



Newsletter

North Suburban Genealogical Society

March-April, 2021

Volume 47, Issue 2

In This Issue

- Early history of NSGS, pages 1-3
- Upcoming NSGS programs, page 2
- Upcoming genealogy webinars, page 3
- Golden Rules for Genealogy, page 4
- Immigrant family in search of a better life, page 5-6
- Historic maps of southern Illinois, page 7
- Are you sure about your own name, pages 7-8
- In memoriam: John Nygard, page 8

Early history of NSGS

by Terry Jackson



As many of our members know, the North Suburban Genealogical Society (NSGS) was formed in 1975. The history of our organization is reflected over the years by its newsletters. The Glenview Public Library has collected all of the NSGS newsletters since its founding in 1975. The newsletters are filed in the Genealogy & Local History Room on the 2nd floor of that library. They are grouped by years and bound together in hardback covers. All the newsletters have also recently been scanned and posted to the “Member-only”

section of the website nsgil.org.

Volume 1, No. 1 of the newsletter was issued in November, 1975. The author reports that the first meeting of the Society took place on September 24, 1975 at the Winnetka Public Library with over 100 in attendance. That is an impressive number of attendees, and considering the size of the Lloyd Room in that library, it must have been crowded. The first NSGS board members were **Roberta Johnson**, President; **Michael Melnick**, Editor; **David Ross**, Membership; **Connie O’Kieffe**, Secretary; and **Harriet Hodge**, Treasurer. The announced speaker for the second meeting was **Nancy Stein**, a current member of NSGS.

Prior to the formation of the society, a determined group of genealogists – including **Katherine Greeley**, **Roberta Johnson**, **Betty White**, **Nancy Stein**, and **Harriet Hodge** – carpooled regularly to do research at the Newberry Library in Chicago. They worked on indexing Illinois genealogical journals and talked about how to make research more available to the general public. Out of this dedication grew the idea of starting a local genealogy society based on instructing and helping those in the community interested in researching their family histories – a service aspect that was a founding principle of NSGS.

The next issue, published in January 1976, contains some very interesting information, including a list of Charter Members who were defined as those joining NSGS before January 1, 1976. I counted 92 members plus 16 spouses. The membership fee is \$5 for an individual or \$6 for a couple. On that list are a few still-current members: **Clark Dean**, **Mrs. William (Barbara) Garrison**, **Nina Johnson**, and **Richard Locke**. Our current Board of Directors and current members would like to congratulate these charter members and thank them for their continued support of our Genealogical Society!

Continued on page 2

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, March 13, 2021 1:00 PM

Zoom meeting.



Getting started in Chinese genealogy – presented by Kelly Summers. This program is in connection with the Wilmette Public Library’s “One Book Everyone Reads” spring program. Kelly will discuss finding immigration records, and her presentation

will be applicable to some other Asian countries.

Saturday, April 10, 2021 1:00 PM

Zoom meeting.



Cemetery Symbolism – presented by Laurel Mellien. Explore the rich symbolism displayed in cemeteries of the Victorian Era. Many clues about the lives of the dearly departed can be discovered by

learning the language of cemetery art symbolism.

*** **PLEASE NOTE** ***

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the timing of the resumption of in-person meetings is uncertain. Check the NSGS website and your email inbox for updates.

Early history of NSGS

Continued from page 1

Another acknowledgement published in the second newsletter was to **Henry G. R. White**, who designed the original NSGS seal (shown on page 1), which was used as the active logo for the Society for 39 years, until 2015, when a new design was approved by the Board as a replacement with a bolder type and a font that is easier to import into modern websites and documents.

The society continued to meet at the Winnetka Library in the Lloyd Room, alternating monthly between Saturdays and Wednesday evenings. In July 1986, the Saturday meetings were moved to the Glenview Public Library to accommodate the larger number of attendees. Notably, prior to 1986, NSGS member **Gertrude Lundberg** had donated her extensive personal collection of genealogical works to the Glenview Library – a resource that is still a feature of that library’s collection today.

