

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**  
6:00pm Social  
6:30pm Meeting/Program  
(NO meetings July & August)
- Our meeting will take place in the Madrigano Auditorium. The Auditorium building is to the North and back of the Main GTC Building.
- Check our Website Calendar for the most up-to-date location at [www.kengensoc.com](http://www.kengensoc.com)
- **June Program — SEE PAGE 7**

### American Quiz

According to legend, why did Betsy Ross suggest making the stars on the American flag five-pointed instead of six-pointed, as originally planned? (Answer on page 5)

## Cemetery Art Symbolism: Headstones and History

**Guest Speakers: Laurel Mellien**



This program focused on the rich symbolism displayed in cemeteries of the Victorian Era. Headstone art during this time period was carefully chosen by family members to

properly represent the deceased. Many clues about the lives of the dearly departed can be discovered by learning the language of cemetery art symbolism.

Victorians created park-like settings in cemeteries so they could take walks and see the various skills of artists. They didn't want to see the doom and gloom of skulls and fearful images. There were simple images of lambs laying down or standing up; they represent the innocence of children that died young. As in carved roses with broken stems.

A dollhouse was being built for a child, who passed away in 1928. It was then completed and used as the child's cemetery marker, which is located in East Hill Cemetery, in Arlington, Indiana.

Victorians were entranced with Egyptian themed symbols; pyramids, sphinx, lions and obelisks. So memorials would be designed with these symbols in mind. Some memorials were shaped as pillows or small beds, there was drapery carved into stone around a figure or an urn. They were designed to soften the marker as if in a home.

Common use of clasped hands had many meanings. Check the cuffs on them. One would be lacy (woman's) with the other a plain cuff (man's). One would be higher

referring to the first to pass away. A hand pointing one finger down, God reaching down. Palms together as in prayer, a farewell.

We are familiar with the Masonic symbols of a right angle ruler intersected with a compass. There are many symbols for the Masons and such fraternities.

Woodmen members use memorials shaped into tree trunks from large and tall to smaller, shorter and some that show a tree trunk cut down. There would be symbols sometimes carved in at the base indicating the fraternity representing the deceased member.

In Delavan, Wisconsin, there were 26 circus companies. Between 1847 to 1894, there were special markers for interred circus performers.

Jewish cemeteries will have inscriptions in both Hebrew and English. Open hand raised up carved on the memorial means giving a blessing. No flowers are placed but small stones are left on top of the memorial stone to show respect or remembrance.

Protestant cemeteries have no crosses, but may have angels. Lutheran will have plain crosses. Irish may have Celtic crosses which consists of a cross and a wheel, a combination of pagan and Christianity.

Laurel was an excellent speaker with so much information. It was a very informational meeting.

She can be reached at [HeadstoneAndHistory.com](http://HeadstoneAndHistory.com) for speaking engagements.

*Submitted by Suzanne Dibble*

## ELECTIONS COMING IN JUNE !

We will be voting on the positions of  
**President and Secretary**  
Both are for 2 year terms.

Please make sure to be there for voting at the  
 June 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting.



### The News of Your Death May Be a Bit Premature

By Dick Eastman

Here is a fun(?) although perhaps macabre project. Find obituaries of people with the same name as yourself. It is easy to do.

Go to **Google.com** and enter: *obituary {insert your name here}*

Depending upon the popularity of your name, you may be surprised at the number of entries you find.

I just checked for my name. I found lots of entries for men who share my name but luckily no obituary for me. I'll check again tomorrow...

### — Protect Your Genealogical Investment —

After spending years of gathering names of relatives on a family tree, their births, marriages deaths, cemeteries, pictures and relationships, we tend to accumulate piles of papers, notebooks, folders and genealogy books, etc. And later, when one has gone, and all of this is left behind, what is to become of all the time and effort that has been involved in this project? You might want to consider leaving some specific directions using a form like the one on Page 6 from the Milwaukee County Genealogical Society REPORTER, Vol. 35, No. 2, May 2004 obtained by KCGS member, Suzanne Dibble. A modified version might also be available on the internet.

