

THE GENIE BUG

North Central Iowa Genealogical Society
P. O. Box 237, Mason City, Iowa 50402-0237
Volume 44, Number 3, August 2018



THE GENIE BUG is published in February, May, August & November, as a benefit to members of the non-profit NCIGS. The current editor is Sandra Turner – ncigso@gmail.com. NCIGS was established in 1972.

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CALENDAR

All programs at Clear Lake Public Library, Lower Level, 1:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

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August 11, 2018 – The Round Table discussion was devoted to the possible move of the NCIGS Library from the Mason City Public Library. Strategies were offered and discussed. It was decided to continue our efforts to persuade the Mason City City Council/Mayor to intercede on our behalf. Carol Tinkey passed out a petition form for members to use/distribute for signatures. All completed copies of this petition need to be turned in to the NCIGS Library by August 20th so they can be compiled for distribution to appropriate individuals. Anyone can

sign the petition; no Mason City residence required. E-mails of the signed petitions will be counted, so send them ncigso@gmail.com. People are encouraged to contact city officials as well as attend the Library Board meeting - 4:15 August 21 in Board Room as well as the Mason City City Council meeting on the same day starting at 7 p.m. in the Mason City Room of the MCPL.



September 8, 2018 - “LEHIGH ROW” - Helen Karamitros, a NIACC sociology instructor, comes from a family of Greek immigrants who came to America in the early 1900’s when there was a worker shortage in Mason City. She & her family lived in Lehigh Row which was one of three segregated neighborhoods in Mason City during that time. The neighborhood housed Southern and Eastern European immigrants as well as Mexicans who worked in either cement or brick and tile plants. This will be an informative program, recalling past places and events.



October 5-6, 2018 - Minnesota Genealogical Society’s 11th Annual North Star Conference, “Looking Back, Sharing Forward.” The conference will be held at the Crowne Plaza Minneapolis West, Plymouth, MN. Enjoy two full days of conference sessions and activities including plenary sessions by nationally known featured speakers Thomas W. Jones and Karen Mauer Jones, 25 breakout sessions presented by 14 regional and national genealogy experts, etc. Non-member rates: Friday & Saturday (Oct 5/6) \$155; Friday or Saturday \$112; For more details, access the Minnesota Genealogical Society website and click on North Star 2018 Page.

October 13, 2018 – NCIGS monthly meeting TBA

November 10, 2018 - NCIGS monthly meeting TBA

The President's Column:

First on my agenda is an apology to all for not attending the second Library Board mtg. It sounds as if the second one was as unpleasant as the first one. The NCIGC has been a part of the library and community for 40 plus years and has serviced a nine county area regularly with great volunteers. The city will lose a wonderful asset and genealogists will no longer be able come in and talk family history with a professional.

This spring and summer has been a busy one. In June, I spent better than a full day working at the "Cannonball Day" event. That afternoon during the "Bill Riley Talent Show" event we got drenched and had to cancel part of the event.

The wife and I were able to get away for a week in the middle of July and decided to spend some time in La Crosse with our daughter and also attend a 50th anniversary party of some friends. From there we took a Wisconsin road trip to do some family cemetery hopping. Our first stop was in Rio, WI at a country cemetery called Bonnet Prairie. The Cemetery Board had a wonderful map display along with book binders on where to locate the graves of each person buried. It would be nice if every cemetery took a page from their playbook.

Our second stop was outside of Orfordville, WI to a cemetery named Luther Valley. Fortunately there were people at the church to help us locate the grave of my wife's great grandfather whom we were looking for. In the process of thumbing through the cemetery cards the lady at the church recognized some of the names we were inquiring about; that lead to her giving us the phone number of a third cousin living up the road from the church. I said to my wife, "Should we give them a call?" So we did! They dropped everything and joined us at the church. The two brothers along with a spouse spent most of the day sharing family information with us. The oldest brother lives on the family farm, which was constructed in 1858 (see pic.) It originally had 14 rooms, housing at one time three families. There was no running water until 1971.

The headstones were loaded with lichen, so I took a couple of hours to remove the green stuff from five headstones. It was 93 degrees that afternoon and of course the stones were in the sun. Wish I would have taken before and after pictures.

