Kenosha County Genealogy Society

SOUTHPORT ECHO

MEETING TIME / PLACE

- **2nd Monday of the month
  Gateway Technical College
  3320-30th Avenue
  Kenosha, WI 53140**
  (NO MEETINGS JULY & AUGUST)

- Check our Website Calendar for the most up-to-date location at
  www.kengensoc.com

The Fourth of July has been a federal holiday in the United States since 1941, but the tradition of Independence Day celebrations goes back to the 18th century and the American Revolution. On July 2nd, 1776, the Continental Congress voted in favor of independence, and two days later delegates from the 13 colonies adopted the Declaration of Independence, a historic document drafted by Thomas Jefferson. From 1776 to the present day, July 4th has been celebrated as the birth of American independence, with festivities ranging from fireworks, parades and concerts to barbecues.

General Meeting Notes
June 12, 2017

My first year as President has come and gone. It was a great year of learning, experiencing and navigating the world of genealogy. I was fortunate to attend several other society general meetings, and the Federation of Genealogy Society Conference in Springfield, Illinois. I would highly recommend attending other Society events to gain additional knowledge to improve your genealogy research.

Monday, by a unanimous vote of members present we completed our genealogy business year by electing Dawn Jurgens as Vice President and Oren Simpson as Treasurer . I will truly miss my interactions with Frank Klein and Patrick Stulgen. Both have been faithful volunteers, serving KCGS with their talents, enthusiasm and willing spirits.
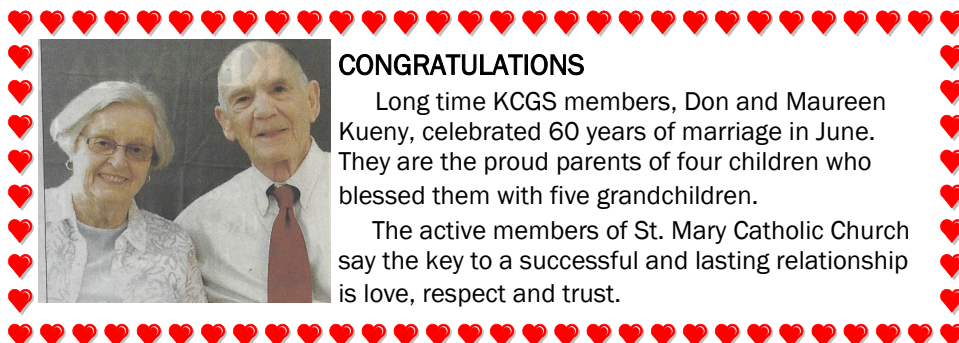
Membership also unanimously approved the 2017 Bylaws. Our Bylaws had not been revised since 2011. These will be posted on our website.

We are in desperate need of volunteers;

- **Historian/Librarian** is now an Open Position. Suzanne Dibble has stepped down after many years of volunteering.

- **Tombstone Project** needs photographers for Sunset Ridge and St. James Cemeteries. Since 2008, KCGS has taken over 50,000 pictures of tombstones from Oakwood Cemetery, Vale Cemetery, and Kenosha County Paupers Cemetery. We completed Green Ridge Cemetery last year.

  June 28th we will have a training session at St. James Cemetery beginning at 7:00pm. Then if you choose, you and a partner will be assigned an area to work at your own pace and time schedule. See Page 9 for details.

Once our business meeting was completed, one of our own members, Jean Hoffmann, presented "Learning to Use WorldCat" which can be used to search for popular books, music CDs and videos—all of the physical items you're used to getting from libraries. Jean explained you can discover many new kinds of digital content, such as downloadable audiobooks, article citations with links to their full text; authoritative research materials, such as documents and photos of local or historic significance; and digital versions of rare items that aren't available to the public. Because WorldCat libraries serve diverse communities in dozens of countries, resources are available in many languages.

CONGRATULATIONS

Long time KCGS members, Don and Maureen Kueny, celebrated 60 years of marriage in June. They are the proud parents of four children who blessed them with five grandchildren.

The active members of St. Mary Catholic Church say the key to a successful and lasting relationship is love, respect and trust.

Research Tips

WHAT ARE THE FOUR BEST FREE GENEALOGY WEBSITES?

