

Kenosha County Genealogy Society



Volume 46 Issue 8

August 1, 2017

SOUTHPORT ECHO

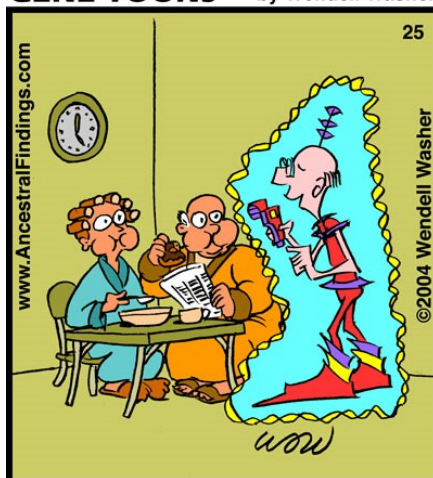
INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Why I Love Genealogy</i>	1-3
<i>New York Death Index</i>	3
<i>Volunteers Sought</i>	4
<i>Genealogy Mirth</i>	4
<i>FamilySearch Discontinuing Microfilm</i>	5
<i>Flicker, Culture and Your Genealogy</i>	6-7
<i>Upcoming Events</i>	8
<i>Officers</i>	8

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

GENE TOONS by Wendell Washer



Could you please tell me
the names of your children?



Why I Genealogy

And You Should, Too!

ANCESTRALFINDINGS.COM

Genealogy is the most wonderful of pastimes. There are endless reasons why. Genealogy is one of the fastest growing hobbies in the western world, as more and more people discover the exhilarating and slightly addictive nature of

ancestor hunting. It's like an ongoing mystery with clues you have to discover and then put together to come to conclusions about your family's past. The mystery never ends, because there is no end to the amount of time you can potentially go back in history with your family research. Yet, the more you can discover, the more complete picture of your family you can put together. It's insanely rewarding, and the more you do it, the more you will want to do it. That's a given. Here are some of the best reasons.

1. The Thrill of the Hunt — If you love a good mystery, you will love genealogy. If you love scavenger hunts, word find puzzles, mystery novels, or even video games with epic quests where you have to search for clues and piece them all together to reveal the solution, you will adore genealogy. It is like all of those things and more.

There is nothing quite like tracking down an unknown ancestor. You may have traced a particular family line back as far as you think you possibly can, and it may have been easy. Then you get to a certain point where you can't trace it back any farther... at first. There are a lack of records, no one in your family knows anything, and the parents of your great-great grandfather suddenly seem like they will never make themselves known to you. To a genealogist, that isn't defeat. That's just motivation for digging up those roots, even if it takes years.

You may spend a long time analyzing census records, digging around in courthouses and archive buildings, walking the land where your great-great-grandfather lived as an adult or where you heard he lived as a child. You will search military records, land patent records, tax records, and research his neighbors. You will look at the names of his children for clues as to his parentage, and you will visit old family cemeteries to look for clues.

Eventually, a name will appear, just when you thought the name was forever lost to history. You will get a name for a father or mother or even both for your great-great grandfather, and it will be one of the most euphoric feelings in the world. You will have achieved victory over the infamous genealogy "brick wall," and rescued an ancestor or two from the mists of history, bringing them into the light and back to virtual life once more. You now know more about your great-great grandfather, and have the names of the parents to go on to research even further into your family history than you ever imagined you could.

Soon, you'll be zooming down that family line, and eventually, you'll start

another line, and will go on the hunt for another ancestor. Even with ancestors you already know about, anything new you find on them in old newspaper records or anywhere else will seem like a victory to you, as it will place another piece in the puzzle of their lives, making them a more whole person to you and to future generations. Doing this for people you never met, but who contributed to making you is the most wonderful, fulfilling thing in the world.

2. The Adventure — Who says genealogy is a passive pastime? It is a thrilling adventure if you let it be. You don't have to do it all from home, writing away for vital records and researching on the genealogy websites on your computer. You can take it on the road, into the field, and discover some amazing things you would never know about if you didn't get out there and in the thick of it. Whether you go on your own or take the whole family, real genealogy is an adventure you will want to go on again and again. Soon, you'll find that all of your vacations revolve around what kinds of genealogy research you can do in a particular place. Vacations without genealogy will start to seem boring. Once you've had a genealogy adventure "in the field," you will want to do it every time you go somewhere away from home.