On the way home we stopped in Decorah to visit the Norwegian Museum and spent 3hrs at the genealogical society.



Mark Suby

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The **NCIGS Library** is located on the 1st floor of the Mason City Public Library, 225 2nd St. SE, Mason City, Iowa. The MCPL and the NCIGS Library are open M/T/W/TH, 9 a.m. – 8 p.m.; F/SAT 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. If you need help from one of our library volunteers, remember our library is staffed M/W/F 9 a.m. – noon; 1-4 p.m.

Library Committee Members: Joan Bartel, Linda Faridi, Kay Mestad, Dorothy Paul, Sandra Turner. **Library Volunteers:** Linda Faridi, Kay Mestad, Carolyn Anderson, LeNore Forbes, Gwen Miller, Rod Hungerford, Mark Suby, Mary Lou Galindo, and Sandra Turner.

• **Additions to the collection:**

- ✓ *They Served with Honor; Profiles of North Iowa Veterans of the Korean War* by the Mason City Globe Gazette, 2017. Donated by Sandra Turner.
- ✓ *Every year Memorial Cemetery provides the library with a printed copy of the previous year's list of individuals buried at the cemetery. This copy is picked up from the cemetery sometime after Memorial Day. It is processed and the previous year's list is discarded, 2018.* Donated by Memorial Park Cemetery.
- ✓ *Early Ministers to Cerro Gordo County, Iowa, 2018.* Donated by Rita Goranson

• **Work is moving forward on 2018 Library goals.**

- **The Library was closed May 28 and July 4. Also, due to roof leakage in a different part of the MCPL building, we were closed for about 8-12 hours during July.**
- **Rod took a week's holiday May 21-25; Carolyn filled in for him.**
- **Linda Faridi continues processing new periodicals.**
- **Carolyn Anderson continues scanning/digitizing selected library materials.**
- **Rod Hungerford continues assisting researchers both in person and via phone/Internet.**
- **Sandra Turner continues working on cataloging new acquisitions, resolving old issues & general maintenance of the collection.**
- **A variety of activities & efforts have been identified and dealt with regarding the possible move from the MCPL. Rod Hungerford has begun packing up the collection.**
- **Due to roof leakage, our room, as well as other areas of the building, is serving as a storage location for items removed from the damaged area.**

• **Statistics through JULY 2018:**

DOCUMENTED USAGE:

<i>Category</i>	<i>Cumulated Annual</i>
Researchers	690
Out of 9 County Area	13
Out of State/Country	24
Non-members	133

During the third quarter of 2018, we had out-of-state researchers from California, Florida, Arkansas, Illinois, Minnesota & South Dakota. We also had a variety of Iowa researchers who live outside our 9 county area who used our resources.

• ***DOCUMENTED VOLUNTEER HOURS:***

2018 Hours Cumulated	Cumulated Value (@ \$24.14 per hr.)
2323	\$56,077.22

Respectfully submitted
Sandra Turner, Librarian

Periodical Review: Family Tree Magazine

The following information highlights some of the July/August issue topics. If you don't have a subscription to Family Tree Magazine, remember the NCIQS Library does!

OPEN CASES: When someone dies alone, county coroners must track down next of kin to notify. Increasingly, these coroners are asking genealogists for help. See how three determined researchers cracked a tough family-finding case.

GOING EAST: Our expert shares six common obstacles for Eastern European genealogy – and how to overcome them.

STATE RESEARCH GUIDES – This on-going series helps you trace your ancestors in US states. **MAINE** and **NEW MEXICO** are detailed in this issue.

TOP SECRETS: Professional genealogists share their 12 top tips for staying organized, catching every clue and making the most of your research minutes.

OFF THE GRID: Some of the best genealogy sources won't be found online. You can make these 38 exciting family history discoveries only in person.

FINDING CONNECTIONS: Genealogist John Vanek writes about his successful search for his sperm donor father and the men's thoughtful navigation through this new relationship. This experience offers inspiration to birth family searchers.

DOCUMENT DETECTIVE: Finding clues in an old application for a dog license.

