NOTES FROM THE SSGHS PRESIDENT
By Larry McClellan

In 1823, a New York City newspaperman, Lewis Caleb Beck, traveled from southern Illinois across open country to the tiny village of Chicago. He wrote a guidebook for travelers to Illinois and in this described the little community on Lake Michigan and the vast region extending far to the south known as the Grand Prairie. He rode on horseback across what would become the southern part of the Chicago metropolitan area, and about this area he wrote:

This prairie is generally high and undulating, with a sandy soil . . . . It is very questionable whether it will ever be thickly settled.

Yet, over nearly 200 years later, our region has become "thickly settled." Wide prairie and stands of timber evolved into a rich array of communities across south and southwest Cook County reaching way into Will County. This well-developed suburban fabric contains more than 60 cities and villages in the “Chicago Southland.” With more than 800,000 residents, if our region were a single metropolitan area, it would be the 18th largest city in America: more residents than in Boston, Denver, or Detroit.

We, together, have a continuing opportunity to understand the history of our region through the SSGHS and a variety of more local history groups. I really hope that in this time of COVID, you are finding creative ways to explore your family and community history. Following our guidelines [they are online!], please visit the Library; also the recently improved website, and best wishes in your searching.

NOVEMBER PROGRAM
By Shirley Koelling

November 14

Boots on the Ground: Using Archives to Trace Your Veteran Ancestor

Tina Beaird will explain the significance behind using original records for tracing your ancestor’s military service. Records from the American Revolution to WWII will be discussed as well as sources for modern records. Learn what types of documents are available within federal, state, and local archives.

Tina Beaird is the owner of Tamarack Genealogy and is the Genealogy/Local History Librarian at the Plainfield Public Library. She lectures nationally on military research, genealogical methodology, Scottish records, and archival preservation. She is a governing board director of the Illinois State Genealogical Society, the Northern Illinois Historical League, and the Illinois State Historical Records Advisory Board. She volunteers her time with several local historical and genealogical societies, scanning and indexing historic records. Occasionally, Tina finds time to research her own family tree, which she has been pursuing for more than 25 years.

Check our website for information about connecting via Zoom to watch the presentation on November 14.

LOOKING FOR A WAY TO HELP YOUR SOCIETY?
By Paula Malak

A new committee has been formed to increase the sales of our Publications. We are closing in on the first item to finish – a complete inventory of our remaining publications. Order forms are being designed and will soon be ready to post on line. Everything will be ready to go on the first of January 2021!

All that is needed is a small group of volunteers to fulfill the orders. This job would entail: Checking the orders for completeness/correctness, making sure the enclosed check is for the correct amount, gathering up the order, packaging it, and shipping it (USPS). Once that is done, the order form and the check will be routed to the Treasurer.

Your time commitment would vary, and could be done at your convenience, perhaps once a week or so, depending on the number of orders. If you think this opportunity would be a good fit for you or if you have questions or concerns, give me a call at 708-829-7096 and we can talk about it. Thanks.
S S G H S News

SSGHS News (ISSN 0896-4408) is a benefit of membership, published monthly by South Suburban Genealogical & Historical Society. SSGHS and the Society’s library serves south Cook and east Will Counties, Illinois. We are an Illinois not-for-profit corporation and a 501(c)(3) Tax Exempt Organization.

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Research fee for a librarian — $20/hour (see website for Research Policy).

The Annual Membership year runs from September 1, 2020, through August 31, 2021. Dues are:

- Individual $30.00
- Library or Society $30.00
- Family (two people at same address) $35.00
- Contributing $40.00
- Supporting $55.00

General Membership Meetings are held the 2nd Saturday of each month, except December and January, at the Society’s headquarters, 3000 West 170th Place, Hazel Crest, in the Municipal Center building, between Dixie Highway and Kedzie Avenue, and a half-mile north of 175th Street via California Avenue.

Newsletter submissions are due by the 15th of each month. We do not assume responsibility for errors, though we will attempt to correct them.

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OCTOBER PROGRAM
SUMMARY
By Shirley Koelling

400th Anniversary of the Mayflower Voyage

Jenny Warner was our speaker by way of Zoom. Some of her audience was at our library, but most (23) were in their homes. She gave us a history of the ship, told of some of the more well-known passengers, told us why they left England, what the voyage was like, as well as their experiences once they landed, and finally how to search Mayflower Genealogy.

There were 26 ships with the name Mayflower during the reign of King James I, but we are only interested in the one with its captain named Christopher Jones. It was an English ship, but was part of a Dutch cargo fleet. It was a small ship which could carry about 135 people, of which about 30 were crew. It was heavily armed with cannons. There were four decks. The passengers spent most of their day on the gun deck, while their belongings were down below in the cargo deck.

There were 102 passengers and 25-30 in the crew. There are a few names that are very familiar to most of us. William Bradford was the second governor of the colony, had the most children, and was a leading figure in the Puritan Movement. John Alden was actually part of the crew. He later married Priscilla Mullins, an 18-year-old passenger. John was a barrel and casket maker. With all the deaths both during the voyage and in the New World, he was kept very busy. Another familiar name, Miles Standish, learned the Indian language, so the Pilgrims could communicate with them.

The Pilgrims originally left England to form a colony in Holland because they were not happy with the Church of England. They lived in the city of Leiden in Holland for 12 years. Life in Holland was hard and dangerous. Finally they decided that they would go to the New World. Their goal was to form a colony in Virginia like Jamestown.

