

Genealogy Gems: News from the Fort Wayne Library
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It's Up to You!
by Curt B. Witcher

It has been a curious summer, hasn't it? The weather has been radically cooler in places where it's normally hot, and in places where one can almost always be guaranteed cool breezes and moderate temperatures, the air has felt like a blast-furnace. Many individuals I communicate with on a regular basis report (and most lament!) how fast the summer has passed. From my young nephews and nieces to research colleagues, many are almost wide-eyed with disbelief that schools and universities are largely all back in session and thoughts are beginning to turn toward the best ways to salvage what remains of the year. What about all those research trips we were going to take? What about all the organization and evaluation of our already-collected data we were going to do?

Though the unofficial end of summer (Labor Day) is just around the corner, much good weather, many productive days, and nearly innumerable opportunities to enjoy genealogical pursuits are available for the taking. It's all up to you to act! The Genealogy Center is offering an amazing line-up of programs for this October's Family History Month. Put your "house" in order in September and make the Allen County Public Library your second home in October! Amazing numbers of new records have been added to our Genealogy Center database site--www.GenealogyCenter.Info. Have you looked for your late 19th and early 20th century OH, IN, MI, IL and NY ancestors in the more than forty-four thousand entry "Evangelical Messenger" obituary index? Have you visited Roots Television online recently? A lot of new programming and shows are there, and you don't even have to worry about your digital signal coming in clearly.

Truly there is much to discover, much to learn, much to share, and much to enjoy in our marvelous field of historical and genealogical research. Let's get after it--it's truly up to you!

Genealogical Research and the Salem Witch Trials of 1692

by John D. Beatty

The Salem witchcraft hysteria, which took place in what is now Danvers, Massachusetts, in 1692, is one of the most infamous events in the history of colonial America. Nineteen men and women were hanged, and one pressed to death, after a series of trials that have been depicted frequently in literature and in theatrical and motion picture productions. If you have ancestral connections to the Danvers-Salem area of Essex County in the seventeenth century, you may have a personal tie to one of these unfortunates, to the many others who were accused, acquitted, or died in prison, or to those who entered testimony against them.

There is no definitive genealogical study of all participants in the mania. The work that comes closest, however, is Enders A. Robinson's "Salem Witchcraft and Hawthorne's House of Seven Gables" (974.402 Sa32ro), published by Heritage Books in 1992. Robinson's work summarizes the events of 1692 and includes several chapters on the accused witches together with genealogical information about their families. There are also chapters on many of the accusers and those afflicted by fits of hysteria. While the book is not extensively documented, it is well-indexed and represents a good place to begin a genealogical study of the event. Articles on several of the families involved have also appeared in the "American Genealogist."

A number of well-researched histories of the witchcraft mania have also appeared in print over the last several years. They include Marilynne K. Roach's "The Salem Witch Trials: A Day-by-Day Chronicle of a Community under Siege" (974.402 Sa32px), which gives a daily summary of events, together with an extensive set of endnotes and an index. Also useful is Richard B. Trask's "'The Devil Hath Been Raised:' A Documentary History of the Salem Village Witchcraft Outbreak of March 1692" (974.402 Sa32tra), which includes transcriptions of many primary source documents and several contemporary narratives. Another readable account of recent vintage is Peter Charles Hoffer's "The Devil's Disciples: Makers of the Salem Witchcraft Trials" (974.402 Sa32h). All of the above-named volumes can be found the Genealogy Center. Researchers may find additional relevant information in the genealogies that have been published for the affected families.

The Robert R. Livingston Papers, 1658-1888

by Steven W. Myers

This microfilmed manuscript collection is a vital source for researchers tracing the many descendants of Palatine families and others who settled on Livingston Manor in present-day Columbia County, New York in the 18th century. The 57 reel set includes the "Livingston Family Papers" as well as the "Robert R. Livingston Papers," both of which are housed at the New-York Historical Society Library. The collection is comprised of correspondence, legal and financial papers, rent lists, and many bound volumes including lease books and account books, all of which can be profitably mined for information about the tenant families of the Manor. A printed guide, "The Robert R. Livingston Papers, 1658-1888" (974.7 Er4r), describes the records in detail, supplying a

contents list for each reel as well as biographical sketches and genealogical charts for this prominent New York family. Reel 57 provides indexes to the documents appearing on the first 17 reels by date and by the name of the writer and recipient of each document.