Several monthly meetings were held at other locations, including at least one in 1987 at the Wilmette Public Library and one in 1996 at Northminster Presbyterian Church in Evanston. NSGS continued to use the Winnetka Library as its home address and place for Board meetings until 2015, when P. O. Box 3032 in Glenview was acquired as a mailing address and Board meetings were temporarily moved to the Glenview Public Library.

Continued on page 3

North Suburban Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 3032, Glenview IL 60025

Meeting locations vary: usually the 2nd Saturday of a month (except December) at the Glenview, Northbrook or Wilmette Public Libraries or at the Northbrook Historical Society. See the website for full event schedule.

Web site: nsgil.org

Board members serve for the calendar year.

President: Linda Dooley

Treasurer: Bill Nemmer (Vice-President)

Secretary: Laura Plack

Membership: Cary Stone-Greenstein

Newsletter: George Martin

Programs: Terry Jackson

Publicity: Judy Hughes

Hospitality: Tom Corcoran

Social Media: Judy Hughes

Immediate Past President: Bob Bremer

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Editor: George Martin

A bi-monthly publication of genealogical value, issued in odd-numbered months.

Website: nsgil.org

Facebook page: www.facebook.com/nsgsil

Please submit all articles to George Martin at the above address, or to newsletter@nsgil.org

Upcoming Free Family Tree Webinars March-April, 2021

Learn something new from the comfort of your own home! Note that this is a partial listing. Time of day varies. Check the website for additional details.

<http://familytreewebinars.com/upcoming-webinars.php>

- Mar 2-3 British Genealogy Online: the Top English and Welsh Family History Websites – by Rick Crume
- Mar 3 La Madre Chiesa: Italian Catholic Parish Records – by Suzanne Russo Adams
- Mar 5 The Ten Percent: Free People of Color – by Nicka Smith
- Mar 9 Using Different Family Tree Views for your Research – by Uri Gonen
- Mar 10-11 Researching Ancestral Locations in Prussian Genealogy Records – by Nancy Loe
- Mar 16-17 Reporting on Research: Standards Encourage Better Communication – by Nancy Peters
- Mar 17 *FamilySearch.org* – 10 Links You Have to Try – by Devin Ashby
- Mar 19 Tracing Your War of 1812 British Soldier – by Paul Milner
- Mar 23 See Your Ancestors Like Never Before with *MyHeritage's* Photo Tools – by Tal Erlichman
- Mar 24 20th Century Immigrants to the West Coast – by Linda Harms Okazaki
- Mar 31 Fifty Overlooked Genealogical Resources in Fifty Minutes – by Diane Richard
- Apr 2 In Their Own Words: Genealogy in the Slave Narratives – by Renate Yarborough Sanders
- Apr 7 DNA for Dog Lovers – by Shellee Morehead
- Apr 13 The New and Improved *Legacy Family Tree Webinars* Website – by Geoff Rasmussen
- Apr 14 Jewish Genealogy with *JewishGen.org* – by Deborah Kroopkin
- Apr 16 An African Canadian Family History Mystery – by Mags Gaulden
- Apr 20-21 Turning Raw Information into Evidence: Tips for Drawing Conclusions – by J. H. Fonkert
- Apr 21 3 Ways to Advance Your Research with Correlation – by Shannon Green
- Apr 27 Recent Updates to MyHeritage's Historical Record Search Engine – by Dana Drutman

Early history of NSGS

Continued from page 2

The long association with the Winnetka Library was more than a meeting place and mailing address. Many of our NSGS members were volunteers and supporters of the Winnetka genealogy department, and added to its extensive collection of resources, including those donated by NSGS charter member **Katherine Greeley**. The Winnetka Library closed its genealogy room in 2015. Some of its collection stayed in the Winnetka Library, in the first floor Reference section. The majority of its collection was disbursed to other libraries, including 200 books and pamphlets that went to the Glenview Library. The written family histories, many of them authored by NSGS members, went to Chicago's Newberry Library, one of the most preeminent research libraries in the U.S. Many other items from the Winnetka collection went to the Lake County (IL) Genealogical Society. **Betty Voigt**, a long-time liaison between the Society and the Winnetka Library, was instrumental in keeping the collection local when it was disbursed.