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OFFICERS for 2018:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| * President: Mark Suby | mcsuby@hotmail.com |
| * Vice-President: Rod Hungerford | hungerfordrodney@gmail.com |
| * Secretary: Larry Paul | pontiacfan36@hotmail.com |
| * Treasurer: Carol Tinkey | tinkeycarol@gmail.com |
| * Research Chair: Vacant | |
| * Librarian: Sandra Turner | ncigso@gmail.com |
| * Publicity Chair: Sharlene Stoddard | worthgen@mchsi.com |
| * Website Chair: Jay Lehmann | jay@ncigs.org |
| * Membership Chair: Vacant | |
| * Hospitality – LeNore Forbes- | lforbes@myomnitel.com |

Also **vacant** is Editor of THE GENIE BUG

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NCIGS Refreshment Donation List 2018

Each monthly meeting, we need about 4 dozen cookies or bars. With two volunteers per meeting, each will be responsible for bringing **2 dozen cookies or bars**. Will you please contribute? Contact Lenore Forbes to get on the list: lforbes@myomnitel.com or call 641-749-5505. Thanks.

September 8 – Joan Sawyer, Pam Little

October 13 – June Elbert, Doris Smith

November 10 - **Vacant**

December 8 – No monthly meeting

Smile.amazon.com

You can now help support NCIQS! Instead of using amazon.com, use smile.amazon.com. AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of your purchase price to our society.

NCIGS Financial Report
June 1, 2018 – July 31, 2018

Income \$ 263.50
Expenses \$ 52.95
 \$ 210.55

2018 Annual Income to date: \$ 1,018.90
2018 Annual Expenses to date: \$ 255.66
 \$ 763.24

Current Society Balance \$ 6,133.72

Hitting the Highlights



May 12, 2018 – Jay Lehmann reported another year of CLEAR LAKE MIRROR obituaries have been added to the obituary data base. Rod Hungerford & Carolyn Anderson will again promote NCIGS at the September 21st Diversity Day Event. President Mark Suby and Mason City Librarian, Mary Markwalter met to discuss joint concerns in the use of the Library by NCIGS. President Suby discussed each concern with the Board. After discussion, there was no immediate action taken by the Board. Gerald Anderson motioned to approve a dues increase to \$18.00 per year effective in 2019. The motion was seconded by June Elbert but NOT approved by the Membership. The Lehigh Row program was re-scheduled for the September 8th meeting. Instead, President Mark Suby introduced his program on DNA and the use of spreadsheets to study family history. Mark displayed the spreadsheets he had created for his family history on a video screen presentation so that everyone could see and learn how to begin Spreadsheet History of their family.

Note: We later e-mailed to members the spreadsheet format. If you didn't receive a copy, please let us know ncigso@gmail.com and we will send. Mark is interested in hearing from you about your efforts using this spreadsheet.

June 9, 2018 – An excellent program was offered: Agnes Lewis, "Ag" to her friends, was born and raised in Rockwell. After graduation she went to St. Margret's Hospital Nursing School, graduating in 1939. She then joined the Army and after basic training in Colorado was sent to Ft. Smith, Arkansas. In 1940 she went to Europe with the 105th Evacuation Hospital and followed General Patton's 3rd Army until the end of the war. She was recalled in 1950 to go to Korea for one year and was in Viet Nam for two tours, 1966-1967 and 1968-1969. In 1974, after serving 28 years, Ag retired. She fascinated us with the details of her distinguished career. Following "Ag" presentation there was a lengthy discussion regarding eviction from MCPL.

July 14, 2018 – PICNIC. Good time, good food, great company!

How the Human Race Began

-Previously published in RootsWeb Review: 11 June 2008, Vol. 11, No. 16

A little girl asked her mother, "How did the human race appear?"

The mother answered, "God made Adam and Eve and they had children and so was all mankind made."

Two days later the girl asked her father the same question.

The father answered, "Many years ago there were monkeys from which the human race evolved."

The confused girl returned to her mother and said, "Mom, how is it possible that you told me the human race was created by God, and Dad said they developed from monkeys?"

The mother answered, "Well, dear, it is very simple. I told you about my side of the family and your father told you about his."

Elmwood-St. Joseph Municipal Cemetery Historic District Listed on National Register of Historic Places.