ANCESTRALFINDINGS.COM

While subscription genealogy websites have a lot of information that can't be found anywhere else, not everyone can afford a membership, even to the cheaper sites. With the economy the way it is, people have to prioritize their budgets, and as much as genealogy is important to you, it may not be practical to pay between $40 and $400 a year to join such subscription sites as NewspaperArchives.com, Fold3.com, GenealogyBank.com, and Ancestry.com. If you find yourself in this situation, you may be looking for sources of reliable free information online, especially if you've been a member of a subscription site in the past and are used to that quantity and quality of information.

The good news is that there are some free genealogy websites that offer records that are as good as the ones offered on the subscription sites, or almost as good. You can continue doing your genealogy research while you are waiting for your budget to support a subscription membership again. Even if you are a member of one or more subscription sites, the quality free sites make excellent adjuncts to them. Here are the four best free genealogy websites you should be using, whether you have access to a membership site or are waiting until you are in a financial position to join one.

1. The U.S. GenWeb Project ~ This is one of the original free genealogy websites, and has been in existence since the late 1990's. Each state has its own section within the U.S. GenWeb project's site, and each state has a page for each of its individual counties. The information on these pages is all user-contributed, so it can vary in quantity and quality. Some places may have a ton of information, while others may have very little. You'll just have to get on there and see what is available for the places your ancestors lived. You may find such things as old newspaper records, census records, land records, family Bible records, tax records, cemetery records, old journal and diary records, old photographs, and more. Some of these records are not on any of the subscription sites, because they are submitted by users from their private collections, or from their own local research discoveries.

2. FindAGrave.com ~ This totally free website has records, photos, and sometimes even biographical information from hundreds of millions of graves around the world. The database is fully searchable by name, location, and even individual cemeteries. This site is excellent for finding previously unknown burial locations for ancestors, as well as birth and death dates you may not have known. If there is a photograph of the headstone and/or biographical information associated with a grave entry, you might find out a lot more about the person and their family background, and fill in excellent personal information on your family tree. Search by last name in one cemetery where you know an ancestor is buried, and you may find the burials of other ancestors you didn't know were there, and find interesting new information on them. All information on this site is user submitted, so information included with each entry varies, as does the completeness of the records for each cemetery included on the website.

3. FamilySearch.org ~ Organized and managed by the Jesus Christ Church of Latter Day Saints (aka the Mormons), this website is almost on par with the quality of Ancestry.com with its records. There are millions of records from all over the world here, all for free, and more are being added all the time as the church collects them. Some records are found on subscription sites, while others are found nowhere else online. Most are indexed and searchable, while a small number are only browsable. The site is totally free for anyone to use, and you can really get a long way in researching your genealogy using this site alone. It will also give you a good start if you're just beginning. Even if you're a member of a subscription site, this is an excellent one to include in the sites you always go to when you do your online genealogy research. It's that useful.

4. Fultonhistory.com/Fulton.html (aka Old Fulton Postcards) ~

If you have ancestors from anywhere in New York state, and sometimes from the surrounding states, you've got to look at this site. Run by one intrepid and enthusiastic person, it has scanned newspapers from the area going back 200 years and sometimes more. The scanned pages are attached to a search field that will find any name or other word you put in it, making searching for articles on your ancestors easy. You will discover all kinds of previously unknown family information on this website.

Passenger and Immigration Research Basics: How to Find Your Ancestor's Entry Into America

Most Americans have immigrant ancestors at some point in their family history. The only exceptions are Native American families who never married or had children with people from other societies. This means that you more than likely have numerous immigrant ancestors. Trace almost any branch of your family, and you will eventually find one.

Researching passenger and immigration records can tell you a lot about your immigrant ancestor, and give you information to use to study the family further back in that ancestor's country of origin. Ship's passenger records were kept for ships going to America all the way back to the earliest days of colonization. More recently, immigration records of people entering the United States from other countries have been kept in America. Depending on which record source you use, you may discover a variety of things, such as:

- Your ancestor's name
- People with the same last name
- Age
- Marital status
- Number of children traveling with your ancestor
- Occupation

- Place of residence in their home country
- Port of departure
- Name of ship
- Point of entry into the United States
- Destination once your ancestor leaves the ship in the united States

Passenger Records

Passenger records are the oldest type of record and are usually kept in the country where your ancestor departed for America. Ship manifests that record the names of everyone traveling on a ship were required even in colonial days. While a good number of ship manifests have disappeared or been destroyed over the centuries, there are still lots of them left to research. You don't always have to go overseas to get access to them, either (though in rare cases, this will be necessary).