NSGS charter member **Betty White** conducted lectures and training sessions for beginners through much of the 1980's and 1990's. In 1987, NSGS reached a peak of 229 members in 1987. There are now far more local and online genealogy groups than existed many years ago, and NSGS currently has 111 members.

In 2010, due to the construction of the new Glenview Public Library, the Northbrook Historical Society (NHS) and History Museum graciously offered to host the NSGS monthly meetings. Instrumental in making this possible was our current Board member, **Judy Hughes**, who is also on the board of NHS. Both NSGS and NHS were celebrating their 35th anniversaries in 2010. The mutual interests of history and genealogy continue to be a good fit for working together. As part of the 35th Year anniversary celebration for NSGS in 2010, the Society recognized and presented Certificates of Appreciation for 10 Charter Members still active in 2010.

As we enter our 46th year of researching and preserving our family histories together as a genealogical society, much has changed with access to databases and online record images. But the methodologies for research and the commitment of our members remains consistent and strong. The NSGS newsletters of the recent and distant past are a wealth of family history information, as shared by our members through the years. All newsletters are available to members on the NSGS website, and at the Glenview Public Library. For this, we credit **Tom Corcoran**, who scanned and downloaded all the old newsletters.

Golden Rules of Genealogy by Thomas MacEntee



[Editor's note: Thomas MacEntee is a genealogy professional with decades of experience. He presented a program to NSGS in October, 2010 on the topic of deciphering the codes used in the U.S. Census. This article is used with his permission. ©1921, copyright Thomas MacEntee. All rights reserved. For more information, please visit Genealogy Bargains at <https://genealogybargains.com>].

1. **There is No Easy Button in Genealogy.** You will work hard to find your ancestors. Genealogy will require more than passion; it will require skills, smarts, and dedication. Don't believe the hype of instant hints, smart matches and shaky leaves. If it were that easy, the journey of discovering our roots would have little or no meaning.
2. **Research from a Place of "I Don't Know."** Your genealogy research will likely run counter to your cherished family stories. It will upend your preconceived notions about certain events and people. It will change the way you think about your ancestors. This can only happen if you research with an open mind and take off the blinders.
3. **Track Your Work and Cite Your Sources.** When I started out in genealogy, I'll admit I was a name collector and would "dump" almost any name into my database. Years later, I am crossing out entire branches of a tree that never really should have been "grafted" on to mine. Use a research log, track your work, cite your sources, and analyze data before it is entered into any software or online tree program.
4. **Ask for Help.** The genealogy community is populated with people of all skill levels and areas of expertise, most of whom want to assist others. There are no stupid questions; we all started as beginners. There is no right way to ask. Post a query on *Facebook* or as a question during a webinar or email your favorite genealogy rock star.
5. **You Can't Edit a Blank Page.** Which means: you have to start in order to have something to work with. That project you keep putting off, like publishing your family history, won't complete itself. Commit yourself to move from "obsession" to "reality." Remember: *A year from now, you'll wish you had started today.*
6. **Work and Think Like Your Ancestors.** While I'm not sure about your ancestors, mine were resourceful and developed tools and skills to get what they wanted. They were not "educated" *per se*, but they had "street smarts" and knew where to go so they could learn new things. Also make sure you have a plan; my ancestors didn't just wake up one day and on a whim decide to come to America and make a better life. They had a plan, they had a network of people to help them, and they made it happen.
7. **You Do Not Own Your Ancestors.** Researching your roots can create emotional connections to not only your ancestors, but to the actual research itself. Many people become "possessive" of their ancestors and fail to realize that a 3rd-great-grandparent is likely also the ancestor of hundreds of others. You can't take your research or your ancestor with you when you die; take time to share your research and be open to differences in information and research when collaborating with others.
8. **Be Nice. The Genealogy Community is a Small Place.** While there are millions of people searching for ancestors, genealogists worldwide have developed a community with relatively few degrees of separation. Whether it is online or in a *Facebook* group or in-person at a genealogy conference, it is likely you'll already know someone. Being "genealogy nice" is not fake; the connections with other researchers tend to be deep and genuine. We know that all of our roots are interlocked and a genealogist can't always go it alone.
9. **Give and Be Abundant.** Exchange information freely with other researchers; don't hold data "close" to you or exchange it in lieu of something else. Most genealogists who have heard me speak know my own story of abundance. Don't let your hand keep a tight grip on information. Let it go. Once your hand is free, it can be open and ready to receive the next good thing coming your way.