When you travel to where your ancestors lived, you can find things you just can't find online. You can get burial maps of cemeteries at city halls or local historical societies that will alert you to any previously unknown relatives, such as the unmarked graves of children who died as babies or very young. You might also discover some new in-laws, aunts, uncles, and even great-grandparents.

You might also discover some very ancient and enlightening things. For example, I went on a genealogy road trip once and discovered a large cache of ancient papers relating to my family. That particular branch of my family had a long history in this tiny Virginia town going back to the late 1600's. In the town archives, I did a search of the family surname on the computer and came up with a hit that the historian went to get for me. It turns out this particular hit was located in a box in the basement, and people hardly ever looked at it. Inside was a treasure trove I never imagined would still exist. There were original papers regarding this branch of my family going back to their very beginnings in this town, some with remnants of old red wax seals still on them. I held 200-plus-year-old papers in my hands and traced my ancestors' signatures with my fingertips.

There were land deeds, personal letters from their friends and relatives, old account books for weaving one of the female ancestors did, and the original copy of a Will of a 9x great-grandfather. I knew a later Will existed, but the original was unknown, and because the original Will mentioned this ancestor's wife, and the later Will (written four years later) did not, it allowed me to place her death within a four year period, when her date of death had previously been unknown to any degree. These are the types of things you cannot find online. You must experience them in person, and getting out there and having genealogical adventures is the only way to do it.

3. Getting in Touch With Your Ancestors — When you're out in the field doing genealogy, you can get in touch with your ancestors in a way you never would imagine. You actually start to see them as real, once living people, not just names on a sheet of paper or computer program. It is actually possible to develop relationships with your ancestors the more you get to know them, and you get a better idea of who you are, where you came from, and why (and how) by getting close to the ancestors who are responsible for making you. It's like making new friends or getting to know a reclusive aunt. The more you discover about them, the more people you have in your life to love. You really can start to love those ancestors, and you will be surprised at the close relationships you develop with some of them (you will be naturally drawn to some more than others, and that's okay and normal).

Out in the field, you really get an idea of how your ancestors lived. You will go to the towns (often still very small and rural) where they lived, look at old maps to discover where their homesteads were (and sometimes discover they are still there), visit the cemeteries where they and their immediate relatives are buried (which puts you as close to them as you can possibly get on this planet), and discover old documents they signed (and be amazed that you're touching something they touched). It is an amazing journey and one you will take many times for lots of ancestors once you get into it. **Do it once and you'll be hooked**, for sure.

4. Meeting New, Living Relatives — You will naturally meet some living relatives in the course of your research who you never knew existed before you started your search. The process of seeing just how you are connected is exciting in itself, as you see the generations tangle as they move out from your common ancestor and into the present day. Many of these people will have (or will know people who have) information, documents, and even photos to help and add to your ancestor research that you couldn't have found any other way. These are the artifacts that stay in families and don't go into archive buildings or historical societies. They are the hidden artifacts

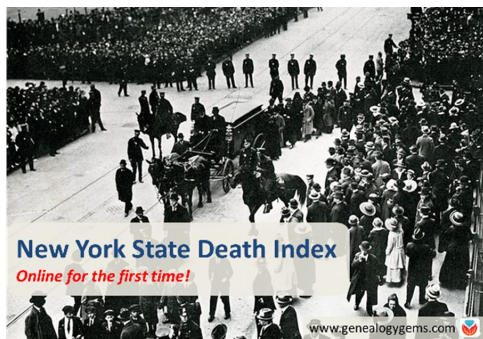
of genealogy.

Sometimes, you will be the one with the hidden artifacts. Giving this information is just as rewarding as getting it. I once met a 72-year-old woman who was related to me by marriage. My great-aunt's husband (my great-uncle by marriage) had an older brother who died at age 22, leaving behind a 1-1/2-year-old daughter. She disappeared out of the family with her mother. I'd been looking for her for years and found her when a letter she sent to the church our family attended, inquiring about her relatives, was forwarded to me. It turns out she'd never seen so much as a photo of her father.