The Elmwood-St. Joseph Municipal Cemetery Historic District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on June 7, 2018. The nomination ends a three-year effort to recognize the unique historic character of the cemetery. The cemetery is significant because of its association with the families and individuals who played an important role in the settlement and growth of the Mason City, and in its social history, particularly in its reflection of the role that immigrants and religious groups played in Mason City. The cemetery is also significant due to its design by noted landscape architects H.W.S. Cleveland, Ray Wyrik and Donald W. Drewes, and in the design of the cemetery's mausoleums and other structures, such as the Ascension sculpture and the Melson Mausoleum. Listing on the National Register provides many benefits including:

- ✓ Consideration of the impact on the cemetery due to federal, federally licensed, and federally assisted projects.
- ✓ Eligibility for Federal and State tax credits.
- ✓ Qualification for Federal and State grants for historic preservation.

Together, we are caretakers of the NCIGS library collection. We receive our charge from those who preceded us; we steward with those who join us; and we build for those who will follow us. Recent challenges have caused some deep concern about the viability of the library and its purposes. We will rely on proven strengths in order to grow. We will continue to support and benefit from the work of our members who are part historians, part archivists, part librarians and all genealogists! We will merit and request the support of our loyal members and friends. And, somehow, we will survive and thrive.

Did you note in the Sunday, August 12th issue, that the GLOBE GAZETTE is partnering with Newspapers.com (owned by ancestry.com) to digitize the GLOBE (1929-2009)?

What a coincidence, since Carol Tinkey had sent us a heads-up on another newspaper source entitled **Newspaper Archive** which she had recently successfully used. Carol thought we should do a feature in this issue of the **BUG** so other people could experiment with the **Newspaper Archive** site.

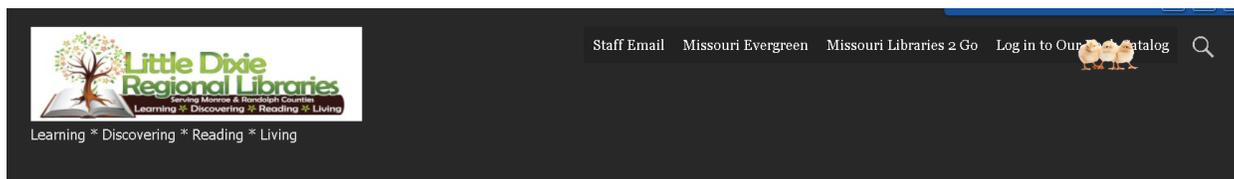
While these digitized newspaper data bases contain 100s of different newspapers, let's use the *Mason City Globe Gazette* for our discussion and limit our coverage to only three of these data bases.

You may know **Newspaper Archive** is available for free within the Mason City Public library **building**. You can bring your own computer or use one of the library's machines. **Newspaper Archive** claims to have over one billion articles on

topics both global and local, so this data base is quite large. It appears their coverage for the Mason City Globe Gazette covers **1901-1965**.

Carol was excited because she recently came across a library that offers **Newspaper Archive within your own home**. I'm not sure if this is a temporary trial or can be used regularly. The Little Dixie Regional Libraries (www.little-dixie.lib.mo.us/) located at Moberly, MO, is a two-county library system serving Randolph and Monroe counties in Missouri.

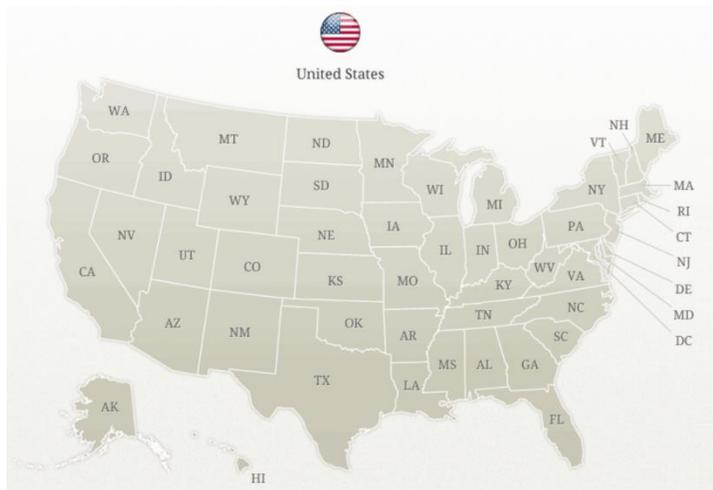
To locate **Newspaper Archive** on their website, click on 24/7 Library References.



