

Chicago Genealogical Society Website
Members Only Section
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As of June 2020

*Check back periodically for updates

The Chicago Genealogist

The Chicago Genealogical Society has been producing a quarterly since 1969. With thanks to the Newberry Library for coordinating the digitization, Volume 1 through 39 are available free through [CARLI](#) (Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois) Digital Collections site. Volumes 40 to current are available in the Members Only section.

Past Issues of the CGS Newsletter

January 2006 to current are available.

Program Notes and Some Speaker Handouts

Dedicated Chicago Genealogical Society members volunteer to write Program Notes for CGS programs and events for members who were unable to attend. These Program Notes were published in the society's newsletter until April 2019. Going forward CGS posts the Program Notes separately. An index of Program Notes from January 2006 – April 2019 detailing what issue the Program Notes were published is provided. Once you locate an issue date, go to the "Past Issues of CGS Newsletter" tab for the issue.

Webinar Archives and Some Speaker Handouts

CGS started hosting webinars in 2018. Each one either covers a specific Chicago genealogy topic or uses Chicago examples. Currently, there are seven webinars to view.

Borkenhagen Obituary Collection

These obituaries were clipped from two southern California newspapers, the Los Angeles Times and the Orange County Register, between 2013 to 2016 by Eleanor Borkenhagen. Some are no more than a few lines. Others ran the length of the newspaper or had pictures of the deceased. All the obituaries mentioned a Chicago link – the person might have been born in Chicago, went to school or had family in Chicago.

This collection is a work in progress. Items are being scanned and indexed as time permits by a volunteer. They will be published periodically until the collection is complete. Members can request a copy of the image. Check back regularly to see the updates.

Vital Records from Chicago Newspapers

While the Chicago Fire of 1871 ravaged the city, it also destroyed much of Chicago's vital records. From 1971 to 1980 in an attempt to partially rectify this loss, the Chicago Genealogy Society scoured Chicago Newspapers looking for any articles that provided vital record information. CGS published a seven-volume composite index of articles from 1833-1848, and one index from 1849-1851. The index is available online for your genealogical research. The seven-volumes can be found in our members only section. The items found in the 1849-1851 index are available at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, Springfield, IL

Chicago Cemetery Digitized Books

Altenheim Cemetery

A tombstone reading of The Altenheim German Old Peoples Home Cemetery located in Proviso Township in Cook County. It is arranged by burial location with an alphabetical index. The reading was done July 1989.

Bohemian National Cemetery

This ethnic cemetery is located in Jefferson Township in Cook County. Volumes 1-5 contain information extracted from the burial registers: age, death date, place of death, grave location, undertaker, and if the coroner was the attending physician. Volume 6 indexes all five volumes alphabetically, as well as by grave location.

Union Ridge Cemetery

This cemetery is located on the northwest side of Chicago in Norwood Park Township in Cook County. This book is a tombstone reading, and is arranged by burial location with an alphabetical index. It includes maps, photos of some tombstones, and tells the early history of Norwood Park and the cemetery. It also lists the Civil War burials in this cemetery, and the early settlers of Cook County. Published in 1995.

Chicago Cemetery Records 1847-1863

This publication includes sexton's reports and certificates, treasurer receipts, deeds, and undertakers' reports. Between 1842 and 1866 the city of Chicago owned and operated the Chicago City Cemetery near Clark Street and North Avenue, now the site of Lincoln Park. The sale of lots was a major revenue source for the city. Monthly reports were filed with the Committee on Wharves & Public Grounds. These reports included the amount of the sale, the purchaser, and the location of the lot. Undertakers were required to file reports in 1863. Among the information in these reports was the name of the decedent, the day of death, age, residence, cause of death, and place of birth. This publication includes transcriptions of the records, maps, an index of names, Oak Woods Cemetery removals, and old Catholic cemetery records. Published 2007.