In Search of a Better Life

by Sarah Stumme

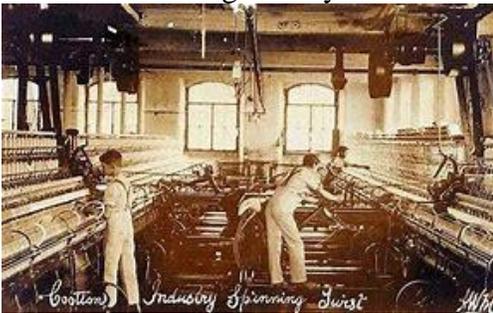
[Editor's note: NSGS member Sarah Stumme has done extensive research on a branch of her in-laws' family. The full article will shortly appear in the Articles section of the NSGS website. What follows here is a very abbreviated version of the full story.]

Almost 180 years ago, the Chadwick family immigrated to the United States, leaving the cotton mills of Lancashire, England to forge a new life in Pittsburgh, the "Steel City." The immigrants were Samuel Chadwick (born 1800; death year unknown) and his wife, Catherine Clegg (1804-1873), and their children. Samuel and Catherine were married in 1825, and their many children were born between 1826-1837. The story of the Chadwick family in the 19th century illustrates the rapidly changing world, moving from the agricultural revolution to the industrial revolution. The Chadwick family was impacted by events much larger than themselves, and they were also part of the movement forward. It is remarkable to consider that a grandson of Samuel and Catherine Chadwick would become an electrician in the 1890's, when the electric light bulb had only been invented a decade earlier.



In the early 1800's the Chadwick family lived in the town of Heywood, civil parish of Bury, county of Lancashire. The town is just a few miles north of the city of Manchester. The family is recorded in the church records of St. Luke's in Heywood and in the 1841 Census. Samuel Chadwick is listed as a shoemaker in the baptismal records of his children and in an 1821 directory for Heywood. The 1841 Census marks Catherine as being born in the county of Lancashire. The family may have lived in that county for a very long time, but their antecedents are unknown.

The 1841 Census was the first national census taken in Great Britain. It was taken in one day and records household occupants as of June 6, 1841. In the Chadwick household, Samuel's occupation in baptismal records was identified as shoemaker or cordwainer. The oldest child, Ellen, age 15, worked as a cotton weaver. According to *Wikipedia*, Girls and women made up about 60% of the workforce in the mills and were engaged in weaving and spinning. They were not allowed the higher paid jobs of their male counterparts. Men earned more than double the wages for doing the same work. Power loom workers were usually girls and young women. The textile mills had serious health and safety issues. Inhaling cotton dust caused lung problems and the noise could cause total hearing loss. Weavers also had to suck thread through the eye of the shuttle, which meant ingesting carcinogenic oil.



Ellen's younger siblings, ranging in age from 6 to 13, were identified as "scavengers." Scavengers were the lowliest of the apprentices at the cotton mills and had to endure the worst conditions. They were employed to work under the machinery to clean up the dust and oil, and to gather the cotton that had been thrown off the spinning mule by its intense vibrations. The machines would not stop to allow the scavenger to work because the machine operators were paid by how much they could produce. Children began working as scavengers as early as age 4. They worked 14 to 16 hours a day, and they were

beaten if they fell asleep. Accidents were frequent due to the lack of sleep and dangerous working conditions.