[ABOUT THE LIBRARY](#) [DEPARTMENTS](#) [DOCUMENTS](#) [LIBRARY CATALOG](#) [BRANCH INFORMATION](#) [KNOWLEDGE BASE](#) [CALENDAR](#) [FORMS](#)

24/7 LIBRARY REFERENCE

Under 24/7 Library References scroll down to Newspaper/Magazines. Open this category. Go down the list until you see the U.S. map and the list of countries beyond the U.S. that are included in their data base. Select a state or country to view a list of titles in that location. Then use the online search instructions. Remember only so many articles can be downloaded in a 24 hour time frame and then the timer resets.



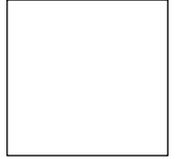
So now you can use **Newspaper Archive** either in the MCPL or apparently at home. Let us know if you try this source, and if so, with what results.

Now, to summarize about the Globe Gazette digitized data bases. If I understand correctly:

- **Newspaper Archive** covers **1901-1965**. Accessed in the MCPL building or on-line at Little Dixie Regional Libraries (www.little-dixie.lib.mo.us/). A subscription service paid for by the Mason City and/or Little Dixie Regional Libraries.
- **Newspapers.com** (owned by ancestry.com), includes the Globe Gazette from **1929-2009**, with more to be added on an on-going basis. This is the digitized data base announced by the Globe this month. It appears you can access it directly through the Globe Gazette website (globe-gazette.com/archives) as a paid subscription or obtain access to it though a subscription to ancestry.com World Explorer Plus.
- If you have a subscription to U.S. Discovery (basic ancestry.com), I believe you also have access to a digitized newspaper data base. In this data base, the Globe Gazette coverage is **1918-64**. Apparently ancestry.com does not currently plan to remove this data base from the basic ancestry.com subscription.

Maybe we should have a program on this topic? We could discuss additional newspaper data bases and include demonstrations on the search components of each?

NORTH CENTRAL IOWA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
PO BOX 237
MASON CITY, IA 50402-0237



NCIGS Membership Application

Per household dues are \$12.00 per calendar year (Jan-Dec). New member dues paid after October 1 will extend through the next year. Annual membership includes: quarterly newsletter with one free query, monthly meetings, support and friendship of like-minded folk, opportunity to participate in a variety of projects and use of the NCIGS Library. In addition to my membership, I would like to make a tax-deductible gift of \$ _____.

I am interested in volunteering as follows: Library Website Membership Programming Refreshments
 Grant Writing Other: _____

New Membership or Renewal Today's Date _____

Name _____ Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

E-mail _____

Newsletter to be sent via: E-mail or Postal Service

Amount Enclosed: Cash \$ _____ or Check \$ _____

Mail application and monies to: North Central Iowa Genealogical Society, Box 237, Mason City, IA 50402-0237



North Central Iowa Genealogical Society, Box 237, Mason City, Iowa 50402-0237

Butler, Cerro Gordo, Floyd, Franklin, Hancock, Mitchell, Winnebago, Worth and Wright Counties

Eviction Issues Summary

We have prepared this separate sheet for your information. It brings all of us up-to-date on the negotiations between the MCPL Board and the NCIGS membership. We are actively searching for a new home for the library and all our other “stuff”. Maybe our new home could include enough room for our monthly meetings, computer training, displays, etc. Preferably our new home would be free or low cost, would be within or close to downtown Mason City, would be handicapped accessible, have adequate parking, etc. We have been offered temporary FREE storage, so we have time to explore options. And, we may need to expand our search as well as adjust our priorities if no “perfect” building is found that meets all our criteria. Please help. Thanks.

May 30, 2018: Eviction letter (effective August 1, 2018) sent from MCPL Director.

June 9, 2018: North Central Iowa Genealogy Society sent a response asking to meet with MCPL Board; Request sent to MCPL Board members and Director.

June 18, 2018: Director of MCPL sent a second letter requesting additional information from NCIGS.

June 19, 2018: NCIGS Board members attended the MCPL Board meeting.