Genealogists connected with Manor families will enjoy numerous opportunities to expose some nugget of information about their ancestors in the Livingston Papers. Financial ledgers provide the names of those who kept accounts and can help document arrivals and departures from the area. Occupations are sometimes given, and relationships are provided when supplies are picked up by another family member. The details of purchases made by local settlers from Manor stores are alone able to transport the reader back to a different era, as does the following list: "1 pair of shoe buckles, 1/4 pound of indigo, 2 bushels of salt, 1 ivory comb, half an ell of calico." Comments in a surveyor's book reveal that "Michael Lawsing has spoken to me for this lot. He has the Character of a Sober, Industrious, Young Man." Another page provides the details of Philip Jacobs' lease for lives, giving the names and ages of his wife, daughter and son. An angry letter of 1762 to Jacob Shaver begins "You doe nothing but destroy my woods. I order you to come and pay me the Rent else [I] shall come and dispossess you and distrain yr Creatures..." Remarks in a day book on the 23rd of April 1762 report "I was at Ryvenberghers who lives in a Hutt next the meadow, saw his wife miserably poor." Consider exploring these microfilmed manuscripts for your own family nuggets here in the Genealogy Center.

Technology Tip of the Month--Photo Restoration with Adobe Photoshop, Version 9.02: The Tools You Need for Photo Restoration

by Kay Spears

First, you need a good flatbed scanner. A good scanner should provide options for changing the resolution and saving the photo in different formats such as TIFF, JPEG/JPG and PNG. Digital cameras are also a possibility; however, they only save in JPEG format (unless you have a very expensive professional camera). As I mentioned previously, you only want to work on an image that is saved in a TIFF format. We will explore the reasons later.

Make sure your computer meets or exceeds the software specifications. I use Adobe Photoshop, which I consider to be one of the best programs available. It is a bit pricey; however, Adobe also has a scaled-down version called Elements. If basic restoration is all you're going to do, Elements will be sufficient. You want your restoration program to have a Contrast/Bright tool, a Hue/Saturation tool, a Feather tool and the all important Clone tool. With those features, you can correct almost anything. The software you choose should allow you to save the image as a TIFF, JPEG/JPG or PNG. You should also have something to transfer these images to, such as CDs, flash drives or external drives.

And last, you should invest in some acid-free archival boxes to store the original photos when you're finished scanning them. I purchased my boxes through Light Impressions at <www.lightimpressionsdirect.com>. Even though these boxes prevent light from getting to the photographs, they should still be stored in a dry place away from any light source.

Next article: Scanning.

Preservation Tip of the Month--Dealing with Smelly Books & Paper
by Becky Schipper

The question of how to handle books that have an odor comes up frequently. Most recently it was brought to my attention because of a small periodical collection we are treating for this problem here at ACPL. In working to remediate this situation, I am using a product called MicroChamber Interleaving Paper. It is available from Conservation Resources International, LLC.

The description in their online catalog states that it is a very thin, nearly transparent paper that contains SPZ zeolite, which gives it the power to remove pollutants. It also removes odors such as those from smoke, mold, and mildew. It will not however, stop active mold and mildew.

This paper is 100% cotton, approximately one half the thickness of a sheet of bond paper. It can be used with all collections, whether paper-based or photographic. It comes in different sizes and widths, the smallest being 8-1/2 X 11 in a pack of 250 sheets. The price for this pack is \$23.95.

Conservation Resources International, LLC has been in business in both the U. S. and the U. K. for more than twenty years and is known for many innovations in the Conservation field. Their website is <www.conservationresources.com>

Family History: Beyond the Basics, A Two Day Mini-Course

Time is running out--register today for "Family History: Beyond the Basics, A Two Day Mini-Course," scheduled for Friday and Saturday, September 18 and 19. Margery Graham, ICG and Steve Myers, MLS offer classes in Problem Solving, Probate Records, Land Records and Tax Lists, Military Records, Church Records, and Tracing Your Ancestors Across the Atlantic, as well as tours of the Genealogy Center, assisted research, and personal consultations. Cost is \$50 for the two days. Expanded course descriptions and a registration form are available at <http://www.ACPL.Info/genealogy/programs.html>. Register now because space is limited.

