

**Genealogy Gems: News from the Fort Wayne Library
No. 11, January 31, 2004**

In this issue:

- *Take the Time to Make History**
- *Alien Border Crossings from Mexico into Texas**
- *Confederate Pension Application Sources Available in the Reynolds Historical
Genealogy Collection, Part 4**
- *Hotel of the month**
- *Area Calendar of Events**
- *ACPL Librarians on Tour**
- *Driving directions to the Library**
- *Parking at the Library**
- *Queries for the Department**

**Take the Time to Make History
Curt Witcher**

As genealogists, we know how very important good records are--and how excited we are when records have been preserved and are available for the time period in which we are researching. More than just occasionally we should engage in activities that ensure the records we find, the stories we are told, and the research we compile are available for our children and their children to enjoy in the future. Making a commitment today to do something proactively is the best way--and there are a number of ways to do that.

Communities across the country are compiling their first county and town histories of the new millennium. Right here in Allen County (IN) the History Center and the Allen County Genealogical Society are engaged in an ambitious and worthwhile history book project. If you have even one Allen County (IN) family, start writing the sketch today. More details, including submission particulars, can be found at the following website. <www.AllenCountyHistoryBook.com>. If you don't have Allen County roots, use the Internet and organizations like the USGenWeb to determine if a history book project is underway in an ancestral hometown or county.

Numerous genealogical societies have special programs to encourage the recording of data for current and future generations to share. The Indiana Genealogical Society has been sponsoring its "Once a Hoosier" program for years. This program records the migrations of people who were born before 1900, were in Indiana for some portion of their life, and died outside Indiana. If you have an ancestor who qualifies, put pen to paper and get that information to the Indiana Genealogical Society <<http://www.indgensoc.org/projects/hoosier.html>> Looking at the web pages of other state societies will likely reveal other projects in which you can participate if you don't

have Hoosier ancestors. The point is to find an outlet for your information and contribute--now!

The Historical Genealogy Department is another willing repository for your compiled information. Any genealogical information you have researched and compiled can simply be sent to us in any form convenient to you--paper or electronic. And we will see that it is preserved and made available to researchers who frequent our facility both today and for many tomorrows.

A final note--several new files have been added to the FriendsOfAllenCounty.org website including additional MD and VA cemetery inventories, an index to Allen County, IN poor asylum records, and a couple of military journals under "Family Files."

Alien Border Crossings from Mexico into Texas

Roberta Ridley

Microfilmed Alien Border Crossings from Mexico to Texas offer an interesting, as well as refreshing possibility for finding an ancestor's immigration record. A European's entry into the U.S. through Mexico would rarely be considered, yet it might be found in these manifests. Aside from the obvious listings for native Mexican aliens, these records reveal a large number of European arrivals. Japanese, Turkish, Syrian, Guatemalan, and Korean citizens also appear on the lists. Many of these individuals are tourists, but a large number were coming to the United States with the intention of becoming citizens. These records introduce other possibilities for locating an ancestor who was not found on an index or listing from the eastern seaboard ports.

The Alien Border Crossings cards and manifests include both temporary and permanent entry records, and provide a considerable amount of information. Some indicate whether the immigrant intended to become a U.S. citizen, their head tax status and previous citizenships, and may include a fingerprint or photograph. A January, 1907 Laredo, Texas manifest entry for John Fotes Bodes gives all of the following information: 5 foot 9 inches, dark complexion, dark brown hair, dark brown eyes, left eye was artificial, a mole on his nose, born in Lamia, Greece, 27 years old, single, carpenter, could read and write, from Greece and was Greek. Last residence was Lamia, Greece. Final destination was Boston, Massachusetts. He did not have a ticket; his brother-in-law paid passage. He was carrying \$104.00, had never been to the United States before and was joining his brother-in-law, Adam D. Tsecos at 33 Pitt St., Boston, Massachusetts.

Would you have looked in the Laredo, Texas lists for this Greek immigrant bound for Boston? We suggest that you try the following border crossing records, whether you are searching for Mexican or European relatives.

****Applications for Nonresident Alien's Border Crossing Identification Cards - El Paso, Texas ca. July 1945-Dec. 1952 (M1756 - 62 rolls)**

****Lists of Aliens Arriving at Laredo, Texas via the Mexican National Railroad or the Laredo Foot Bridge ca. July 1903-June 1907 (M2008 - 1 roll)**

****Manifests of Aliens granted Temporary Admission at Laredo, Texas ca. Dec. 1, 1929 - April 8, 1955 (M1772 - 66 rolls)**

****Index and Manifests of Alien Arrivals at Progreso/Thayer, Texas ca. Oct. 1928 - May 1955 (M1851 - 6 rolls)**

****Manifests of Alien Arrivals at Yseleta, Texas ca. 1924-1954 (M1849 - 7 rolls)**

****Indexes and Manifests of Alien Arrivals at Zapata, Texas ca. Aug. 1923 - Sept. 1953 (M2024 - 2 rolls M2024 - 2 rolls)**