The Church of Latter-Day Saints has put a huge number of passenger records on microfilm. You can get access to these records at local Latter-Day Saints family history centers, as well as on the church's website (FamilySearch.org). You can also find ship manifests on other genealogy-based websites, such as Ancestry.com and the various websites of the US GenWeb project.

If you're not sure what ship your ancestor came on, but you have a general idea of when your ancestor came, you can go through the ship manifests within a certain time period, looking for your ancestor's name. If you find it, you may find lots of other interesting information about your ancestor, and you will be able to enter the name of the ship they came on into your family history.

Immigration Records

These are the records kept in the United States of people who entered the country as immigrants. Most people automatically think of Ellis Island as the repository for immigration records, and there are a lot of records there. Yet, the time period of immigration records at Ellis Island is relatively short. You can find records there from 1892 to 1924. The Ellis Island website has an excellent record search feature that you can use to search for your more recent immigrant ancestors. The records here are far more detailed than those on most ancient ship manifests, as well.

Before Ellis Island opened in 1892, immigration records were recorded at Castle Garden, which was located on the Battery in Manhattan. More than 11 million immigrants were recorded as coming through here between 1820 and 1892. Castle Garden has a website with a record search feature for your pre-Ellis Island ancestors.

In addition, any state that has a coastline or a border with Canada or Mexico also has immigration or border crossing records that may lead you to your ancestor. Not everyone came to the United States through New York, after all. To discover these records, a Google search of your ancestor's state (or suspected state) of entry will reveal what immigration records are available for that state and where you can access them. If you're not sure which state your ancestor used to come into the United States, you can search the most likely states based on your ancestor's country of origin (or just search all potential states if you don't know the country of origin).

Searching for your immigrant ancestors through passenger and immigration records can be very rewarding. Learning where your ancestors came from, discovering something of their ship's history (such as if any dramatic things happened on the journey), and learning where they entered the United States and where they planned to go when they got here all help paint a complete picture of your ancestor's life for your family history. The information can also lead you to a whole new chapter of your family history overseas, and help you uncover your cultural and ethnic roots. It's an exciting journey, and one you should definitely take with your genealogy research.

Genealogy Basics
BIRTH RECORD RESEARCH ADVICE FOR BEGINNERS
AncestralFindings.com

Vital records… records of births, deaths, and marriages… are a basic part of genealogy research. They tell you the important details of your ancestors' lives, such as names, dates, and places associated with them. The information found in vital records can often be stepping off points for further avenues of research, as well. As a genealogist, you should ideally be collecting as many vital records as possible on your ancestors and reading every line of them. You never know when a hidden but important piece of information will be on an unexpected place on a vital record.

Birth Records: Learning Where it All Started

When it comes to vital records, death records are usually the easiest to obtain. Most states don't have restrictions (or at least not difficult restrictions) on obtaining death records. Most places allow anyone to get them, even non-family members. Some areas do have a time requirement past the death before you can get the record, but even this is unusual.

Marriage records are usually pretty easy to get, too. There are often more restrictions on getting them than with death records, particularly if either party to the marriage is still alive. However, you can still get them with a minimum of fuss in most states.

It is birth records where things become tricky. Because these are sensitive, personal records, most states have very stringent requirements as to who can get them, and when. Yet obtaining them is important to proving the names of the parents, as well as the exact date and place of birth (even if you already know this information, the birth record will act as proof if you're writing a family history or joining a lineage society).

Recent Birth Records Typically Play Hard to Get

It is usually birth records within the past 100 to 150 years that will prove the most problematic in obtaining. Most states have a time period of decades after the birth before anyone but the person named in the birth record or their parents can get a copy of it. The length of time you have to wait, as well as any other requirements, depends on the state. As an example, I was able to get a copy of my grandfather's 1910 birth certificate from Virginia simply by proving he was deceased and that I was, in fact, his grandchild.

On the other hand, when I tried to get a copy of my great-grandmother's second child who died at the age of two, I was informed by the state of Florida that 100 years must pass before anyone other than the person on the record or their parents can get the record, even if that person and their parents are all dead. This means I must wait until 2024 to get that record (I have birth records of all the other children in the family, but they were given to me by the actual children in their old ages).