October: A Celebration of Family History Month

The Genealogy Center has a true *celebration* planned for October--A Celebration of Family History Month. Every day features a genealogy or local history program. Programs include lectures on online sources and research aids, researching local buildings, the Lincoln family, and scrapbooking. Some of the month's highlights are the Genealogy Center's second annual Military Symposium and the first-ever International Black Genealogy Summit. See the details of all the events on our Family History Month calendar at <www.ACPL.Info/genealogy/programs.html>. Programs will have limited seating, so we strongly encourage you to register early for all programs at 260-421-1225 or Genealogy@ACPL.Info. For more information concerning the International Black Genealogy Summit, use the following links: <www.BlackGenealogyConference.Info> or <www.BlackGenealogySummit.com>

Second Annual Military Symposium

Remember that the Genealogy Center's second annual Military Symposium, emphasizing Patriotic Lineage Societies, will be offered on Friday and Saturday, October 9 and 10. Speakers Ron Darrah, Curt Witcher, and Delia Cothrun Bourne will present lectures concerning organizations formed by American soldiers and their descendants, and explain how the records and publications of these societies will help genealogists and historians alike. Registrations postmarked by September 25 will save you \$5 of the \$35 regular cost. At the door registration is \$40, so sign up now! Expanded course descriptions and a registration form are available at

<<http://www.ACPL.Info/genealogy/programs.html>>

International Black Genealogy Summit & More

Five days during October will feature programs specific for those interested in African American family history and heritage as well as those who teach and assist others with African American research.

**On October 14th the Allen County Genealogical Society meetings is featuring Roberta Ridley's presentation on her research experiences. Roberta's family migrated to Fort Wayne in 1869, making her a fourth generation African American Fort Wayne native.

**On October 28th local historian, Peggy Seigel will present "Sources for Researching Abolitionists and the Underground Railroad in Northeast Indiana." This lecture will examine the research used for several published papers, focusing on the amazing resources in the ACPL for researching abolitionists and the Underground Railroad in Fort Wayne, religious and political leaders and others who worked quietly behind the scenes.

**On October 29th the African/African American Historical Society of Fort Wayne and the Genealogy Center are presenting the International Black Genealogy Summit Pre-Conference. This pre-conference will feature nine lectures and an open forum examining black genealogical research. Admission is free!

**Friday and Saturday, October 30th and 31st, the Genealogy Center hosts the International Black Genealogy Summit. For the first time, all African American Historical and Genealogical Societies chapters, the Special Interest Groups of larger societies, the independent black groups that make up the West Coast Summit, as well as independent black genealogical and historical societies in the U.S., Canada and the Caribbean will come together to celebrate the joys and challenges of black genealogy. Thirty lectures over the two days, plus two keynote speakers, will provide interested researchers with an amazing array of research guidance and expertise. During Friday morning's opening session from 8 to 9:30 a.m., Curt Witcher will highlight the Genealogy Center's amazingly rich African American historical research collection. More information as well as the registration fee and form can be found at <www.BlackGenealogyConference.Info> and <www.blackgenealogysummit.com>

Librarians on Parade

Curt Witcher

September 3, 2009--Little Rock, AR, Federation of Genealogical Societies Annual Conference, Little Rock Statehouse Convention Center, 5 p.m. "More Toys and a Bigger Sandbox: Future Possibilities with Digital Libraries"

September 5, 2009--Little Rock, AR, Federation of Genealogical Societies Annual Conference, Little Rock Statehouse Convention Center, 2 p.m. "Finding the World with WorldCat"

September 9, 2009--Fort Wayne, IN, Allen County Public Library, 900 Library Plaza, Meeting Room "A", 7 p.m. "What's New at the Genealogy Center"

September 16, 2009--Auburn, IN, Willennar Genealogy Center of the Eckhart Public Library, 700 South Jackson Street, 7 p.m. "Peopling the Midwest--Patterns & Records"

September 25, 2009--Plainfield, IN, Plainfield-Guildford Township Public Library, 1120 Stafford Road, 11:15 a.m. "Preserving Local Records" Part of the Indiana Genealogical Society's "Society Management Seminar"--focus on preserving and accessing public records.

Area Calendar of Events

Allen County Genealogical Society of Indiana (ACGSI)

September 9, 2009, 6:30 p.m. social time; 7 p.m. program. Allen County Public Library, 900 Library Plaza, Meeting Room A. Curt Witcher will present "What's New at the Genealogy Center."

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

September 20, 2009, 2 p.m. Dr. William R. Heath, author of "Blacksnake's Path: The True Adventures of William Wells" will present a lecture and have a book signing.

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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Steve Myers & Curt Witcher, co-editors