



Arkansas Genealogical Society

AGS Ezine

Volume 9, No. 2, February 2014

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JOIN US!

If you are not a member,
this is your official
invitation to join AGS.

[AGS Membership Application](#)

If you are a member,
look at the back of your
Arkansas Family Historian.
Your membership expires
on the date printed under
your name.

It may be time to renew
your AGS membership dues!

At the end of October last year I made a presentation to the Texarkana USA Genealogical Society about the AGS Fall Conference and about the AGS. As you might expect, all present were invited to join the AGS if not already members. One person at the meeting asked “what do I get for my membership?” Since that night, I have thought about question and how I might have given a better answer. My answer today would be different.

You get to be a part of a solution. You get the privilege to volunteer and serve, the responsibility to preserve and publish local records for future generations, the honor to develop relationships with gifted and knowledgeable genealogists, the opportunity to increase your own skills. At the “end of the day” you will know that what you did today will continue to give for decades to come. In short, you get out what you put in. After considerable serving and growing, you should become one of those “gifted and knowledgeable” genealogists.

If you are a member of the AGS, allow me to encourage you to become an involved member. If you have not yet joined the AGS, “come on in friend, the water is fine.”

Happy growing!

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Tidbits –

“OneDrive for everything in your life”

Microsoft announced January 27, 2014 they changed SkyDrive to OneDrive. The wording of the announcement follows below, however, other sources give the reason as trademark infringement lawsuit. I liked the old name, but OneDrive works for me.

“Why OneDrive? We know that increasingly you will have many devices in your life, but you really want only one place for your most important stuff. One place for all of your photos and videos. One place for all of your documents. One place that is seamlessly connected across all the devices you use. You want OneDrive for everything in your life.”

Upfront with NGS mini bytes

With the holidays behind us, you, like, I, might have done a lot of housecleaning in preparation for guests! Such often turns up a fair amount of junk and also treasuries. If the latter, you might want to read [6 Steps to Protect Your Family Heirlooms, Antiques, and Treasures](#).

Coming Events

February 6 through 8, 2014

Roots Tech 2014 will be held at the Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City, Utah. This annual family history conference is hosted by FamilySearch. RootsTech is a unique global family history event where people of all ages learn to discover and share their family stories and connections through technology. Registration is now open. Details may be found at <https://rootstech.org/>.

April 5, 2014

The Oklahoma Genealogy Society will hold its annual Spring Seminar April 5, 2014, at the Oklahoma History Center, 900 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. See page 5 for more information.

March 8, 2014

The Saline County Public Library, Benton, Arkansas is holding the 2014 Genealogy for You Seminar, 9:00–3:00, with Cyndi Ingle presenting. The event is free but pre-registration is required.

May 3, 2014

The AGS Spring Workshop 2014 to be held at Lakewood United Methodist Church, 1922 Topf Road, North Little Rock, Arkansas. More information to come. Save the date.

Coming Events continued

May 7 through 10, 2014

NGS 2014 Family History Conference, at the Greater Richmond Convention Center and Marriott Hotel located in downtown Richmond, Virginia. Conference highlights and contact information for conference hotels can be found in the Announcement Brochure, which can be downloaded at http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/galleries/new-gallery/2014_Announcement_Brochure.pdf

June 6 & 7, 2014

The 25th North Arkansas Ancestor Fair will be held in Leslie & Marshall, Arkansas. [Click here](#) to see the web site for all the details.

August 27 through 30, 2014

The Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference will be held in San Antonio, Texas. See the web site for more information, www.fgs.org.

May 13 through 16, 2015

The NGS 2015 Family History Conference, Crossroads of America will be held in St. Charles, Missouri.

More New York City Vital Records Going Online

This article is from the Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter

More than 10 million New York City birth, death and marriage records spanning nearly a century -- from 1866 to 1948 -- go online Thursday in a partnership between Ancestry.com and the New York City Department of Records/Municipal Archives. Best of all, the City's records will be available free of charge on Ancestry.com, an unusual offering.

In addition to the city archives available beginning Thursday, Ancestry.com also announced it has added to its New York State Census Collection to include the census of 1855, 1875 and 1905. It earlier put online the 1892, 1915 and 1925 New York State Census.

The New York City records, available for free, can be accessed at Ancestry.com/NewYork, where users can browse through not only the 10 million-plus birth, death and marriage records, but gain entry to the vast collection of the city's Municipal Archives.

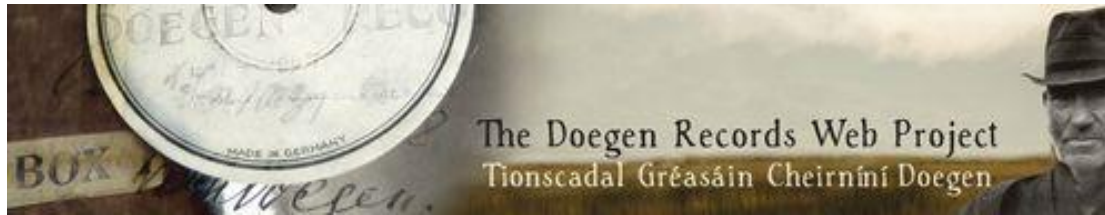
You can read more in an article by Olivia Winslow in the Newsday web site at <http://www.newsday.com/news/new-york/more-nyc-vital-records-going-online-1.6809740>.