Alternative Sources for Birth Information

If you are able to get a more recent birth certificate easily, that's wonderful. If you can't get it from the state, you can always try asking the person in question for a copy of their birth certificate for your genealogical records.

If the birth record is older than 100 to 150 years, depending on the state, you should have no problem getting it, if one was generated. Most states had no record keeping requirement for vital records until the late 19th to early 20th centuries. Sometimes, you can find records at the county level. You can also find birth records in old family Bibles, in birth announcements in old newspapers, and in baptismal records at churches (or historical societies, if the church has moved its old records there).

New England was always good at recording births, deaths, and marriages. You can find compiled books of vital record information for most New England states going back to the colonial period. The originals of these records are also frequently kept in local town halls all around the region, and you can get easy access to these simply by going there and asking.

Birth records may be more difficult to obtain than other vital records. They are still worth going after for your genealogical research. If you can't get access to them through normal methods like writing to the state's Department of Vital Records, there are lots of other avenues you can explore that may lead to documented proof of a birth. Don't stop until you find the record you need to add the next layer of research into your family history.

GENEALOGY QUIZ

Take this quiz to see how well you know the basics of genealogy.

1. You have the names of three siblings born between 1884 and 1887 and need to know the names of their parents. Which census would be the best one to start with?
   - ○ 1880
   - ○ 1890
   - ○ 1900
   - ○ 1910

2. IGI stands for...
   - ○ International Genealogical Index
   - ○ Index of German Immigrants
   - ○ Itemized Guardianship Inventories
   - ○ Irish Geographical Index

3. The best place to start your genealogical research is...
   - ○ Internet
   - ○ Grandma
   - ○ National Archives
   - ○ Mormon Library

4. It's been said that "genealogy of place" is vital to doing research. This means that the most important thing to do when you find out the name of the town an ancestor was from is to...
   - ○ learn the important people in a town's history
   - ○ determine where the town is located and how boundaries have changed over time
   - ○ go to the town itself to research your family's history
   - ○ learn where the cemeteries are located in the town

5. An ancestor died intestate. This means...
   - ○ he left no will
   - ○ he was traveling out of state when he died
   - ○ he died in a state prison
   - ○ his body was never found

6. Your grandfather's sister's daughter is your...
   - ○ great aunt
   - ○ half-sister
   - ○ second cousin
   - ○ first cousin once removed

7. The standard way to write May 8th, 1904 is...
   - ○ 5/8/04
   - ○ 5/8/1904
   - ○ 8 May 1904
   - ○ May VIII 1904

8. You do not know your grandmother's maiden name. She was married several times. The surname you will use for her on a pedigree chart is...
   - ○ the surname of her first husband
   - ○ the surname of your grandfather
   - ○ the surname she had when she died
   - ○ none of the above

9. You found several records that give your ancestor's birthdate. Rank the sources for reliability.
   - ☐ 1834 baptismal record
   - ☐ 1850 census
   - ☐ 1902 death record
   - ☐ 1974 family history book

10. Finding the original meaning of your surname will help you in researching your ancestors.
    - ○ True   ○ False

Explore Your Ancestry, Enrich Your Life

From immigration records to marriage records, historical documents offer a view into the past. With more and more databases becoming publicly available, the search into your family's history can be as comprehensive as never before. The reasons to explore your family's past are endless, but here are a few:

Explain Quirky Family Traditions

Does your family serve kolaches at Thanksgiving or miso soup at New Year's Eve? A complete family tree could give insights into family traditions that are unique to your family. A Japanese relative a couple of generations back might have introduced miso soup at New Year's Eve. Perhaps your grandparents lived in a part of town that was predominately Polish, and that explains why kolaches are the favorite dessert at your Thanksgiving.

Birth records, death records and land records hold the keys that put this information together. Request a search on immigration or land grant databases, and make family a celebration of your heritage.

Feel Closer to Your Family: Is There a Better Reason?

Did you have a great-uncle everyone talks about, but you never met? So many of the World War II generation gave their lives on foreign soil, and their memory lingers on in our hearts and minds. After finding a grave at the American Battle Monuments Commission, your family could take a trip to Belgium or celebrate his sacrifice with some family time.