### Meet Your Board Members: **SUZANNE DIBBLE, Librarian, Historian and Greeter**

Born and raised in Kenosha, Wisconsin to Eric N. and Georgia E. (Nee Dettmer) Dibble. Suzanne was acquainted to family research back in a high school history class. The project was to create a basic family tree. She kept that paper, which much later led her to start further research.

Now, a long time member of KCGS, among her numerous accomplishments, Suzanne:

- worked on the permanent display case at the Kenosha Municipal Building, 2nd floor
- created binders to collect pictures, information on speakers, and events for KCGS
- creates display boards for monthly meetings showing Board members, past speakers, events, and pictures of the display case at the Municipal Building
- created and maintains name tags, as well as monthly meeting greeter. Enjoying helping people learn and find new information, Suzanne volunteers as a researcher at the One-on-One sessions held at the Southwest Library.

Besides genealogy research, Suzanne loves to read, knit and crochet; wants to learn more about astronomy; drawing and watercolor.



## Upcoming Events

- ⇒ **Saturday, June 4, 2016, 1:30 p.m.**  
*Chicago Genealogical Society*  
*The Newberry Library*  
 60 W Walton St, Chicago, IL 60610  
**Topic:** *Bringing Life to Our Ancestors: Manuscript Collections* – Learn how to locate and how to use manuscript collections. Case studies show how these under utilized collections can bring an ancestor to life. Jeanne Larzalere Bloom<sup>CG</sup> will be the speaker. She is a full-time professional researcher specializing in Chicago and Cook County research, forensic genealogy, problem solving, and multi-generational family histories. On behalf of the Department of the Army, Jeanne searches for and identifies family members of unaccounted for servicemen from World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. Jeanne writes articles for scholarly journals and society publications. She is a frequent lecturer at conferences, workshops, and institutes as well as a Trustee and president of the Board for Certification of Genealogists.
- ⇒ **Saturday, June 4, 2016, 1:30 p.m.**  
*The Newberry Library*  
 60 W Walton St, Chicago, IL 60610  
**Topic:** *Genealogy and Local History Orientation*—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. This session will last approximately an hour, followed by a short tour of the library. See more at:  
<https://www.newberry.org/programs-genealogists>
- ⇒ **Thursday, June 9, 2016, 7:00pm, Monthly Mtg.**  
*McHenry County Illinois Genealogical Society*  
*The Pointe (next to Target)*  
 5650 Northwest Highway, Crystal Lake, IL 60014  
**Topic:** MCI GS will feature a presentation by Sandra Trapp who will discuss, “Using the Newberry Library for Family History Research. The Newberry Library has been offering research resources since 1887 as one of the premiere research libraries in the U.S. Information will be provided to help you prepare for a visit, inform you of the research aids their website offers, and provide an overview of their materials. Sandra Trapp has presented numerous program for various local genealogy organizations and libraries. She volunteers at the Naperville Family History Center as its Resource Chairman and serves as a director of the Genealogical Forum of Elmhurst. For more

information, please email [mcigs@mcigs.org](mailto:mcigs@mcigs.org) or telephone 815-687-0436.