Confederate Pension Application Sources Available in the Reynolds Historical Genealogy Collection, Part 4

Delia Cothrun Bourne

The earliest law providing for pensions in Tennessee was passed in 1891, which provided for disabled veterans of honorable service. There are three separate rolls that were kept by the Board of Pension Examiners, one for veterans, one for widows and one for "colored" veterans. These pension applications are housed at the Tennessee State Library and Archives in Nashville. The Historical Genealogy Department owns two indexes to these applications. The first is *Index to Tennessee Confederate Pension Applications (GC 973.74 T25T)*. This volume consists of three indexes, one for each of the rolls--veterans, widows, and colored. These indexes provide name of veteran or widow, county of residence, military unit and application number. The other index, also entitled *Index to Tennessee Confederate Pension Applications (GC 973.74 T25SA)*, compiled by Samuel Sistler, consists of a single index and provides the same information. An index that is searchable by both name and county is available online at www.state.tn.us/sos/statelib/pubsvs/pension.htm# .

In 1881, the state of Texas offered grants of land for disabled veterans or widows. Laws enacted between 1899 and 1925 provided for veterans or widows based on age, length of residence in the state and, for widows, length of marriage. The Historical Genealogy Department has two indexes to Confederate pensions in Texas. One is Virgil D. White's *Index to Texas CSA Pension Files (GC 973.74 T31WH)*, which indexes the more than 54,000 applications for Confederate pensions filed in Texas. The index citation includes name of veteran or widow, application or pension number or rejection note, and county of residence. The other is *Index to Applications for Texas Confederate Pensions (GC 973.74 T31k)*, produced by the Archives Division of the Texas State Library. This index consists of three parts: the alphabetical listing, which lists name, application number, county of residence, and the number of the comptroller's index book; index of residents of the Confederate's Home and the Confederate Woman's Home; and an index to rejected applications. A revised version of this index (*GC 973.74 T31K 1977*) includes newly discovered applications, corrections in the spelling of names, and other corrections. The original records are located at the Texas State Library and Historical Commission in Austin. There is also an index available online at www.tsl.state.tx.us/arc/pensions/index.html.

Virginia began granting pensions to Confederate veterans or their widows in 1888. These records have been microfilmed, with two indexes available online: *Virginia Confederate Pension Rolls (Veterans and Widows) Electronic Card Index* <http://lvimage.lib.va.us/collections/CW.html> and *Virginia Confederate Pension Rolls (Veterans and Widows) Database* < <http://eagle.vsla.edu/conpen/>>.

Pension application lists may also be available in book form by county of residence, or in periodicals. *The Periodical Source Index (PERSI)* is a valuable source for locating material in periodicals. The Historical Genealogy Department also owns Desmond Walls Allen's *Where to Write for Confederate Pension Records* (929 AL53WH), which provides information concerning the availability of the pension applications and addresses where to write in each state.

These pension applications provide information concerning the veterans' military service as well as details on their families, neighbors, friends, and living conditions after the war. Although the amount of information collected varies from state to state, it is still incumbent upon the thorough researcher to obtain these files for examination.

This is the end of this four part series. The first three parts ran in nos. 8-10 (October-December 2004).

HOTEL OF THE MONTH

Each issue we will feature a local hotel, for visitors from out-of-town.

Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites
5915 Ellison Rd, Fort Wayne 46804
(260) 459-1888

Located just off I-69 at US 24, the new Holiday Inn Express is a twenty-minute drive from downtown and the library (for specifics, see below under Driving Directions). Rooms feature coffeemakers, irons, hair dryers and modem jacks. There is an indoor pool and fitness room, and complimentary breakfast. The Holiday Inn Express chain has a special commitment for making their hotels accessible and invites those with special needs to contact the manager; this includes TDD service. A photocopier, fax and rollaway beds are available also. Rates \$75 and up.

AREA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Allen County Public Library
3rd floor atrium displays
Passages: Immigration
Department print and microtext resources

Allen County Genealogical Society of Indiana (ACGSI)

<http://www.ipfw.edu/ipfwhist/historgs/acgsi.htm>

February 9, 2005, Aboite Branch of ACPL, 5630 Coventry Lane, Fort Wayne, IN.
6:30 P.M. refreshments, 7:00 P.M. program. Speaker, Peggy Seigel, topic,
"Hiding in Our Attics", the Underground Railroad in Indiana.

February 16, 2005, Aboite Branch of ACPL, 5630 Coventry Lane, Fort Wayne, IN.
6:45 P.M. Computer Interest Group.

DeKalb County Indiana Genealogical Society

Monday, February 14, 2005 at 6:30 p.m., refreshments & social time at 6:00 p.m.

Location: Eckhart Public Library, 603 S. Jackson Street, Auburn, IN

Program: Craig Berndt will speak on Interurban Transportation in DeKalb County and
NE Indiana

Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR)

First Wednesday of each month in the Genealogy Department 9am - 3pm.