The group set sail in July 1620 with two ships – the Mayflower and the Speedwell. Unfortunately, the Speedwell developed a leak, so both ships returned to England. After repairing the ship, they departed in August, only to experience another leak. Finally they abandoned the Speedwell. Then waiting a few days for favorable winds, they finally set sail September 6. The first half of the trip was calm, but then they encountered the Atlantic gales. The Mayflower was never intended to be a trans-Atlantic ship. It was dark, cold, cramped, with no privacy. Also, the passengers had been using their provisions since July, so food was running short. Many passengers got seasick. Finally they sighted land near Cape Cod on November 9 and landed at Plymouth in December. Each adult male in the party signed a document called the Mayflower Compact before they left the ship. In this document they agreed to set up their own self government.

In their first winter many people died. They had a lack of shelter, clothing, and food. They remained on the ship, because there was not time to build houses before the winter set in. The first governor and his wife died in April 1621.

Do you have a Mayflower ancestor? The Mayflower Society has put out a set of books called the Silver Books. Each book contains the genealogy of one of the passengers for several generations. Our library has the set of books. If you do not know, however, it is best not to start with these books, but rather start with yourself and go back. Do you have ancestors in the New England area around the Mayflower time? Here are some websites to help with research:

www.mayflowerhistory.com
www.themayflowersociety.org
www.familysearch.com

MAYFLOWER cont pg. 4...
The ratification of the 19th Amendment on August 18, 1920, cemented into law the right for women in America to vote. But many women, across the country, were already voting in local, state, and national elections. Most of the Western states allowed women’s suffrage earlier, and some even before statehood as a means of attracting women to territories mostly populated by men! The state of Illinois began allowing women the right to register and vote in 1913 for Presidential electors and local government officials, except for police or magistrates. However, that right DID NOT include the vote for state or federal representatives. Women in Illinois voted on separate ballots and placed their ballots in separate boxes.

For the first time, in the November election of 1920, women voted on an entire slate of candidates, up and down the ticket. In the months before the election, states scheduled extra days for women to register. Practice voting booths were put up at State Fairs. Department store windows set up voting booth displays. New voting machines were added. But all states control their own elections. Women were constrained from registering by geography and rules about residency, race, ethnicity, poll tax, and literacy. In Arkansas, Mississippi, Georgia, and South Carolina, voters were required to register six months before the November election, so no women there were able to vote. There was much anticipation that women voting would radically change the outcome of the election and voter turnout would be enormous. In 1916, 18.5-million votes were cast in the November election. In 1920, 26.8-million votes were cast. The number of Democratic votes in 1920 roughly equaled the number in 1916, but the number of Republican votes doubled. The number of women voting varied widely across the country. Nationally, only 36% of eligible women voted compared to 68% of eligible men. In

Virginia, only 6% of eligible women voted, 20% in Massachusetts and Connecticut, 50% in Kentucky and Missouri. It was not until 1980 that the percentage of women and men voting became roughly equal. ■

NEVER GIVE UP
by Kenneth Carlborg

It is easy when one gets caught up in ongoing research to forget how important it is to go back from time to time to update old research. New resources are constantly being added to Ancestry or FamilySearch and you never know what you might find a second time around. This was brought home to me recently. When I first started doing genealogical research 25 years ago, I went to Oak Woods Cemetery in Chicago to visit the graves of my Carlborg great-grandparents. To my surprise the office informed me there were unmarked graves of 3 children I had never heard of buried with them. All the cemetery had was their names and the days they were buried within weeks of one another in 1889. Shortly thereafter I found a family history my grandmother had made that mentioned 3 children who had died of diphtheria with no other information. No matter what I tried I could not find anything. Taking advantage of the search flexibility of online resources in recent years, I finally tracked down Cook County death certificates (under Corlbury, Carlbeg, and Calberg) that at least mentioned how old they were when they died but nothing more specific. Recently, I decided to throw Carlborg into Ancestry’s search box and to my amazement there was a baptism record from Salem Lutheran Church, Chicago that was not there the last time I tried. It listed the middle of the 3 children. I now know that John Gottfrid Carlborg was born in Chicago to my great-grandparents on January 30, 1885. Unfortunately the other two children were not listed. Don’t give up! ■
This year marks the 400th Anniversary of the Mayflower landing. There are numerous websites giving details of celebrations in the U.S., England, and Holland. Here are a few:
https://www.plymouth400inc.org
https://www.mayflower400uk.org
https://mayflowereventnews.com/leiden/
If you want the complete list of websites mentioned in Jenny’s talk, contact our library and request her handout.

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**WHATS NEW IN THE LIBRARY**

**Black Oak and After; Korst, Kevin [c. 2017]. 977.3162 H-KOR**
Black Family Magazine; [1983-]. F H BLAIR

Brink’s: The Money Movers: The Story of a Century of Service; Seng, R. A. [1959]. 385.2 SEN

Builder's Story: An interpretive record of the Builders’ Association of Chicago, Inc; Wallin, Chad [1966]. 977.311 H-WAL

Burial-transit permits and other miscellaneous documents Calumet City, Illinois: ca. 1931-1941; South Suburban Genealogical and Historical Society [2001]. 977.3167 D-CAL

Canal on the James: An Illustrated Guide to the James River and the Kanawha Canal; Hobbs, T. Gibson, Jr. [2009]. 975.54 H-HOB

Cantors: Gifted Voices Remembered; Kraus, Bea [1996]. 977.311 H-KRA


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**UPCOMING PROGRAMS:**

November 14 – “Boots on the Ground: Using Archives to Trace Your Veteran Ancestor” by Tina Beaird.

December-January – No programs.

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**SSGHS Library is a FamilySearch Affiliate Library**

SSGHS Research Library gives you onsite access to more than two billion digitized records, and more, including 400-million images not currently available to the public outside an Affiliate Library or a FamilySearch Family History Center. In addition, you get the helpful assistance of SSGHS volunteer library staff.