Perhaps your daughter loves math and science. Her great-aunt might have been the first woman in the state to major in mathematics. Knowing your family's history illuminates the lives of each family member, both past and present.

Genealogy research helps us feel closer to the past and acknowledge modern legacies. The reasons to search your ancestry are endless.

Answers for Quiz on Page 5 . . .

1. 1900

The siblings were not born in 1880, so that census would do no good and by 1910, they were probably not living with their parents. The 1890 census was 99% destroyed and for all practical purposes, does not exist. Learning what is available on each census is a basic bit of knowledge for genealogists.

2. International Genealogical Index

The IGI is the world's largest genealogical database with births and marriages of over 300 million people worldwide. What makes it so valuable is that it is derived from primary sources. Information from the birth/marriage records of many U.S. counties and European churches has been extracted to the IGI. It also contains unverified information sent in by individuals, but you can easily tell which is extracted and which is submitted. This information is available free of charge at any LDS Family History Center as well as many public libraries.

The Mormons (Latter Day Saints) are interested in genealogy for religious reasons but you don't have to be Mormon to take advantage of their work. They have amassed an incredible collection of records from all over the world. These records are on one and a half million rolls of microfilm and are housed in a giant library in Salt Lake City. If you can't get to Salt Lake, they maintain branch libraries known as Family History Centers where you can rent the microfilms for a few dollars each. I can't imagine doing genealogy without using this resource.

3. Grandma

Grandma and the rest of your older relatives should be where you start. The biggest regret family historians voice is that they didn't ask questions when they could. Since you always start from what you know and work back from there, you'll take what you learn from Grandma to make family group sheets and pedigree charts.

Next, you'll probably want to write to the county courthouses to get vital records (birth, marriage, death) of all the people on your pedigree chart. The National Archives, home of the census and important immigration and military information, is probably your next stop. Then you'll want to explore all the goodies at the Mormon library and on the Internet.

4. Determine where the town is located and how boundaries have changed over time

Whether you are searching in Elk Garden, Virginia or Vörstetten, Germany, knowing the location is vital to being able to do your research. And not only do you need to know where a place is *now*, you need to know where it was when your ancestors were there. Since for the US, the county is the keeper of many of the records, knowing how county boundaries have changed tells you where to look for the records of your ancestors.

Other parts of the world have their own "genealogy of place." German records, for example are mostly kept at the local level. Kingdoms, duchies, and states all changed boundaries over time.

Having names and dates without places is useless and does not tell you anything about the lives of your ancestors. Whenever I see a "genealogy" on the Internet with just names and dates, I click the Back button. The people listed may be related but I have no way of knowing.

5. Died without a will

Before you spend your time and money climbing your family tree, learn the terms used by genealogists so that you can communicate with others. Find a book at your local library or a site on the Internet that discusses the principles of genealogy and these basics concepts:

Standard forms and conventions
Primary vs. secondary evidence
Documenting sources
Record groups: census, vital, military, church, probate, land, immigration
How to construct a query

6. First cousin once removed

Relationships are what families are made of, so be sure you know the terms used to define a family. And don't think a fifth cousin is too distant to care about -- you'll want to know all the branches of your family and you'll meet many of them online.

7. 8 May 1904

Always use a 4-digit year -- the year 2000 problem is nothing new to genealogists! Put the day before the month, as they do in most countries. Spelling out the month helps avoid confusion.

There are conventions and standards used by genealogist. Learn how names, dates, and places -- the basic building blocks of genealogy -- are written before you start entering the information on charts or in your computer.

8. None of the above

Always use a woman's maiden name. If you don't know a person's name, don't substitute another one. Some other name and place conventions are:

Do not use titles such as Mrs., Dr., Jr., III, or Esq. in a person's name. They are relative terms and not part of their name.
Write US places as city, county, state. Since the county is vital to doing US genealogy, don't leave it out. Look it up if you don't know it. There are standard conventions for other countries as well.

9. 1 - 2 - 3- 4

The baptismal record, recorded at the time the event occurred in the most reliable. In general, the closer the record to the event, the more reliable. Another consideration is who supplied the information. The census information was probably given by a parent but could have been given by a neighbor or a child. Keep in mind that if it had been the 1840 census instead of the 1850, no names other than for the head of household are given and other family members are just "hash marks" under sex/age range columns. Information on a death record is usually filled in by someone who was not present at the birth and so birth information is second-hand information. Unless the family history book includes sources, the information in it can be considered merely clues for you to research. Same for undocumented information you find on the Internet.

