

# NEWSLETTER

## McLean County Genealogical Society

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## GENEALOGY MEETUP

### “BRICK WALLS”

IN PERSON or ZOOM

April 9, 2024

2:00 PM

Participants will discuss their genealogy brickwalls  
and exchange ideas for breaking through.

### IN-PERSON LOCATION CHANGE.

Genealogy Meetup gatherings are usually held  
at the Normal Public Library.

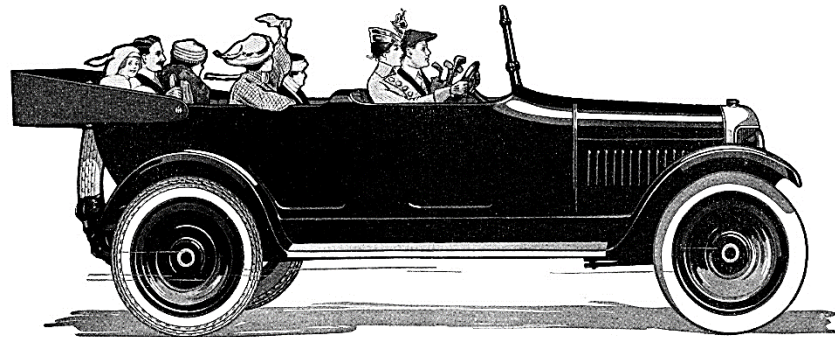
However, the library will be closed for repairs,

so to attend in person please go to:

**104 West North Street, Normal, IL**

Visit [our website](#) for details.

## President's Message



### A NEW DIRECTION

#### TMCGS State of the Society

I apologize for this newsletter being late. I wanted to experience our meeting on March 5 at Normal Public Library to see if it would be successful or not. It was.

Pam and I have been attending the Normal Public Library "Genealogy Meetup" for the last several months. Rhiannon Shoults is the librarian hosting the hybrid meeting at NPL and on ZOOM. The meeting centers around folks introducing themselves and then explaining what "Brick Walls" they need help with. Others will suggest ideas and sources on how they may proceed to find the desired information.

#### Future Events

About 15 people attended the last meeting, with a third of the group being members of TMCGS. Everyone enjoyed the meeting and Rhiannon promises to continue meeting next on April 9. Since the library is being closed for repairs, the meeting will be held at 104 West North Street, Normal. Please keep an eye on our website for location, time, and registration information.

The success of the NPL meetup and feedback from members lets us know that there is a demand for in person meetings, but not at the Bloomington Courthouse at night. Our ZOOM webinars have poor TMCGS member attendance, usually only four or five. The ZOOM meetings are free to all and advertised on a national board, so we routinely get 20 sitting in from around the country. Those webinars typically cost around \$200.

FamilySearch's RootsTech just concluded another great conference with over 350,000 attendees. Free to attend over the internet, it offered education on every aspect of genealogy. Those videos are still available for free. I asked FamilySearch (FS) if our group - which hosts a FamilySearch affiliate library - if we could use FS videos as a meeting focal point, playing the training over ZOOM to attendees and pause as needed for discussion or questions. Their response was approval. Any of the videos available through their site may be replayed by us and used as meeting focal points.

We are planning the rest of the year calendar to be a mix of in person meetings shared with the NPL "Genealogy Meetup" group alternating with ZOOM events. We will book only paid presenters that offer something unique to our location or needs, but general education will come from FS videos.

Continued...

## Looking Ahead . . .

**April 9, 2:00 P.M.** “Genealogy Meetup” IN PERSON or ZOOM. Requires registration through the library. IN-PERSON LOCATION CHANGE. Do not go to the Library! The Normal Public Library will be closed for repairs, so to attend in person, GO TO: 104 West North Street, Normal. The group will discuss brick walls and give each other suggestions on breaking through.

**May 21, 6:30 P.M.** DNA Webinar – ZOOM ONLY

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82737000253?pwd=SHRwYIA5UkFJTW4wZWlwalBQWVhiQT09>

**November 19, 2024** 6:30 pm Annual General Membership Meeting – Officers Election  
(If we have a program, it will be announced in advance.)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86512237580?pwd=em5RRWh0dXY1QVJRRHF6NTRDYnlMUT09>

### Continued:

### Membership:

After a steady loss of members to a low of 89, TMC GS membership is starting to rise. Most of our new members are not local, so I assume they like the website. Our goal is to continue increasing membership and donations. While we have reserves, it is best not to eat up reserves. If you have not yet renewed, please do so now and add a little extra for our efforts.

### Website:

As an organization, we have pledged to promote genealogy, education, and preservation of records. Our expanded website came online about the time of COVID, allowing us to do all three. We have digitized reels of microfilm and made that information available either for free or behind the member’s wall on tmcgs.org. We have digitized important books and made them available free to everyone.

This past year we added over 100 helpful entertaining short videos on genealogy, new books more McLean County birth/death records, tips on photos, tips on AI (artificial intelligence), veterans, and much more. Unfortunately, those who do not use computers or tablets miss out. They may drop out as a result. These people will hopefully participate in our NPL meetups.

### Do You Have Any Needs?


If you have some genealogy needs that are not being met, please let me know. If you read all the way to here, send me an email with some feedback to be entered into a drawing for free 2025 membership. [tmcgs.president@gmail.com](mailto:tmcgs.president@gmail.com)

## Rand Veerman

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

### Condolences


TMC GS Board of Directors extends its condolences to former Board member Lona Juers and her family on the death of her husband, Norman J. Juers, who passed away in Bloomington, IL March 4, 2024.




# GLEANINGS

FROM THE HEART OF THE CORNBELT


The McLean County Genealogical Society  
Bloomington, Illinois




*A Heartland of Horticultural History!*



Benjaminville



Treasures



Hall-Barnard

Volume 56 Number 1

Winter 2023

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

Did you know that the 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 [mcsjournal@gmail.com](mailto:mcsjournal@gmail.com) or [mcsdirectors@gmail.com](mailto:mcsdirectors@gmail.com) with attachments or mail to:

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



*Let's have a conversation...*

**MCGS 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?**

**[mcgs.directors@gmail.com](mailto:mcgs.directors@gmail.com)**



**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:mccgs.directors@gmail.com>

Visit: McLean County Museum of History  
Stevenson-Ives Library  
200 North Main Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.