

Kenosha County Genealogy Society



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SOUTHPORT ECHO

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MEETING TIME / PLACE

- **2nd Monday of the month**
Gateway Technical College
3320-30th Avenue
Kenosha, WI 53140
(NO MEETINGS JULY & AUGUST)
6:00pm Registration & Social Time
6:30pm Business Meeting
7:00pm Program

CORNUCOPIA, *korn-yoo-KO-pee-uh*
One of the most recognizable symbols of Thanksgiving is the cornucopia, also called horn of plenty. It is a decorative motif, originating in ancient Greece, that symbolizes abundance. The original cornucopia was a curved goat's horn filled to overflowing with fruit and grain. It symbolizes the horn possessed by Zeus's nurse, the Greek nymph Amalthea, which could be filled with whatever the owner wished.



Christmas Party

Annual Potluck Social

When: Monday, December 11th
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Where: Gateway Technology College
BioScience Building, Conference Room 131
Bring: *Dish to Share (serves 8-10)
* \$5 wrapped grab bag gift
Entertainment: Robber Bingo
RSVP: KenGenSocPresident@mail.com

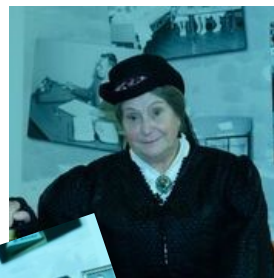


November General Meeting

Jessica Michna a.k.a. Mary Todd Lincoln paid us a visit to share her trials and tribulations at the hands of her only surviving son, Robert. It was a tale of his ultimate betrayal resulting in her insanity trial, commitment and the eventual reversal of the court order leading to her release.



Tad Lincoln's favorite doll.



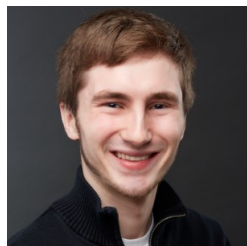
Marnie Klein chatting with Jessica about her presentation.



Discussing Jessica's newest presentation—Francis Flotsom Cleveland. Youngest First Lady at 21 years.

Memorabilia Table

Shaping Europe: 5 important events by Andrew Koch, an editor and content producer for [FamilyTreeMagazine.com](https://www.familytreemagazine.com)



Let's face it: Many people think history is boring. Researching our own ancestors is one thing, but why should we care about centuries-old wars and long-dead kings? European history—with its quibbling monarchs and convoluted border changes—is especially dry.

But those of us with European roots have an important reason to research the continent's history: The country your ancestors' hometown was located in then affects where you can find records now. And more importantly, the broad strokes of European history can help us better understand our ancestors' lives and communities—including why they may have emigrated.

Fortunately for genealogists, we don't need to know much European history to get by. While working on our atlas, "The Family Tree Historical Maps Book: Europe," I pieced together the key events in European history that changed the continent's political boundaries. In this article, I'll share the five most-important historical events that shaped the map of Europe—and the lives of the people who lived there.

*This map shows Europe in 1823, shortly after the Congress of Vienna. **The Peace of Westphalia (1648)***



The Thirty Years' War is one of many drawn-out European conflicts. To summarize: A spat between Protestants and Catholics in the Holy Roman Empire exploded into continent-wide war, with Habsburg Austria and Spain fighting against France, England, Sweden, and others. In the Peace of Westphalia (which ended most of the fighting), the Holy Roman Empire lost territory and had its power decentralized, while Switzerland and the Dutch Republic each gained independence. Since many genealogy records begin in the 17th century, the boundaries set by the Peace of Westphalia can serve as a useful starting point as you begin looking for documents.

The Partitions of Poland (1772–1795)

With Polish politics in disarray, Prussia, Austria, and Russia conspired to strip the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth of its territory. As a result, Poland lost land in three seizures between those countries in 1772, 1793, and 1795. The third partition effectively wiped Poland from the map, and Poles wouldn't have a sovereign state again until after World War I. Those with Prussian, German, and Austrian ancestry (in addition to those with Polish ancestors) can benefit from maps of this and later time periods.