- ⇒ **Tuesday, June 14, 2015, 8:00 p.m. (CDT)**  
*Webinar sponsored by Family Search*  
**Topic:** *Using Social Media to Break Through Brick Walls* — social media isn't just for teenagers anymore! Learn to use the power of Facebook, Pinterest, Instagram, and Twitter to overcome genealogy brick walls in your family tree and share your family story. Knowledgeable people around the world are just waiting to help you with your biggest problems and maybe you can help someone else along the way. **Registration:**  
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7540625935675352321>
- ⇒ **Saturday, July 9, 2016, 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**  
*McHenry County College*  
 8900 Route 14, Crystal Lake, IL  
**Topic:** *McHenry County Illinois Genealogical Society 2016 Summer Conference* — an all-day conference for genealogists and family historians. The conference is ideal for everyone, no matter if you are just beginning to work on your family history or have been searching for years and need some new ideas to help you break through those brick walls. There's always something new to be learned at every level.  
 Conference registration can be done online at [www.mcigs.org/conference](http://www.mcigs.org/conference), or by mail by downloading the registration brochure from their website. The cutoff date for registrations including lunch, is June 16, 2016. Walk-in registration will be accepted on the day of the conference, space permitting; however, no lunch will be provided.  
 This year's speakers include D. Joshua Taylor, a nationally known and recognized author. He has been a featured genealogist on Who Do You Think You Are? and host of the popular PBS television series Genealogy Roadshow. Thomas MacEntee, creator and author of GeneaBloggers.com will also be in attendance as well as Jennifer Holik who specializes in Chicago research, Italians in Chicago, and World War II. Another internationally know genealogist, author and Teacher, Tony Burroughs, will also be featured. He has appeared as the African American genealogy expert in the public television series, Ancestors. Rounding out the program we have Tina Beard, who is the Genealogy and Local History Librarian at the Plainfield Public Library.  
 There will be a number of vendors including genealogy and historical societies, book sellers, and others for you to peruse during the day. A number of fabulous door prizes are also available.

## Stories of Interest

[Did your Aunt Have Cancer? Knowing Could Save Your Life.](https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/did-your-aunt-have-cancer-knowing-could-save-your-life/) – "Few of us have an accurate understanding of what came before us, health-wise. Only one-third of Americans have ever tried to collect their family medical histories from relatives..."  
[https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/did-your-aunt-have-cancer-knowing-could-save-your-life/2016/04/29/51f9318e-0701-11e6-b283-e79d81c63c1b\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/did-your-aunt-have-cancer-knowing-could-save-your-life/2016/04/29/51f9318e-0701-11e6-b283-e79d81c63c1b_story.html)

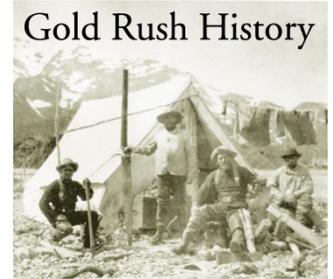
[You've Read the Obits, Now See the Movie](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/04/25/insider/youve-read-the-obits-now-see-the-movie.html?_r=0) – New York Times obituary writer Margalit Fox "explains how a feature-length documentary about *The Times's* obituaries desk came to be."  
[http://www.nytimes.com/2016/04/25/insider/youve-read-the-obits-now-see-the-movie.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/04/25/insider/youve-read-the-obits-now-see-the-movie.html?_r=0)

[Two Brothers Were Separated by the Holocaust. After 77 Years, their Families Just Reunited](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/inspired-life/wp/2016/05/02/two-brothers-were-separated-by-the-holocaust-after-77-years-their-families-just-reunited/?tid=sm_tw) – Abram Belz, a Polish Jew who settled in New Jersey after World War II, spent his post-war life trying to find his younger brother, Chaim, who he'd last seen in 1939. Abram Belz's granddaughter just found Chaim's family.  
[https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/inspired-life/wp/2016/05/02/two-brothers-were-separated-by-the-holocaust-after-77-years-their-families-just-reunited/?tid=sm\\_tw](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/inspired-life/wp/2016/05/02/two-brothers-were-separated-by-the-holocaust-after-77-years-their-families-just-reunited/?tid=sm_tw)

[Sisters Who Were Abandoned in Cardboard Boxes as Infants Reunite after 50 Years Apart](http://www.people.com/article/sisters-abandoned-cardboard-boxes-reunited-after-50-years) – Three biological sisters searching for their birth families found each other through DNA testing.  
<http://www.people.com/article/sisters-abandoned-cardboard-boxes-reunited-after-50-years>

