

Genealogy Gems: News from the Fort Wayne Library
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Science, Technology and Television--The Best of Times
by Curt B. Witcher

I fear family, friends, colleagues, and fellow genealogists may often tire of hearing me say this, but we really are living in the best of times for engaging in family history research. Never have so many documents, so much information, and so many networking and sharing opportunities been available to us. It is truly a golden time, and we need to take maximum advantage of the opportunities we have.

It has been both fascinating and instructive to watch the development of genetic testing in the family history field. Often referred to as genetic genealogy, the use of DNA testing to supplement and complement traditional research continues to make a significant difference to researchers facing brick-walls and individuals struggling with an evidence trail for a particular family line that has gone cold.

The National Genealogical Society and other family history organizations have held genetic genealogy seminars at their conferences for several years. Now the Genealogy Center of the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, IN is hosting such a seminar called "Climbing Your DNA: Genetic Genealogy." Roberta Estes will present six lectures over two days on May 22 and 23, 2009 in the Main Library theater. Ms. Estes is a nationally renowned speaker on this topic, a published author, and manager of more than twenty surname projects. More details about Ms. Estes' presentations as well as her work can be found further on in this ezine. Take advantage of this extraordinary opportunity to learn firsthand about this important subject from an expert who will make learning understandable and enjoyable. [And for those of you who work in Indiana libraries, the seminar has been approved for "library education units." Contact the Genealogy Center for additional details.]

Have you been to the "Roots Television" website lately?! I continue to be amazed at the variety of

genealogical programming Megan Smolenyak and her colleagues bring to the airways. Have you seen the latest improvement to viewing "Roots Television?" You can click on an option to have a full screen view--and with a couple of cables from your computer, you can broadcast "Roots Television" on your HD-TV. If you're new to "Roots Television," or haven't been to the site in a while to experience the new features and speakers, simply go to GenealogyCenter.Info and click on the "Roots Television" icon for nearly countless enjoyable and educational experiences.

And speaking of genealogy and television, some of you have likely heard about NBC's plans to broadcast an American version of the British hit show about family history entitled, "Who Do You Think You Are?" Originally scheduled to air next month on April 20th, the show has been indefinitely postponed as negotiations are on-going between the network and Lisa Kudrow's production company. I am optimistic, though, that it will air--and when it does, we all need to get as many people to watch the show as possible, to indicate to the network executives and advertisers that there really is a market for genealogy and family heritage shows on the major networks in prime time. Who said genealogy isn't ready for the big time?!

African-American Patriots and Loyalists

by Melissa Shimkus

During the American Revolution, many freed blacks and slaves fought as soldiers in the war that founded our country. "African-American Patriots in the Southern Campaign of the American Revolution" by Bobby G. Moss and Michael Scoggins (call number 973.34 Aa1moa) is an impressively well-documented account of those individuals who served.

In 1775, the Continental Congress decided to recruit free blacks in their efforts to offset the larger force of British troops. Slaves in the southern states, including Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia, were already being recruited by the British, who offered them freedom for their service, but many slaves refused and instead fought on the American side. Georgia and South Carolina refused to acknowledge slave service in the war, but recognized that of freed blacks.

"African-American Patriots" provides an alphabetical roster of approximately 800 who served in the southern states. The entries give details on each soldier or patriot and an abbreviated citation and page number for the source material. The abbreviations are explained in the bibliography of the book which supplies the full citation to the source. The information accumulated in the book is from national, state, and local documents held in many locations.

Many genealogical details are supplied for these patriots. The entry for Saul Matthews of Virginia, slave of Thomas Matthews, provides information concerning his service in the war, including spying activities, his petition for freedom, and the approval of his request. The seven sources cited for his entry verify the information in the book, and provide further avenues for research.

Claudius Pegues, a patriot from South Carolina, granted his female slave, Courtney, and her son, Martin, freedom, land, and a house for her years of service. The entry includes Claudius' death date and residence.

Arthur Toney (Tony) of North Carolina was a free mulatto. His entry provides genealogical information concerning his birth, siblings, enlistment and re-enlistment, payment for service from the state, marriage, pension, and bounty land. Twelve sources are cited, including a pension record, bounty land warrant record, and various North Carolina State Records.