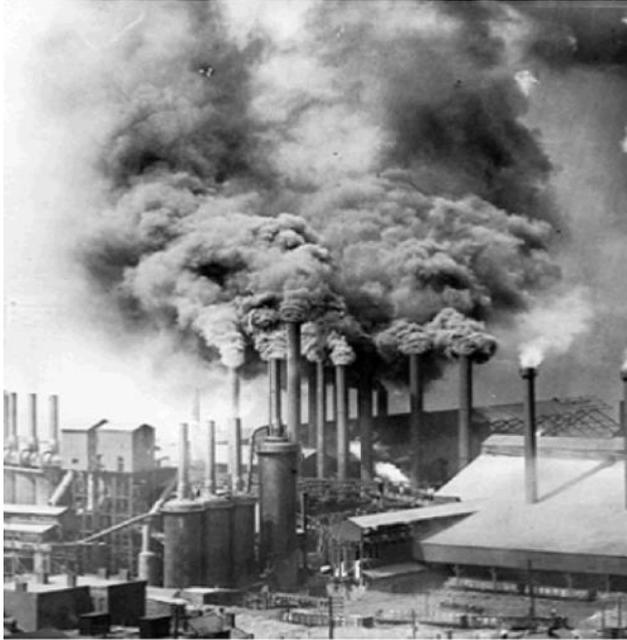
The Chadwick family traveled on the Ship *Solan* from Liverpool to New York, arriving in New York Harbor on May 26, 1842. The ship was most likely part of the *Red Star Line*. Overcrowding, lack of sanitation, and limited water and food supplies were a few of the challenges of the ocean crossing. Cholera and typhoid were chronic on the ships. Steerage passengers cooked their own meals. Due to overcrowding, it was difficult to cook even one meal a day. Ship companies were required to supply food and water to passengers, but in amounts that barely kept them from starving on the voyage.

Continued on page 6

In Search of a Better Life

Continued from page 5

We do not know how long the Chadwick family stayed in New York, or if they were met there by any friends or relatives. What we do know is that by 1850, they had settled in Pittsburgh. In the 1850 Census, the household lived in the 6th Ward in Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. The oldest son, John Chadwick, age 22, had married Harriet Thompson, and their families are living together or living next door to each other. A curious note about this census is that the head of the Chadwick household is called George rather than Samuel. Could Samuel and George have been the same person? Is it possible that Samuel died (or in some other manner left the household) and Catherine subsequently married another male Chadwick? So far, this is a family mystery that remains to be solved.



By 1860, the Chadwick family established a home in the East Allegheny City (Deutschtown) neighborhood of Pittsburgh, at the base of Troy Hill Road. City directories indicate that brothers James and John appear to be living in the same household, or next door to each other, at this location for several years. Their mother, Catherine, was a widow by 1860, and she lived with her sons until her death in 1873. The U.S. Census records and Pittsburgh city directories place James and John Chadwick as laborers in the steel industry, working at various tasks. They were direct participants in America's second Industrial Revolution, of which a major component was fueled by Pittsburgh steel. Although steel production had existed for hundreds of years, it had been largely a specialty product. The Bessemer Process, introduced in the 1850's, made large scale steel making economical for the first time, and for the next several decades, the U.S. steel industry was largely based in Pittsburgh. In terms of the health hazards for the

workers, however, working in the steel mills of Pittsburgh was not much of an improvement over the cotton mills of Lancashire.

About 1880, John, Harriet, and four of their younger children – Florence, Maggie, Charles, and John Jr. – moved back to England. The reason they went is unknown. They did not sell the residence on Troy Hill Road, and Harriet and the children would return a couple of years later. In the 1881 English Census, the family is living on Manchester Road, very near where the family had lived in 1841. John Sr. is listed as a “cripple.” Working for many years in cotton mills and steel mills would have increased the risk of lung disease, due to poor air quality and toxic chemicals in the air. These factors were likely contributors to his “cripple” status. John Sr. died in England on November 9, 1882. The death record notes that he was 54 years old and a retired file grinder. Cause of death was phthisis (tuberculosis).