I not only had photos of her father (inherited after my great-uncle died at age 87), I had a wallet and a Bible that had belonged to him. I sent these things to her, as I felt they belonged with her, to hand down to her seven children. She called me crying with happiness when she received these things, telling me how much they meant to her, to finally "meet" a father she didn't remember. She also sent me flowers. We became good friends after that, despite the many decades of age difference between us, and we stay in touch to this day. That's another benefit of meeting new relatives. You may make deep, lasting friendships with them.

5. Honoring Your Ancestors — As you can see, genealogy has a lot to recommend it as a hobby. It can also become more than just a hobby. It can become somewhat of a calling. When you do genealogy of the real, very thorough, exhaustive kind where you dig up every piece of information on an ancestor you can find, you are bringing these people back into the memory of the world (or at least, a select few people who are interested). These are people who may have been lost to history and forgotten by their descendants for generations. You are honoring them by bringing them back into the light and putting the details of their lives back together. Remember, these were living people once, real people who actually walked the earth. They deserve to be remembered by their descendants, just as you would want to be remembered. In a very real way, you are doing a service to them by pulling them out of the obscurity of time and back into the present to re-introduce them to the many descendants they produced.

The thrill of the hunt, the adventure, and the excitement of getting to know your ancestors and living relatives you've never met are all wonderful reasons to love genealogy. You'll never know just how much you will love genealogy until you try it. Just get out there and get started. You will soon be a **genealogy enthusiast**. It is fun, exciting, interesting, and one of the most rewarding things you will ever do.



New York State Death Index Online for the First Time!

June 23, 2017 by Sunny

The New York State Death Index (1880-1956) is online for the first time –and it's free! Also, letters of complaints to the city of Sydney, Australia; marriage records for Indiana, Iowa, Nebraska, and Washington; and the newspaper of a historically black North Carolina university. Coming soon: a major new online archive for Ontario, Canada.

The nonprofit advocacy group Reclaim the Records won its case that this index should be made available as free public records. According to the organization's announcement, the index isn't completely statewide.

New York City death records were maintained separately, and Yonkers, Buffalo and Albany are not included until 1914 or 1915. The index for 1880 and 1881 is sparse, as record-keeping wasn't good yet, and the index for 1943 is difficult to read. And it's unclear whether those who died at some state institutions were included. This link <https://archive.org/search.php?query=%22New+York+State+Death+Index%22&sort=titleSorter> takes you to each year's index on Internet Archive.

Volunteers Sought for Cemetery Photos . . .

as part of the Kenosha County Genealogy Society Tombstone Project



Volunteers are needed:

- * to photograph tombstones and
- * helpers to prep for photos.

Training provided.

♦ St. James Cemetery — 9:00 am

Meet outside the cemetery main gate at 7002-7th Ave.

Day: Fridays

Dates: August 04, 2017
August 18, 2017
September 01, 2017
September 15, 2017
September 29, 2017
October 13, 2017
October 27, 2017

♦ Sunset Ridge Cemetery — 9:00 am

Meet inside the cemetery main gate at 6211-38th St.

Day: Fridays

Dates: July 28, 2017
August 11, 2017
August 25, 2017
September 08, 2017
September 22, 2017
October 6, 2017
October 20, 2017

Volunteers should bring:

- Digital camera
- Blank memory card
- Extra batteries
- Soft brush, and
- An old toothbrush

For more information, contact Judy Uelmen at 262-764-2630 or juelm@aol.com or see our web site at www.kengensoc.com

GENEALOGY MIRTH

Dear Sir,

I have a very complicated benefits question.

Many years ago, I married a widow out of love who had an 18 year old daughter.

After the wedding, my father, a widower, came to visit a number of times, and he fell in love with my step daughter.

My father eventually married her without my authorization.

As a result, my step-daughter became my step-mother and my father became my son-in-law.

My father's wife (also my step-daughter) and my step-mother, gave birth to a son who is my grandchild because I am the husband of my step-daughter's mother.

This boy is also my brother, as the son of my father.

As you can see, my wife became a grandmother, because she is the mother of my father's wife.

Therefore it appears that I am also my wife's grandchild.

A short time after these events, my wife gave birth to a son, who became my father's brother-in-law, the step-son of my father's wife, and my uncle.

My son is also my step-mother's brother, and through my step-mother, my wife has become a grandmother and I have become my own grandfather.