The Congress of Vienna (1815)

Napoleon Bonaparte conquered much of Central Europe in the early 1800s, and European boundaries were due for a reset after his defeat. The victorious European powers redrew many borders to contain France and hopefully ensure future peace. Per the treaty, France returned to its pre-Napoleonic Wars boundaries, and the council gave (or returned) significant chunks of land to Prussia, Austria, and Russia. Several of the German and Italian city-states were consolidated or merged, sparking interest in unified nations for those ethnic groups. The Netherlands regained its independence (along with Belgium, which became independent in 1830), and Denmark lost Norway to Sweden. Notably, the Congress also created the German Confederation (a league of independent German states) and the Russia-owned, semi-autonomous Congress Kingdom of Poland.

The Unifications of Italy (1861) and Germany (1871)

After the Napoleonic Wars and the Revolutions of 1848, nationalism swept across Europe. This led some residents of the various Italian and German city-states to found new countries: the Kingdom of Italy in 1861, and

the German Empire in 1871. The two movements shared some similarities, each rallying around strong leaders from the most prominent city-states (Victor Emmanuel II and Giuseppe Garibaldi from the Kingdom of Sardinia in Italy, and Wilhelm I and Otto von Bismarck of Prussia in Germany). Unification is an important “boundary” year for those researching these countries, as all records before unification were kept at the local level.

The Treaty of Versailles (1919)

The Great War devastated Europe, and its victors vowed to create a new power structure that would prevent such a disaster from occurring again. The Austro-Hungarian Empire, one of the Central Powers, was dissolved into several new countries: Austria, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and Yugoslavia. Blamed for instigating the war, Germany lost huge chunks of land, including to a newly created Polish state. If you have ancestors who lived in or emigrated from Europe during the interwar period or shortly after the outbreak of World War II, pay special attention to maps from this era.

Your historical research shouldn't end here. Once you've determined where your ancestors lived, study the history of the region to understand who was in power and where records from your ancestors' time are held today. For



New England
Historic
Genealogical
Society (NEHGS)

Launches Interactive Mayflower Website

In anticipation of the 2020 commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the *Mayflower's* voyage, NEHGS has launched “Mayflower 2020”. This interactive website features the world's first online gathering of *Mayflower* descendants, along with in-depth information about *Mayflower* passengers and their family trees, resources for finding *Mayflower* ancestors, and information on “Mayflower 2020” announcements and events.

To be a part of this historical 400th anniversary, join the world's first online gathering of *Mayflower* descendants. Visit Mayflower.americanancestors.org to add your name and photo, and find other *Mayflower* descendants near you and around the world. Please share with your family and friends!

*In 1620,
the Pilgrims
made a new
beginning in
America.*

STORIES OF INTEREST

⇒ **Thee Mystery of a 1918 Veteran and the Flu Pandemic**—With the anniversary next year of the 1918 flu pandemic—which killed roughly 40 million people—it is a good time to consider the possibility of pandemics and the importance of measures aimed at curbing them.

<https://theconversation.com/the-mystery-of-a-1918-veteran-and-the-flu-pandemic-86292>

⇒ **The Forgotten Women Scientists Who Fled the Holocaust for the United States**

"A new project from Northeastern University traces the journeys of 80 women who attempted to escape Europe and find new lives in America during World War II."

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/forgotten-women-scientists-who-fled-holocaust-united-states-180967166/>

⇒ **A Brief History Of Pumpkins**

"The popular fall fruit (yes fruit) has deep roots in the culinary history of the Americas that date back to before it became a staple on our Thanksgiving Day table."

<http://cravingboston.wgbh.org/article/20171101/brief-history-pumpkins>

⇒ **A Father's Secret Life: Sleuthing Yields Big Surprise**

Ingrid Rimmereide, a librarian in Chanhassen, Minnesota, grew up knowing her father harbored secrets. As an adult, she used DNA testing, library research skills, and good old-fashioned sleuthing to explore her father's past.

http://www.swnewsmedia.com/chanhassen_villager/news/a-father-s-secret-life-sleuthing-yields-big-surprise/article_c99212ae-6426-5b45-9574-daff59d5f9fb.html

How To Research Your Illegitimate Ancestors

www.lisaLisson.com

Are you researching an ancestor born out of wedlock?

Do you suspect your ancestor was illegitimate?

If your answer to either question is "Yes", then you have encountered the difficulties in researching an illegitimate ancestor.

Is it possible to determine the parents of an illegitimate child?

Sometimes.

Sometimes you know one parent (typically the mother, but not always).