10. False

Surnames were used long before they were commonly recorded. You will probably not be able to trace back to when surnames were first used. (There are some exceptions, for example the early Dutch in America.) So how your ancestors got the name will not help you find them.

Before this century, spelling was not important, most people could not write, and foreign names were mangled or contorted. Over the many years since your ancestors first started using a surname, it could have changed in ways you could not know. For these reasons, saying something like, "Our Elliotts have always spelled it with two L's and two T's" may mean you'll miss some important clues.

And don't forget that the surname you have is not the surname of all your ancestors. It is, in fact, your least reliable line, but often the one pursued most vigorously by men (yes, men) who are newcomers to genealogy.

Upcoming Events

July 1, 2017 - 9:00am – 10:30am—"Genealogy and Local History Tour and Orientation" at Newberry Library. Reservations not required. Orientation is free. The Genealogy and Local History staff will introduce visitors to the Newberry and explain how to use its collections at an informal orientation aimed at researchers new to the library and/or new to genealogical research. For more information, visit www.newberry.org.

July 8, 2017—CAGGNI, 12:45-2:30pm "Storytellers' Special Interest Group" with Marti Swanson. For those interested in the DO-ING of family history writing and storytelling. Do you need an assigned topic? Do you need deadlines to help get you motivated? at Schaumburg Public Library, Schaumburg, IL. For more information, visit *https://caggni.wildapricot.org/event-2331315*

July 8, 2017 -– MCIGS, 8:00am-3:00pm—"2017 MCIGS Summer Conference at McHenry County College with 2017 Summer Genealogy Conference with Michael Lacopo, Thomas MacEntee, Paul Milner, and Mary Tedesco . For more information, visit http://mcigs.org.

July 8, 2017—NSGS, 1:00-2:30pm—"Adding Context: Social History for Genealogists" with Ginger Frere. Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, IL For more information, visit http://www.nsgsil.org.

July 9, 2017 - 2:00 pm to 3:30pm Forest Home Cemetery's "Walk in History" Free Guided Tours (Affiliate Event). Forest Home Cemetery- Halls of History Building: 2405 West Forest Home Avenue, Milwaukee, WI. For more information, visit: www.foresthomecemetery.com.

July 11, 2017— ISGS, 8:00pm—"The Watchfires of a Hundred Circling Camps (Webinar). Register at https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/ 6586254248864499459.

July 12, 2017 — MPAFUG—7-9:00pm meeting at Klemmer's Banquet Center, 10401 West Oklahoma Avenue, Milwaukee, WI. Subjects: External Storage, DVD Storage, Cloud Storage, Scanners by Sam Colon and Moving Data and Software by Bob Heck. Visit http://mpafug.org

July 26, 2017 -– MCIGS, 7:00-9:00pm—"What's Been Done: Using Someone Else's Genealogy Research" (Webinar). Register at https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/ 3537087508104687873.

ELECTED OFFICERS

President ~~ Kathy Nuernberg
Vice President ~~ Dawn Jurgens
Treasurer ~~ Oren Simpson
Secretary ~~ Brenda Lambert-Miller

APPOINTED OFFICERS

Digital Archivist ~~ Oren Simpson
Digital Equipment Operator ~~ Frank Klein,
             Bob Finnegan, Oren Simpson
Librarian/Historian ~~ OPEN
Membership ~~ Dawn Jurgens
Newsletter Editor ~~ Kathy Nuernberg
Photographer ~~ LeRoy Goines
Publicity ~~ Judy Reynolds
Research ~~ Mary Ann Cole
Sunshine Committee ~~ Claudia Schiller
Surname Project ~~ Dawn Jurgens
Preservation Projects ~~ Judy Uelmen

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CAGGNI—Computer Assisted Genealogy Group of Northern
        Illinois
ISGS—Illinois Genealogical Society
MCIGS—McHenry County Illinois Genealogical Society
MPAFUG—Milwaukee PAF Users Group
NSGS—North Suburban Genealogy Society
WSGS—Wisconsin State Genealogical Society