public Library
Fountaindale Public Library, Bolingbrook
Gail Borden Public Library, Elgin
Glenview Public Library
Indian Prairie Public Library, Darien
LaGrange Park Public Library
Newberry Library, Chicago
Park Ridge Public Library
Plainfield Public Library

Subscription Databases Available at Family History Centers

Access Newspaper Archive
Alexander Street Press – Civil War collection as well as Literature, Music, Women’s History,
Black History, Psychological Counseling & Therapy, Social & Cultural History,
Drama, Theater, Film & Performing Arts, Religion, Sociology
Ancestry Institution Version
ArkivDigital Online
Create Your Own “Who Do You Think You Are?” Story
Findmypast Institution Version
Historical Map Works Library Edition
19th Century British Library Newspaper Digital Archives
Fold 3
Kinpoint
Legacy Stories
MyHeritage.com Library Edition
Paper Trail
Proquest Obituary Listings
Puzzilla.org Premium Services
World Vital Records