Sometimes you only find circumstantial evidence pointing to the potential parents. The challenge is finding which records hold the clues you need.

What types of genealogy records should you pursue?

Oral History

Often oral history provides the best clues to identifying if your ancestor is illegitimate and/or who the parents are.

One of the interesting things I found in pursuing illegitimate ancestors, is what was common knowledge in one generation is not necessarily passed down to the next generation or two. This makes sense. Illegitimacy was (and still can be) a very sensitive topic and not one generally talked about openly.

Explore your family's oral history surrounding your illegitimate ancestor. Reach out to collateral descendants, especially the older generations. The same oral history stories and information may have passed down a collateral line in your family but their version can hold different clues.

[In every case where I discovered an illegitimate ancestor's parents, reaching out to distant cousins proved crucial.]

Be sensitive in your questions when looking for information. My experience proved one aunt had no problems talking about an illegitimate ancestor, while her cousin deftly changed the topic of conversation each time the subject was broached.

Vital Records

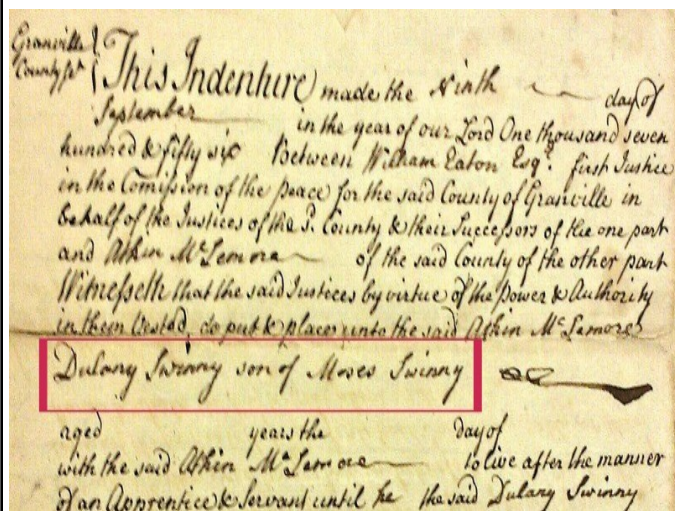
If you are researching in fairly "modern" times when birth and death certificates were being issued, be sure to check those. Often the father is not listed

Church Records

Evidence of a child born out of wedlock may be found within church records. If you do not know the child's mother, the church records may help. A woman who had a child out of wedlock may have been censored or excommunicated from the church. Check what records are available for the location you are researching. Are there any women being disciplined by the church for having an illegitimate child around the time your ancestor was born? Or if you know the mother, do you find her being disciplined? You can pick up clues to her identity here.

Bastardy Bonds and Apprentice Bonds

Bastardy bonds and apprentice bonds (from the colonial era up through 1913 in NC) are useful in determining one or both parents of an illegitimate child. Bastardy bonds are against the mother so you need to know the mother's name. The father is sometimes named in these bonds if the mother is willing to name him.



Apprentice bonds are also helpful. If your ancestor was apprenticed as a child (and this could be done at a very young age) the bond often will list the parent's child. For example, Dulaney Swinney was apprenticed to Atkin McLemore in Granville County, NC in 1756. Dulaney was noted to be the son of Moses Swinney. If the child's named parent is the mother, then the child may have been born out of wedlock.

DNA Testing

The use of DNA to further genealogical research will certainly help in determining your ancestral line. While DNA is not a paternity test and will not tell you who the father of your ancestor was, DNA can potentially provide you with a surname or line you

(Cont. from Page 4)

match. DNA can give you new avenues of research.

For an excellent DNA resource, I recommend *The Family Tree Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy* by Blaine Bettinger.

Consider Other Potential Clues When Researching Your Illegitimate Ancestor:

- The mother sometimes named the child after the father giving you a clue to potential father candidate.
- Was money involved? If the child's father was from a wealthy family, a woman may have sued for money to support the child. Check the court records. [Note: Outside of bastardy bonds, I rarely find this to be the case.]
- Illegitimate children usually took the mother's surname. In cases where they took the father's surname, the father generally acknowledged the child.

Remember....

Researching ancestors born out of wedlock is not easy or quick. Sometimes the best we can do is build a circumstantial case with the clues we do find. Then we wait for the next bit of information....