[Mothers in World War I](http://americanhistory.si.edu/blog/mothers-world-war-i) – "When people think of World War I, they often think of soldiers fighting in trenches. But soldiers weren't the only ones doing the work of war. In honor of Mother's Day and the centenary of the Great War, we examine some of the roles mothers played in World War I."  
<http://americanhistory.si.edu/blog/mothers-world-war-i>

**Did your ancestor go to Alaska to strike it rich during the Alaska Gold Rush?**



The following web address will show you the hundreds of thousands of prospectors, miners, trappers, merchants and military men and women who did between 1867 when the United States purchased Alaska from Russia until the 1950s.

This is a great web site and well worth visiting. Names are listed in alphabetical order to make your search easy.

Here is the web address:

[http://alaskagoldrush.info/Genealogy\\_files/Genealogy.htm](http://alaskagoldrush.info/Genealogy_files/Genealogy.htm)

Courtesy of Bob Heck, MPAFUG



## National Historic Preservation Act 50th Anniversary Photo Contest

The Wisconsin State Historic Preservation Office is holding a photo contest to celebrate 50 years of the National Historic Preservation Act. This is a chance to show off your photography skills and celebrate the historic places in Wisconsin that are important to you. Check it out at:  
<http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Content.aspx?dsNav=N:4294963828-4294963805&dsRecordDetails=R:CS14802>

## 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:

[Dawn-twinbluestar49@yahoo.com](mailto:Dawn-twinbluestar49@yahoo.com)

Be sure to check out the surname list on our website at [www.kengensoc.com](http://www.kengensoc.com).

Bartram	Ingalls	Sauer
Cerminara	Kellogg	Tully
Donovan	Lannoye	Vah Voorhees
Espinoza	Madsen	Waldron
Foster	Nygord	Young
Gallo	Otto	Zingler
Henry	Reeves	



this month in  
**HISTORY**  
MAY 21 • 1881  
CLARA BARTON  
founds the  
**AMERICAN  
RED CROSS**

On May 21, 1881, Clara Barton held the first meeting of the American Red Cross after years of campaigning for the American government's acceptance of the organization.

Barton had risen to fame for her humanitarian work during the Civil War. Previously a teacher and patent clerk, during the war Barton had—among other contributions—distributed medical supplies and nursed soldiers independently of any organization.

Immediately following the war, she had spearheaded an effort to locate tens of thousands of missing soldiers, including helping to identify the thousands of bodies buried at the brutal Confederate Andersonville Prison. While on the lecture circuit to discuss her experiences, Barton—then in her late 40s—began to suffer from poor health, on a doctor's suggestion, she traveled to Europe in 1869 to rest.

While in Europe, Barton was introduced to the International Red Cross and got to see the organization in action during the Franco-Prussian War, which occurred while she was in Europe. She helped the International Red Cross with its humanitarian mission during the conflict and decided to create an American branch when she returned home.

Before America could join the International Red Cross, however, it had to sign the First (1864) Geneva Convention, which set up rules governing the protection and neutrality of civilian aid workers during wartime, among other things. America had previously declined to sign the Convention, and Barton had a long road ahead of her as she first battled her own illnesses and then worked for years to gain acceptance for the Convention and the Red Cross in the United States.

Finally, under the administration of President Chester A. Arthur, the First Geneva Convention was ratified in 1882. However, in anticipation of that, Barton had held the first meeting of the American Red Cross a year prior, in May 1881. Part of what led to the acceptance of the Red Cross in America were Barton's efforts to show that the organization could contribute during peacetime, as well as wartime, by providing relief following natural disasters. During Barton's time as president of the Red Cross, she headed 18 relief efforts around the country and abroad.

Barton remained president of the American Red Cross until 1904, when she resigned at age 82 amid increasing criticism of her leadership methods and handling of money. She would go on to live another eight years, during which time she founded an organization that taught first aid.