In light of the above mentioned, I would like to know the following:

Does my son, who is also my uncle, my father's son-in-law and my step-mother's brother fulfil the requirements for receiving childcare benefits?

Sincerely yours,
Confused

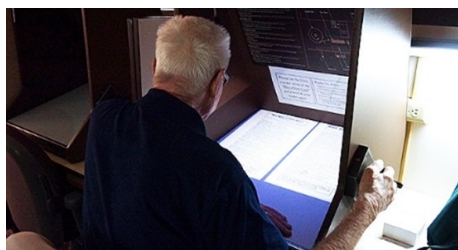
THE ANSWER:

Of course you qualify Mohammed! I have arranged to start mailing the cheques to all of you just as soon as you arrive here in California.

Yours faithfully
Jerry Brown

FamilySearch Discontinuing Microfilm; Most Records Now Digitized

Contributed by FamilySearch.org



A man views a historic document using a microfilm viewer, technology the internet and digital cameras have made obsolete.

FamilySearch announced June 26 that it plans to discontinue its 80-year old microfilm distribution service. The transition is the result of significant progress made in FamilySearch's microfilm digitization efforts and the obsolescence of microfilm technology.

The last day for ordering microfilm will be August 31, 2017. Online access to digital images of the world's historic records allows FamilySearch to service more people around the globe, faster and more efficiently. See ["Finding Digital Images of Records on FamilySearch.org"](#) and ["Frequently Asked Questions."](#)

A global leader in historic records preservation and access, FamilySearch and its predecessors began using microfilm in 1938, amassing billions of the world's genealogical records in its collections from over 200 countries.

Highlights

- FamilySearch has digitally reproduced the bulk of its microfilm collection—over 1.5 million microfilms.
- Online access to digital images of records allows FamilySearch to serve more people, faster and more efficiently.

Why the shift from microfilm to digital?

Diane Loosle, director of the Patron Services Division, said, "Preserving historic records is only one-half of the equation. Making them easily accessible to family historians and researchers worldwide when they need them is the other crucial component."

Loosle noted that FamilySearch will continue to preserve the master copies of its original microfilms in its Granite Mountain Records Vault as added backup to the digital copies online.

As the internet has become more accessible to people worldwide over the past two decades, FamilySearch made the decision to convert its preservation and access strategy to digital. No small task for an organization with 2.4 million rolls of microfilm in inventory and a distribution network of over 5,000 family history centers and affiliate libraries worldwide.

It began the transition to digital preservation years ago. It focused not only on converting its massive microfilm collection but also in replacing its microfilm cameras in the field. All microfilm cameras have been replaced with over 300 specialized digital cameras that significantly decrease the time required to make historic records images accessible online.

FamilySearch has now digitally reproduced the bulk of its microfilm collection—over 1.5 billion images so far—including the most requested collections based on microfilm loan records worldwide. The remaining microfilms should be digitized by the end of 2020, and all new records from its ongoing global efforts are already using digital camera equipment.

Digital image collections can be accessed today in three places at FamilySearch.org. Using the Search feature, you can find them in **Records** (check out the "Browse all published collections" link), **Books**, and the **Catalog**. For additional help, see ["Finding Digital Images of Records on FamilySearch.org."](#)

Transitioning from microfilm to digital creates a fun opportunity for FamilySearch's family history center network. Centers will focus on simplified, one-on-one experiences for patrons and continue to provide access to relevant technology, popular premium subscription services, and restricted digital record collections not available to patrons from home.

Centers and affiliate libraries will coordinate with local leaders and administrators to manage their current microfilm collections on loan from FamilySearch and determine when to return films that are already published online.

FamilySearch will continue to preserve the master copies of its original microfilms in its Granite Mountain Records Vault as added backup to the digital copies online.

Flickr, Culture and Your Genealogy by Tony Bandy regular contributor to *Internet Genealogy*

DATES. SURNAMES. LOCATIONS. BIRTHS. DEATHS. MARRIAGE.

If you're working on your family history, then this type of data is what you need. Using this, you can quickly put together your family tree and associate names, relationships and more. However, for all the information that this data gives us, it's may be more interesting in what it does NOT reveal: The stories, the history, the culture.

It can be troublesome to locate this type of intangible data. We can talk with our friends and family, and sometimes this works well. Often it's not so easy. However, there is another resource that you could consider searching, Flickr!