Harriet, Florence, Maggie, and John Jr. are listed as passengers from Liverpool to Philadelphia on the *SS British Prince*, arriving in port on June 5, 1883. The family soon resumed its residence on Troy Hill Road in Pittsburgh. The home remained in the Chadwick family at least until Harriet's death in 1900.

Son William went to Omaha, Nebraska. He had a long career as an iron moulder, and later as a weight inspector at the Omaha Grain Exchange. Daughter Margaret died in childbirth in 1889. Son Charles was listed as a moulder in city directories, living for some time at the Troy Hill Road address. In 1910, he lived with his sister, Charlotte Betteridge. It appears that both Charles and Charlotte remained in Pittsburgh the rest of their lives. Son John was listed in an 1899 city directory as an electrician, also living at the Troy Hill Road residence. He eventually moved to Kearny, New Jersey. He worked for many years at Westinghouse and other companies.

Millions of people came from the British Isles, all parts of Europe, and later from other parts of the world in search of a better life in America. The Chadwick family was one example. That better life did not happen quickly, but it did eventually happen.

Richison Maps

by Nancy Stein



Researchers of 28 counties in southern Illinois were given a gift by a talented Wayne County project engineer. W. Galen Richison (1917-1992) researched and drew maps showing the townships and the old towns with their former names in parentheses. They include the dates of the first Post Office, location of ghost towns and of course, streams and railroads. The maps were on the cover of the *Saga of Southern Illinois* (a periodical journal of the Genealogy Society of Southern Illinois) from Spring 1978 through Summer 1985. Each county map would show current township names and boundaries. If you are researching a period where township borders may have changed, try the *family search guide* for your needed years, which is available for all counties online.

The counties covered by these maps are indicated by the shaded area shown here. Geographically, northern border of this region is at a latitude line just slightly north of St. Louis, Missouri. Alphabetically, the counties are: Alexander, Bond, Clay, Clinton, Edwards, Effingham, Fayette, Franklin, Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin,

Jackson, Jefferson, Johnson, Lawrence, Madison, Marion, Massac, Monroe, Perry, Pope, Pulaski, Randolph, Richland, Saline, St. Clair, Union, Wabash, Washington, Wayne, White, Williamson.

The copyright holder gives you permission to use the maps in your research, but if you publish or place your work in a library, you need to get clear permission of the Society of Southern Illinois, using their site access: <https://ilgssi.org>.

Are You Sure About Your Own Name?

by Terry Krahl

I am the third and youngest child born to Justin Joseph Nolan and his wife, Genevieve “Jean” Nolan (nee Finneran). My siblings, Justine Therese and Justin Donald, are respectively ten and two years older than I am. When I arrived on the scene, I was named Theresa Colette Nolan. My mother always said I was named after her older sister, Theresa, who died the year before I was born. She claimed that the name was chosen because I had bright red hair, just like her late sister.

From kindergarten through third grade I attended the local public school in my neighborhood. For fourth grade my mother announced that I would be going to the local Catholic school so that I could make my first communion. Then, she kept me there for fifth grade so that I could be confirmed. During all these years I was either called “Tessie” or “Tree.” For some reason, which I did not understand until decades later, my father called me “Hotshot” all the time.

When selecting my confirmation name, I considered “Elizabeth” or “Ann” or other such names. Sister Carmelita told us that it needed to be a saint’s name, and that it had to be different from my given name. On the day we had to tell Sister the name we would be using, she went up and down the rows, asking all 50 of us in the class what name we were taking. When she got to me, I quietly said, “Theresa.” I could see her reaching for her ruler and I said, “Sister, my mother sent a note.” She said, “Give me the note.” She opened it and after reading it, she said to me, “OK, ‘Theresa’ it is.” I wanted to ask her if I could read the note, but she already had moved on to the next child. So, when I got home, I asked my sister, who was home from college, if she knew anything about this. She said, “Because ‘Theresa’ is not your real name!” Of course, she claimed not to know what my real name was. Hmmm!!!