"African-American Patriots in the Southern Campaign of the American Revolution" is a wonderful source for African-American researchers. It provides well-documented historical and genealogical details concerning these remarkable, yet sometimes, unacknowledged patriots of our country. A companion volume, "African-American Loyalists in the Southern Campaign of the American Revolution," provides similarly detailed information on almost 2,800 individuals who sided with the British crown (call number 973.34 Aa1mob).

Prize and Related Records for the War of 1812 of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York 1812-1816

by Cynthia Theusch

National Archives microfilm publication M928 preserves the records of this court that concern the capture of enemy property at sea during the War of 1812. Most cases concern British vessels taken by American privateers and the U.S. Navy, including ships defeated on Lake Champlain, Lake Erie and Lake Ontario. The collection is divided into three series, and contains a variety of documents filed by ship owners, sea captains, seaman, and privateers.

The first series is comprised of case files for claims on captured ships, filed in alphabetical order by the name of the prize vessel. Papers include depositions of witnesses, indentures, claims for property seized as a prize, consents, decrees of condemnation, accounts of sales of prizes, and related papers reflecting the progress of prize cases through the court. There are also shipping articles, articles of agreement, cargo manifests, invoices and bills of lading, shipping tickets, receiving reports, licenses to sail with or without a convoy, licenses to arm vessels, British letters of marque and reprisal, proceedings of courts martial, muster rolls, logs, personal correspondence, certificates of desertion, and related papers seized aboard prize vessels and deposited with the court according to the rules of procedure in prize matters. Some of these documents are, of course, genealogically useful. One claim involved the Ship "Edward," which was captured by a gunboat. Heinrich Schroeder provided a deposition stating "he was born in Germany; ...considers New York, at present his home; That he is a subject of the Dukedom of Aldenburgh in Germany, and has never been a citizen or subject of any other prince or State; That he has never been admitted a burgher or freeman of any town or city; and that he is not a married man."

The second series concerns prizes claimed by the captains and crews of eight privateer vessels and is arranged in alphabetical order by the name of the vessel. Documents include letters of last will and testament, articles of agreement between captain and crew, letters of attorney appointing prize agents to transact business on behalf of the privateer, petitions to receive prize money, depositions, and reports of sales of cargoes. For example, Jacob Jennings provided a certificate stating that he was entitled to one-half of a share from the Private Schooner "Benjamin Franklin."

The last series consists of "Papers Relating to the U.S. Frigate 'Essex,' 1812-16." Documents include letters of attorney, certificates for shares in captures made by the "Essex," and letters written by former crew members requesting the payment of prize monies. One document indicates that the widow of William Johnson was to receive the share entitled to him before his death on the 11th of January 1813. Interested researchers may access this collection on microfilm in the Genealogy Center or online at Footnote.com.

Preservation Tip of the Month--Drying Wet Items
by Becky Schipper

Air drying is a simple, low-tech method of drying books, documents, and photographs. It works best on damp materials. Saturated materials may be air dried if they can be fully dried within 72 hours. Always keep the air circulating with fans on low speed.

To air dry an item, cover a table or other flat work surface with plastic. Place clean newsprint over this to absorb moisture. Change the newsprint when it becomes damp. To flatten a paper or photo while it is drying on a flat surface, take the following steps when the item is almost dry.

***Interleave it between polyester web and blotting paper.

***Use weights.

***Place the blotter on the bottom, with paper or photo on top, polyester web next, and then weights.

***You can dry more than one item at a time, but separate items with layers of web and blotting paper.

[Source: "A Preservation Guide: Saving the Past and the Present for the Future" by Barbara Sagraves]

Polyester web may be purchased by the yard at fabric stores, where it is sold as non-fusible interfacing, and at archival suppliers such as Gaylord, and Metal Edge, Inc. where it is sold as Spunbonded Polyester Reemay, in both rolls and sheets.

April "Tree Talks" Reminder: WeRelate Overview

For our second Tree Talks event of 2009, back by popular demand, Cynthia Theusch will offer a "WeRelate.org Overview" on Saturday April 25, 2009, at 10 a.m. in Meeting Room A. Find out how to use the world's largest genealogy wiki to interact with other researchers online, upload GEDCOM files, annotate scanned documents and photos, and more! Please call 260-421-1225 to register, or email your registration to Genealogy@ACPL.info. Watch our Special Programs site <http://www.acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy/programs.html> for information on future Tree Talks, mini-courses, and other programming.