Yes, that's right, the Internet imaging service known as Flickr, www.flickr.com. While you may have heard about it as a place to just exchange and locate photos, I've found that it can be quite fruitful in locating cultural and historical references for family history as well. If you've hit a brick wall and need more inspiration, let me share with you three reasons this could work.

REASON #1: Scanned Documents

When you think about scanned documents, it's easy to only consider official things such as wills, marriage licenses and others. However, in today's world, scanned documents cover almost everything — including candy wrappers, bus tickets, scrapbook pages and more. The term that best describes this is called “ephemera”.... Or as Wikipedia states it, “...transitory written or printed matter...” (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ephemera>). There is a LOT of this on Flickr!

Let's take an example! Let's say you're looking for any information on your ancestors who lived in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in the late 1800s and early 1900s. You've got a surname, but you're trying to find out more about the culture, how they lived their daily lives, their neighborhoods and more.

Using Flickr to search for the phrase “Pittsburgh ephemera” or “Pittsburgh documents”, I was able to retrieve over 7,000 unique images relating to the city, including digitized letters, postcards, advertising flyers, maps and more. Scrolling through these individual results actually led to me find more information — and leads.

One caution, however, is that unlike database searching, where you can immediately find results via surname, research via this method does, by necessity, require a bit more investigative work — and sometimes you don't find what you are looking for. The upshot here is that finding the right keywords or finding one good photo can make all the difference.

REASON #2: Cultural and Historical

Often overlooked by many is the fact that things are just different in today's world. Our methods of transportation, communication, and even what we eat and drink are quite different that what was available to our ancestors. As such, finding cultural and historical information from their vantage point brings depth to the hard data and facts which we might already have.

Searching Flickr for this information is quite easy. . . And really fun. Let's say your recent ancestors were at the original opening of Disneyland back in the 1950s and you've spoken with aunts or uncles who might actually remember some of the trips. One of the best ways to add to your family history narrative would be vintage photographs or other information about the park.

Using Flickr, and typing in the terms “vintage Disney”, I was able to retrieve over 6,000 images! Many of these were family pictures, but also quite a few were about the park, rides, weather, what folks even had for dinner. I also tumbled across images of vintage napkins, placemats and other paper ephemera as was mentioned previously.

(con't on Page 7)

(Con't from Page 6)

REASON #3: Narratives and other Personal Information

The last reason that Flickr could be a gold mine of family information for you is the amount of diaries and other personal documents that have been digitized and uploaded by others. This last one is extremely tricky and there's a good chance you might not find things such as this specifically relating to your family. Consider searching for keywords including surname, location, or other bits of information and the terms "Diary" or "narrative" just to see what you can retrieve. You might also consider adding other keywords such as "genealogical" or "genealogy".

A QUICK CAUTION!

OK...so everything is great! We've got this wonderful site, with tons of photos and were ready to add these en masse to our family information file, right? WRONG! Before we do anything as rash at this, let's take a step back and think about some cautions first. In particular:

- Types of Search'
- Copyright and other legal thoughts
- Flickr groups

Type of search is important. Flickr offers both basic and advanced searching and you can even search for specific persons and groups. The keyword here is to experiment and get a feel for what might work best. There's no one certain way, so plan on spending some time working this out. Don't rush.

Copyright, especially in the case of scanned documents and uploaded images is always important. While many things on Flickr are not copyrighted (such as historical photos uploaded by the US Library of Congress and other organizations/archives), some are, and it's important that you think of this before you print the photo or re-use it for your own work. The nice thing here is that Flickr does have a complete guide on each photo with the license that it is attached to, as well as contact information. Be sure to get in touch if you are unsure.

One last consideration is what is known as "groups" on Flickr. These are Flickr users who have banded together and upload, post, and share links to photos on the site around a common theme. For example, let's say you are looking for some vintage images from the early 1900's to add to your family history. It would be possible to search Flickr for groups whose specific focus would be on images such as this. If this sounds appealing, do some research and see if you can find something close to your keyword or topic of interest.