200 E. Berry, Fort Wayne, IN 260-421-1225

Expert help from members of the DAR in becoming a member of that
organization

ACPL LIBRARIANS ON TOUR

Curt Witcher

February 19 Madison, FL: Florida Genealogical Society

April 30 Kalamazoo, MI: Kalamazoo Valley Genealogical Society

Elaine Kuhn

March 2 Huntington, IN: Huntington Genealogical Society

April 16 Akron, OH: Ohio Genealogical Society Annual Conference

May 28 Windsor, ON: Ontario Genealogical Society Seminar

Steve Myers

March 19 Indianapolis, IN: Indiana Historical Society, Irish Research Seminar

Ryan Taylor

March 19 South Bend, IN: South Bend Area Genealogical Society

April 13 Fort Wayne, IN: Allen County Genealogical Society of Indiana

May 26 Windsor, ON: A British Day (Ontario Genealogical Society pre-
conference)

May 26 Windsor, ON: Ontario Chapter, Association of Professional
Genealogists

(Ontario Genealogical Society pre-conference)

May 26
Society

Windsor, ON: Ontario Library Association (Ontario Genealogical
pre-conference)

May 27-29 Windsor, ON: Ontario Genealogical Society Seminar

DRIVING DIRECTIONS TO THE LIBRARY

Wondering how to get to the library? Our exciting transition location is 200 E. Berry, Fort Wayne, Indiana. We will be at this location until late 2006. We would enjoy having you visit the Genealogy Department.

To get directions from your exact location to 200 E. Berry, Fort Wayne, Indiana, visit this link at MapQuest:

<http://www.mapquest.com/maps/map.adp?country=US&countryid=250&addtohistory=&searchtab=address&searchtype=address&address=200+E+Berry+St&city=Fort+Wayne&state=IN&zipcode=46802-2706&search=++Search++&finditform=1>

>From the South

Exit Interstate 69 at exit 102. Drive east on Jefferson Blvd. into downtown. Turn left on Barr Street to Berry Street. The library is located on the corner of Berry and Barr Streets.

>From the North

Exit Interstate 69 at exit 112. Drive south on Coldwater Road, which merges into Clinton Street. Continue south on Clinton, the library will be on your left when you cross Berry Street.

>From the West

Using US 30:

Drive into town on US 30. US 30 turns into Goshen Road. Coming up to an angled street (State Street.) make an angled left turn. Turn right on Wells Street. Go south on Wells to Wayne Street. Left on Wayne Street. When you cross Clinton, the library will be on your left on Wayne Street.

Using US 24:

After crossing under Interstate 69, follow the same directions as from the South.

>From the East

Follow US 30 into and through New Haven, under an overpass into downtown Fort Wayne. You will be on Washington Blvd. when you get into downtown. Turn right on Barr Street. Turn left on Berry Street. The library is on your left on Berry Street.

PARKING AT THE LIBRARY

Lot in front of the library, east side
Available for short-term library parking. Limited to one hour.

Tippman Parking Garage

Clinton and Wayne Streets. Across from the library, however the skybridge is NOT accessible. Hourly parking, \$1.25 per hour up to a maximum of \$5.00 per day.

Park Place Lot

Covered parking on Barr Street at Main Street. This lot is one block away from the library. Hourly parking Monday through Friday, 9am to 6pm.

Street (metered) parking on Wayne Street and Berry Street.
On the street you plug the meters 8am - 5pm, weekdays only. It is free to park on the street after 5pm and on the weekends.

Visitor center/Grand Wayne center

Covered parking at Washington and Clinton Streets. This is the Hilton Hotel parking lot that also serves as a day parking garage. For hourly parking, 7am - 11 pm, charges are .50 for the first 45 minutes, then \$1.00 per hour. There is a flat \$2.00 fee between 5pm and 11pm.

GENEALOGY DEPARTMENT QUERIES

The Historical Genealogy Department hopes you find this newsletter interesting. Thank you for subscribing. We cannot, however, answer personal research emails written to the e-zine address. The department houses a Research Center that makes photocopies and conducts research for a fee.

If you have a general question about our collection, or are interested in the Research Center, please telephone the library and speak to a librarian who will be glad to answer your general questions or send you a research center form. Our telephone number is 260-421-1225. If you'd like to email a general information question about the department, please visit the "Ask a Genealogy Librarian" link at the library's web site <http://www.acpl.lib.in.us/ask/genealogy.html>

Publishing Note: This electronic newsletter is published by the Allen County Public Library's Historical Genealogy Department, and is intended to enlighten

readers about genealogical research methods as well as inform them about the vast resources of the Allen County Public Library. We welcome the wide distribution of this newsletter and encourage readers to forward it to their friends and societies. All precautions have been made to avoid errors. However, the publisher does not assume any liability to any party for any loss or damage caused by errors or omissions, no matter the cause. If this issue of "Genealogy Gems" has been forwarded to you and you would like to receive your own copy in the future, visit www.FriendsOfAllenCounty.org and fill out the subscription form at the bottom of the page. Another way to subscribe is to send an email to genealogygems-subscribe@friendsofallencounty.org.

Ryan Taylor, editor