May "Tree Talks" -- "Climbing Your DNA: Genetic Genealogy"

by Delia Bourne and Melissa Shimkus

The Tree Talks program for May is a timely and exciting one--a one and one half day seminar on the use of DNA testing in genealogical problem solving entitled "Climbing Your DNA: Genetic Genealogy". This seminar features Roberta Estes and will be held on May 22 and 23, 2009 in the Main Library Theater.

Ms. Estes, one of the leading experts in the field, founded DNAeXplain (www.dnaexplain.com) in 2003, following a successful 25 year career as President of Information Access Strategies, Inc., a consulting firm that manages and implements leading edge technology projects in the government sector. She is a professional scientist and business owner (BS Computer Science, MBA, graduate work in Geographic Information Systems), and has been an obsessed genealogist since 1978. When the infant scientific field of DNA for genealogy emerged, Roberta was one of the early DNA surname administrators and pioneer adopters of DNA analysis for genealogy. She manages over 20 surname projects including the large regional Cumberland, the Lost Colony and the North Carolina Native Heritage projects, performing a significant amount of both genealogical and DNA research and analysis pertaining to surname projects and individual clients' test results. Ms. Estes will be the featured speaker at the fifth annual ISOGG (International Society for Genetic Genealogy) conference. She has previously lectured widely, authored a column for a technology magazine, written books in the technology arena and is in the process of writing a book about her experiences with DNA and Genealogy. The Genealogy Center is pleased to welcome her as the instructor for this timely course.

The schedule for the seminar is listed in the following:

Friday, May 22nd

2 p.m.--Registration

2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. -- DNA and Genealogy--Introduction

3:30 p.m. -- Break

4 p.m. to 5 p.m. - Getting in Touch With Your Feminine Side: mtDNA

Saturday, May 23rd

9 a.m. -- Open, Welcome, Recall/Review/Re-Orient

9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. -- Twists and Turns in the Rocky Road: Case Studies

10:30 a.m. -- Break

11 a.m. to 12 noon -- My Results are Back--Now What?

12 noon to 1:30 p.m. -- Attendees are on their own for lunch.

1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. - Autosomal DNA Testing and You: What is It, What Does It Mean, and How to Use It

2:30 p.m. -- Break

3 p.m. to 4 p.m. -- Making DNA Loveable: How to Take Your DNA Results and Turn Them into an Heirloom Gift for Your Family

4 p.m. -- Break

4:15 p.m. -- Q&A Session if there is interest

Early registration: \$30 (postmarked by May 11, 2009).

Registration: \$35 (postmarked after May 11, 2009).

For more information, see our website <http://www.acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy/programs.html> , call 260-421-1225, or email Genealogy@ACPL.info.

Palatines to America--German Genealogy Conference

The Palatines to America National Conference and Annual Meeting will be held at the Allen County Public Library, June 18 - 20, 2009. Visit their website for all the details. <www.palam.org/> The general schedule is below.

Thursday June 18, 2009 4:45 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.

Workshop A - Palatines Along the Hudson: Researching 18th century Settlers in Livingston Manor - Steven Myers

Workshop B - Researching Your North German Ancestors - Robert Rau

Workshop C - Advancing Your Research with PERSI - Delia Bourne

Friday June 19, 2009 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Workshop D - Researching in Germany - James Feit

Workshop E - Preparing Your Research for Publication - Barbara Gargiulo

Workshop F - Swiss Genealogical Records - John Beatty

Friday June 19, 2009 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Workshops A - B - C will be repeated

Saturday June 20, 2009 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.

Workshops D - E - F will be repeated

Online registration at the National Conference Registration site

<http://palamnationalconference.org/registration/> .

Librarians on Parade

Curt Witcher

April 2, 2009--Ohio Genealogical Society Conference, Sawmill Creek Resort, 400 Sawmill Creek Drive, Huron, OH, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Topic: "Preserving Your Family History: A Practical Two-Hour Mini Course."

April 18, 2009--35th Annual Quad Cities Genealogical Conference, Viking Club of Moline, 1450 41st Street, Moline, IA, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Topics: "Hunting in the Hoosier State and ACPL Genealogical Resources," "Using Church Records in Your Genealogical Research," "Pain in the Access: Getting the Most from the Internet for Your Genealogy," and "Using Government Documents in Your Genealogical Research."