Two years later, on my first day of junior high school, my gym teacher was taking roll call. When she came to my name, she asked, “Do you go by the name Terry?” From that day forward, I went by the name Terry. At the time, the only person I knew by that name was a boy who lived on my block. I did not realize until much later that “y” at the end of the name indicated a masculine name, and that “i” or “ie” at the end of the name was the feminine version of the name. All I did know was that my mother did not like my using the name “Terry.”

When I was age 16 and applying for an Illinois Driver’s License, the instructor just had me fill out the application as “Theresa.” It was not until I was in college and applying for a passport that I suddenly needed to produce a birth certificate.

Continued on page 8

Are You Sure About Your Own Name? continued from page 7

In April 1964, I got a copy of my birth certificate and learned for the first time that my original name was shown as Janis Colette Nolan! Then, I got a copy of a baptismal certificate, which confirmed the same name. I asked my mother what was going on. She then had an affidavit drawn up by a notary public. She took an oath that I was her daughter, and that all my birth records were accurate, but that I had been going by the name Theresa Colette Nolan for twenty years and used it for all purposes. Well, there you have it!

Long after my father passed away, I finally realized why he always referred to me as “Hotshot.” He reckoned that it was not worth arguing with my mother when she arbitrarily changed my name, so he settled on something that would not rock the boat.

In Memoriam

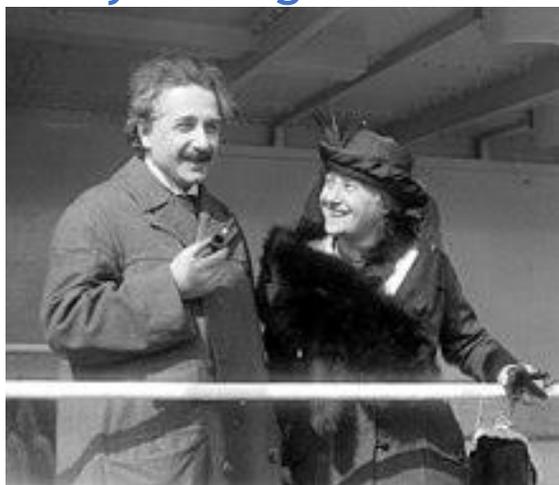


At the North Suburban Genealogical Society, we are sad to report the death of long time NSGS member **John Nygard**. John and his wife, Louise, have been active members in NSGS, including the afternoon writers’ group. John was born in Chicago in 1934, and he grew up in Chicago’s Andersonville neighborhood. In the March-April 2016 edition of the newsletter, John shared some memories of his childhood in Andersonville. John and Louise were very much a team in much of what they did, including as writers. They were both proud of their Swedish heritage. Subjects of their writing included their ancestors in Europe, stories about their parents and other family members, some personally challenging events in their lives, and their observations on changing technology. Louise is still a valued member of NSGS, and we wish her and the rest of the family well.

North Suburban Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 3032,
Glenview IL 60025

100 years ago



On April 15, 1921, Albert Einstein (pictured here with his second wife, Elsa) gave his first lecture in America about his theory of relativity to the faculty and students at Columbia University. He gave the talk in German, because his English was very limited at the time. Despite the language barrier, the auditorium was filled and spectators stood in the aisles. The celebrated scientist explained his famous theory involving the relationship between space and time. Few audience members understood German; everybody else relied on interpreters.

Einstein liked to say that only 12 scientists in the world understood his theory, but those 12 would be enough to spread the gospel in the scientific community. In that same trip, Einstein shared some of his observations on American culture with reporters. He noted that women here dressed “like countesses”

even though they might be coat check girls. He condemned Prohibition. He liked movies (still silent in those days). He thought our bathrooms were impressive.

Einstein did not particularly enjoy his celebrity status, but the real purpose of his trip was to champion the cause of Chaim Weizmann, the leader of the World Zionist Organization. Weizmann would much later become the first President of Israel. Einstein immigrated to the United States in 1933. He soon joined the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton University. He remained there until his death in 1955.