**American Quiz** ~ A: Because she could easily cut them with a single snip of the scissors after folding the fabric in a special way.

## ELECTED OFFICERS

President ~~ Judy Uelmen

Vice President ~~ Patrick Stulgin

Treasurer ~~ Frank Klein

Secretary ~~ Mary Ann Cole

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Website ~~ [www.kengensoc.com](http://www.kengensoc.com)

Judy Uelmen (President) ~~ [juelm@aol.com](mailto:juelm@aol.com)

Kathy Nuernberg (Newsletter Editor) ~ [secretary@kengensoc.org](mailto:secretary@kengensoc.org)

## APPOINTED OFFICERS

Corresponding Secretary ~~ Mary Ann Cole

Digital Equipment Operator ~~

Jeff Huff and Frank Klein

Librarian/Historian ~~ Suzanne Dibble

Newsletter Editor ~~ Kathy Nuernberg

Publicity ~~ Judy Reynolds

Sunshine Committee ~~ Claudia Schiller

Surname Project ~~ Dawn Jurgens

Webmaster ~~ Jeff Huff

Members interested in submitting articles may e-mail them to [secretary@kengensoc.org](mailto: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.

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## Genealogical Codicil to My Last Will and Testament

To my Spouse, children, guardian, administrator and/or executor:

Upon my demise it is requested that you DO NOT dispose of any or all of my genealogical records, both those prepared personally by me and those records prepared by others which may be in my possession, including but not limited to books, files, notebooks or computer programs for a period of two years.

During this time period, please attempt to identify one or more persons who would be willing to take custody of the said materials and the responsibility of maintaining and continuing the family histories. [If you know whom within your family or friends are likely candidates to accept these materials, please add the following at this point: "I suggest that the persons contacted regarding the assumption of the custody of these items include but not be limited to . . ." and then list the names of those individuals at this point, with their addresses and telephone numbers if known.]

In the event you do not find anyone to accept these materials, please contact the various genealogical organizations, historical societies and/or libraries that I have been a member of and determine if they will accept some parts or all of my genealogical materials. [List of organizations, addresses and phone numbers at bottom; include local chapters, with their addresses, phone numbers and contact persons if available as well as state/national contact information and addresses.]

Please remember that my genealogical endeavors consumed a great deal of time, travel, and money. Therefore, it is my desire that the products of these endeavors be allowed to continue in a manner that will make them available to others in the future.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Witness \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Witness \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## KENOSHA COUNTY GENEALOGY SOCIETY

*where we gather together to trace our lineage,  
be HISTORY of YOU*

Robin B. Seidenberg had heard rumors about an old family scandal involving a great aunt that occurred during the Roaring Twenties in Chicago. The 1920s were a wild time; Chicago was a wild place. Apparently Robin's great aunts were wilder than most.

While Robin expected to find information in Chicago, she was amazed to discover sensational news stories from Aberdeen, South Dakota to Aberdeen, Scotland about the notorious murder in which one of her great aunts was involved. Imagine her surprise when she learned that another great aunt, whom she remembered as a very elegant, dignified lady, had quite a career on Broadway and in Hollywood. Robin will tell the fascinating story of the scandal and explain how she found the information about these beautiful sisters.



### Robin B. Seidenberg Professional Genealogy Speaker will present

#### **Skeletons in our Closets: Researching a Family Scandal**

“If you can’t get rid of the family skeleton,  
you may as well make it dance.”

~ George Bernard Shaw

The Kenosha County Genealogy Society is happy to grow our membership. We would love to have you as one of our members. If you are interested in researching your heritage, please join us:

- 🌹 Monday, June 13, 2016 ~ OPEN to the Public
- 🌹 6:30 pm Registration, Conversation & Business Meeting
- 🌹 7:00 pm Program — “Skeletons in our Closets”
- 🌹 Kenosha Gateway Technical College, 3320—30th Avenue, Madrigano Auditorium