June 25, 2018: NCIGS sent response to all MCPL Board members and Director with information requested in the June 18 letter and June 19 Board meeting. A copy of all letters forwarded to Mason City Mayor.

July 17, 2018: Approximately 30 members of NCIGS and Daughters of the American Revolution attended the MCPL Board meeting to discuss issues.

August 20, 2018: MCPL sent out a press release detailing an offer to NCIGS. NCIGS only became aware of this offer through the media.

August 21, 2018: MCPL board meeting.

The Library Board's proposal:

- 1) NCIGS would turn over ownership of our entire collection to the MCPL.
- 2) MCPL would review the NCIGS collection, retaining approximately 500 items. These items would be integrated into the MCPL collection. The remaining 4,500 +/- would be returned to NCIGS ownership.
- 3) Our members can apply to the MCPL Library Director to become authorized genealogy volunteers, who would operate under her supervision.
- 4) Use of vacant Genealogy Room. The space would become a meeting room, available to the public for a fee. Three rooms currently are available to the public for a fee.

Mason City Room (\$400 per day)

Board Room (\$100 per day)

Classroom (\$100 per day)

The library does not break down the monthly meeting room fee deposits by meeting room. The total amount of meeting room fees collected at the library in FY2018, (July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018) was \$1,315.00.

NCIGS counter proposal:

1. We suggest the room name be changed to the "Genealogy and History Center".
2. We will provide to MCPL a yearly income of \$1,200.
3. The NCIGS collection will be left intact and under the control of the NCIGS.
4. We be allowed to replace the shelving which was removed by the Library Director.

While some additional petition forms have arrived at the library since Carol prepared for the August 21 board meeting at that time she had a total of 630 people who signed the petition in support of keeping NCIGS in the MCPL Genealogy Room. (342-Mason City, 121-Cerro Gordo Co., 90-Surrounding Co., NCIGS area, 34- from Iowa, 43-out of state). Impressive! Thanks to so many people who contributed.

The room was so crowded with supporters; some people had to stand in the hallway. Two members of the City Council were there (John Lee & Paul Adams) as well as the new city administrator, Aaron Burnett. A reporter from the Globe Gazette was also there. Many people spoke. It was an outstanding gathering of sincere, concerned people who shared their thoughts and hopes. Everyone who attended and those who read these notes should take great pride in the efforts of these individuals.

No action occurred on either proposal during the MCPL board meeting. MCPL did vote to extend the eviction deadline to September 30, 2018 while directing the NCIGS to 1) continue searching for a new home and 2) obtain funds to adequately support the society. The Genealogy Library will be on the agenda at the next MCPL Board meeting on September 18, 2018 at 4:15 in the Board Room.

It should be reassuring to everyone. We have received two offers of free temporary storage by Pam Little and Larry Zilge. We extend our thanks to both of these people for their generosity.

FAST FACTS: 70 % of genealogy research is done in libraries; 30% on line

Documented NCIGS Library Usage 2016:

734 Researchers;

220 Non-members

22 Out of nine county area

36 Out of state or country

Documented NCIGS Library Usage 2017:

771 Researchers

275 Non-members

22 Out of nine county area

28 Out of state or country

Monthly education meetings are held at Clear Lake Public Library, 1:30 p.m. second Saturday of the month except December and July. This conservatively serves 350 people per year. A six session special DNA training was held at MCPL in 2017.

NCIGS Library is housed in the Bertha Stebens Genealogy Room at MCPL, a cooperative relationship for the past 40 years. Collection is comprised of 5,000+ items focusing on the nine counties of North Iowa. This includes: county histories, vital records, obituary, cemetery and military records; migration trails to Iowa, European origins of Iowans; how-to books, maps, periodicals, DNA instructions; passenger lists; necrology, surname and genealogical files; Iowa Plat book collection 1859 to present; and multiple naturalization records. Free and open to the public.

Support of MCPL: Beyond the development of our extensive collection and highly trained volunteers, the society donated \$3,500 to MCPL in October, 2010, towards expenses associated with its renovation. In 2017, our volunteers contributed 4,751 hours of assistance to patrons, at a value of \$117,302 (Independent Sector National Volunteer valuation), freeing up MCPL staff for the rest of their important work.