Want to Know Your Ancestor's World? Look at a Map by Nancy Hendrickson

These resources are ones that I use on a consistent basis. Many are free (3 are \$) and all are among the best resources for

1. understanding your ancestor's world
2. "seeing" the routes Americans would have used in early days
3. getting an inkling of your ancestor's world (see below)
4. seeing how maps fit into your family history

I wrote all of the [Ancestor's World](#) posts to help other genealogists get a good sense of what was going on around the world in any given time period. If you think about how today's events impact your life, think about the events of your ancestor's day. How long would it have taken for a major event to reach their small town? Could they even read? What would they have thought of this?

One of the reasons I love period maps is that they tell me so much about the world in which an ancestor lived. Think of even 19th century America: These states would not have existed: Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona, Alaska, Hawaii

As you can see, you can learn a lot from just looking at a map that was "modern" during an ancestor's life. Have fun digging into this list – and don't hesitate to find a (copyright-free) period map to add to your family history, story, or genealogy software.

- [Applying Old Maps to Family History Webinar](#) (\$) – From Family Tree University
- [David Rumsey Map Collection](#) – Over 71,000 maps online
- [Historical Maps of Europe](#) (\$) – Excellent reference book from Family Tree
- [Perry-Castañeda Library Map Collection at the University of Texas](#) – Use the navigation links on the left side of the page to go to maps of various geographical areas. (don't miss the historic road maps)
- [Osher Map Library](#) – use the search box and the date slider bar to find maps of various time periods. You can download low resolution maps.
- [Family Tree Historical Atlas of American Cities](#) (\$) - There's nothing like a period map to help understand your ancestor's world.
- [Library of Congress](#) – A truly eclectic collection
- [Sanborn Fire Insurance](#) – These were done for insurance purposes are extremely detailed maps of towns

Surname Project

To keep the KCGS Surname list current and up to date, please remember to submit any additional surnames to Dawn Jurgens at the KCGS monthly meetings or via email at: dawnj23@mail.com.

Be sure to check out the surname list on our website at www.kengensoc.com.

Spotlight on Surnames being researched:

Bradshaw	Butler	Cole
Greenan	Hoffmann	Koontz
Lawhorn	Marsch	Ray
Prince George	Schummer	Shostak
Stanley	Meredith	Moe

Upcoming Events

December 2, 2017—Chicago Genealogical Society presents “Slaughter House: Chicago’s Union Stock Yard and The World It Made” Chicago Stock Yard and Transit Co was the meatpacking district in Chicago for more than a century. It was started in 1865 and was operated by a group of railroad companies. Join us at the Newberry Library at 1:30 for an information talk about its history by Dominic A Pacyga the author of “Slaughter House”. Cost: Free

December 10, 2017—MCHS presents “A Very Merry Milwaukee”—Photo Opportunity with Santa and Billie the Brownie, 10:00am to 3:00pm at the Milwaukee County Historical Center, 910 N. Old World Third Street. Capture the holiday spirit in a photo with Milwaukee’s own celebrity “Billie the Brownie”! Don’t miss the chance to get your picture with Santa as you tell him what you would like under the tree this year. This family event includes story time with Mrs. Claus, coloring and letters to Santa Station, a chance to view the exhibit, and yummy holiday cookies! There is a charge for photos taken with Santa and/or Billie the Brownie.

For additional details, visit: www.milwaukeehistory.net or call (414) 273-8288.

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 ~~ Suzanne Dibble

Membership ~~ Dawn Jurgens

Newsletter Editor ~~ Kathy Nuernberg

Photographer ~~ LeRoy Goines

Publicity ~~ Judy Reynolds

Research ~~ Mary Ann Cole

Surname Project ~~ Dawn Jurgens

Preservation Projects ~~ Judy Uelmen

Webmaster ~~ Kathy Nuernberg

CONTACT INFORMATION

Website ~~ www.kengensoc.com

E-mail ~~ KenGenSocPresident@mail.com

CAGGNI—Computer Assisted Genealogy Group of Northern Illinois

ISGS—Illinois Genealogical Society

LCIGS —Lake County (IL) Genealogical Society

MCHS—Milwaukee County Historical Society

MCIGS—McHenry County Illinois Genealogical Society

MPAFUG—Milwaukee PAF Users Group

NSGS—North Suburban Genealogy Society

ILZGS—Zion Genealogical Society

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