April 25, 2009--Indiana Genealogical Society Annual Conference, Marriott Center East, 7202 East 21st Street, Indianapolis, IN, 11 a.m. to 12 noon. Topic: "Marching On: Major Military Sites on the Internet."

John Beatty

April 5, 2009--Allen County-Fort Wayne Historical Society, 302 East Berry, Ft. Wayne, IN, 2:00 p.m. Topic: "Mapping Fort Wayne: A History of the City in Maps."

Cynthia Theusch

April 22, 2009--Mid-Michigan Genealogical Society, Plymouth Congregational Church, 2001 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing, Michigan , 7 p.m. Topic: "Allen County Public Library's Genealogy Center" and brief highlight on "PERSI."

April 25--Allen County Public Library, 900 Library Plaza, Fort Wayne, IN, Meeting Room A, 10 a.m. Topic: "WeRelate Overview."

Area Calendar of Events

Allen County Genealogical Society of Indiana (ACGSI)

April 8, 2009 at 7 p.m. (social time begins at 6:30 p.m.) at the Allen County Public Library's Main Library, 900 Library Plaza, Meeting Room A. Stan Follis will present "Creating a Family Web Site."

Allen County-Fort Wayne Historical Society, 302 East Berry, Ft. Wayne, IN

April 15, 2009 at 2 p.m. John D. Beatty will present "Mapping Fort Wayne: A History of the City in Maps."

Driving Directions to the Library

Wondering how to get to the library? Our location is 900 Library Plaza, Fort Wayne, Indiana, in the block bordered on the south by Washington Boulevard, the west by Ewing Street, the north by Wayne Street, and the east by the Library Plaza, formerly Webster Street. We would enjoy having you visit the Genealogy Center.

To get directions from your exact location to 900 Library Plaza, Fort Wayne, Indiana, visit this link at MapQuest:

<http://www.mapquest.com/maps/map.adp?formtype=address&addtohistory=&address=900%20Webster%20St&city=Fort%20Wayne&state=IN&zipcode=46802%2d3602&country=US&geodiff=1>

>From the South

Exit Interstate 69 at exit 102. Drive east on Jefferson Boulevard into downtown. Turn left on Ewing Street. The Library is one block north, at Ewing Street and Washington Boulevard.

Using US 27:

US 27 turns into Lafayette Street. Drive north into downtown. Turn left at Washington Boulevard and go five blocks. The Library will be on the right.

>From the North

Exit Interstate 69 at exit 112. Drive south on Coldwater Road, which merges into Clinton Street. Continue south on Clinton to Washington Boulevard. Turn right on Washington and go three blocks. The Library will be on the right.

>From the West

Using US 30:

Drive into town on US 30. US 30 turns into Goshen Ave. which dead-ends at West State Blvd. Make an angled left turn onto West State Blvd. Turn right on Wells Street. Go south on Wells to Wayne Street. Turn left on Wayne Street. The Library will be in the second block on the right.

Using US 24:

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

>From the East

Follow US 30/then 930 into and through New Haven, under an overpass into downtown Fort Wayne. You will be on Washington Blvd. when you get into downtown. Library Plaza will be on the right.

Parking at the Library

At the Library, underground parking can be accessed from Wayne Street. Other library parking lots are at Washington and Webster, and Wayne and Webster. Hourly parking is \$1 per hour with a \$7 maximum. ACPL library card holders may use their cards to validate the parking ticket at the west end of the Great Hall of the Library. Out of county residents may purchase a subscription card with proof of identification and residence. The current fee for an Individual Subscription Card is \$70.

Public lots are located at the corner of Ewing and Wayne Streets (\$1 each for the first two half-hours, \$1 per hour after, with a \$4 per day maximum) and the corner of Jefferson Boulevard and Harrison Street (\$3 per day).

Street (metered) parking on Ewing and Wayne Streets. 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 garage 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 Center Queries

The Genealogy Center 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 email: Genealogy@ACPL.Info.

Publishing Note:

This electronic newsletter is published by the Allen County Public Library's Genealogy Center, 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.

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If you do not want to receive this e-zine, please follow the link at the very bottom of the issue of *Genealogy Gems* you just received or send an email to kspears@acpl.lib.in.us with "unsubscribe e-zine" in the subject line.

Steve Myers & Curt Witcher, co-editors