FINAL THOUGHTS

What we do as genealogists is never an exact science. What procedures and information we find and use can vary greatly from resource to resource. Sometimes by looking in the unexpected places, we can find treasure troves of goodness and family history. In this Sense then, Flickr might just be your next great find. If you've never had a chance to use this expansive resource. I would urge to give it a try today



In this more modern photo, uploaded by the State Library and Archives of Florida, notice the design and styles of both the business and automobiles. This can all add depth to your collection of facts, dates and stories. (No copyright restriction)



Visit the Kenosha HarborMarket either August 19 or 26, 2017 from

Kenosha County Genealogy Society will have a booth both Saturdays to display the Tombstone Project, Obituary & Wedding Project, upcoming Fall speakers, One-on-One consultation sessions. We are hoping to draw attention to our Society. The market runs from 9:00am to 2:00pm.

Upcoming Events

Aug 1, 2017 - EGS (Webinar) 9:30am – 11:00am—"Time Travels with Google Earth". For more information, visit EGS at- www.elginroots.com.

Aug 8, 2017—ISGS (Webinar) 8:00pm—"Ten Years is a Long Time: Census Substitutes for the In-between Years". Register at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2394575075177831939>.

August 9, 2017: MPAFUG, 7:00-9:00pm — meeting at Klemmer's Banquet Center, 10401 West Oklahoma Avenue, Milwaukee, WI. Subjects: To Be Announced.

Aug 10, 2017 -- MCIGS, 7:00-9:00pm — "Chicago's Greatest Year, 1893" at The Pointe, Crystal Lake. For more information, visit <http://mcigs.org>.

Aug 12, 2017 — CAGGNI, DNA Special Interest Group (SIG), 10:30am-12:30pm at Schaumburg Public Library. This group focuses on learning methods for analyzing DNA test results, study topics such as autosomal DNA, mitochondrial DNA, Y-DNA and surname projects, X-DNA and ancestral admixture results. We'll also investigate third party tools for analyzing your raw data and comparing DNA and Gedcom data with test kit results from companies besides the one you tested with. The SIG will combine short 15-20 minute lectures with interactive workshop-style activities. Facilitators: Al & Michelle Wilson. For more information, visit <https://caggni.wildapricot.org>

Aug 12, 2017 — CAGGNI, Internet Special Interest Group (SIG), 12:45-2:30pm at Schaumburg Public Library. Internet Genealogical Services include Ancestry, Family Search, My Heritage, Find My Past, WikiTree and many others. SIG intends to review questions about these services and have a dialog on the advantages and features of the services used by members. This complements the features available from computer programs such as Family Tree Maker or RootsMagic that exploit the on-line databases available from the internet services. Facilitator: Alan Wilson. For more information, visit <https://caggni.wildapricot.org>

Aug 14, 2017 -- MCIGS, 7:00-9:00pm — "2017 MCIGS DNA Interest Group at Cary Area Public Library, Cary, IL. For more information, visit <http://mcigs.org>.

Aug 19, 2017—CAGGNI, 10:30am-12:30pm "Bringing to Life Our Ancestors: Manuscript Collections" at Schaumburg Township District Library, Schaumburg, IL. For more information, visit <https://caggni.wildapricot.org>

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

Website ~~ www.kengensoc.com
E-mail ~~ KenGenSocPresident@mail.com

CAGGNI—Computer Assisted Genealogy Group of Northern Illinois

EGS—Elgin, Illinois Genealogical Society

ISGS—Illinois Genealogical Society

MCIGS—McHenry County Illinois Genealogical Society

MPAFUG—Milwaukee PAF Users Group

Members interested in submitting articles may e-mail them to secretary@kengensoc.org. The Southport Editor will determine if an article will be used in this newsletter. Articles will be used as space permits. NO COPYRIGHTED ARTICLES may be submitted without express permission of the author and publisher. Articles should be submitted by the 1st Wednesday of each month to be considered for inclusion in that same month. Credit will be given for your article.

Disclaimer While we try to avoid errors, the editor does not assume any liability for any part of any loss or damage caused by errors nor omissions, whether such errors or omissions result from negligence, accident or any other cause. This newsletter is the official publication of Kenosha County Genealogy Society (KCGS) and reserves all rights. No articles herein may be reproduced for profit or commercial gain without the express written consent of KCGS. Members wishing to submit articles may e-mail them to : wnt2fsh@gmail.com. Please put "Newsletter" in the subject line. As space permits, articles will be used, but NO copyrighted articles will be used without permission from the author or publisher.