Preserving Irish Dialects Forever with the Doegen Records Web Project

This article is from the Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter

Irish dialects have always varied widely from one county to another. With the advent of radio, television, easy travel, and other factors, the individual dialects are disappearing. The Doegen Records Web Project is an archive of Irish dialect sound recordings made from 1928 to 1931 containing folktales, songs and other material recited by native Irish speakers from 17 counties. Crucially, it includes examples of dialects that are now extinct.



This multi-media archive is a project of the Royal Irish Academy Library in collaboration with the Digital Humanities Observatory. The 212 surviving records which comprise the collection contain some 400 tracks in all. These include folktales, versions of the parable of the Prodigal Son, songs (both sung and spoken), discourses, prayers and miscellaneous items of vocabulary such as recitations of the numbers 1 to 30 or the days of the week. In addition, the collection contains a single track in the English language.

You can learn how your Irish ancestors spoke at the Doegen Records Web Project at <http://www.doegen.ie/>.

Searching Successfully to Reveal Your Ancestor's Story

The following article from Ancestry Insider.

At the 2013 BYU Conference on Family History and Genealogy, Crista Cowan gave a presentation titled, "Searching Successfully to Reveal Your Ancestor's Story." Cowan "the Barefoot Genealogist" at Ancestry.com. She has a live internet show every Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 11:00 AM mountain time. You can watch it live or archived at <http://www.livestream.com/ancestry>. Archived episodes are also available at <http://www.youtube.com/user/AncestryCom>. Cowan has been with Ancestry.com for nine-and-a-half years.

Cowan began with a couple of points. Ancestry.com has a privacy rule. Living people are considered private. People are considered living as long as birth dates are within the last 100 years and there is nothing in the death date field. (I wonder what put "living" in the death date field does? In FamilySearch Family Tree, having anything in the death date field, including "living" makes the system assume the person is dead and no longer private.)

It is a good idea to sync your tree with Family Tree Maker (FTM). That way you can keep a copy of your database and all images and documents on your desktop computer. Asked by a class member, Cowan said that you can't sync between your Ancestry.com Tree and FamilySearch Family Tree or any other desktop tree besides FTM.

Shaky Leaves

Ancestry.com has a feature colloquially called Shaky Leaves. Shaky Leaves are suggestions of records that might match individuals in your tree. Actually called "hints," the name Shaky Leaves has been so popular that Ancestry.com employees call their onsite eatery the "Shaky Leaf Café."

Ancestry.com provides hints to the top 10% of their databases as a way to get people started in their discoveries. Hints come with some cautions. They are just hints. Look at records first, skipping Ancestry Family Trees. Use other family trees as clues, not facts. Look to see which have sources. Since 90% of collections are not hinted, don't stop after reviewing your hints. Search for additional records.

Searching Successfully to Reveal Your Ancestor's Story continued

“Want better results?” asked Cowan. “Show the advanced search form.” The home page search box is as simple as possible to not scare away first time visitors. “I hope that you are not using this search form. If you are, don’t.” Click Advanced, or click Search in the menu. Then click Show Advanced. Your choice is sticky and will be remembered the next time you visit.

In advanced mode, under every field there is a search filter. Different kinds of fields have different filters.

Name Filters

Filters available for names are Default and Exact. The Exact setting has some additional options: phonetic matches, similar meanings, and matching initials. Any or all of these can be specified. If I understand how it works, the Default setting acts as if all of these are set.

Cowan’s grandfather was always called “Junior.” He thought his name was Frederick, but it was actually Fred. As simple as the name Fred is, it was often spelled Fredrick, Frederick, Frederich, Freddie, or Freddy.

The Default setting will match all of these as well as F.

- ◇ If Exact is set, Fred will match only Fred. (The remaining examples I determined by trial and error. I hope I got them right.)
- ◇ If Exact is set with Phonetic, Fred will match Fred, Freddy, Freddie, and others, like Freda, but not Fredrick, Frederick, or Frederich.
- ◇ If Exact is set with Similar, Fred will match Fred, Fredrick, Frederick, Frederich, but not Freddie or Freddy.
- ◇ If Exact is set with Initials, Fred will match Fred and F.

Wildcards can be used. Using the asterisk wildcard, Fred* will match all of the list, while Frederic? will match only Frederich and Frederick. (Cowan said that to activate wildcards, change the filter to “Restrict to exact.” I don’t think you have to do this. If you specify a wildcard, the search will be exact, even if the default setting is selected.)

Searching Successfully to Reveal Your Ancestor's Story continued

To use wildcards, you must have at least three consecutive characters and can't have wildcards at both beginning and ending of the name.

Year Filter

Cowan wouldn't set year to exact. It might be wrong on records or transcribed incorrectly. The person might have lied. The recorder might have rounded to nearest multiple of 5. Or it might be necessary for you to estimate birth year from age. And if you mark birth year exact, Ancestry.com will not return records without a birth year.

Location Filters

Cowan warned that you may not want to set birth place exact. Boundaries change, etc. If you specify a city like San Francisco, then you won't get any census records since they don't specify city.

You can also set the filter to restrict to county, adjacent county, state, adjacent state, or country. (To use these settings, you must select the place from the dropdown list when you enter it.)

For a first search, Cowan will typically specify "Lived In" and restrict to state. This is for a first search. She doesn't often use Exact.

To set all the filters to default, click the Match All Exactly checkbox twice.

Other Advanced Controls

The advanced search form has a Collection Priority control which can restrict results to collections from a particular country or ethnicity. This setting is "sticky." That is, it is remembered from one session to another, so be mindful when you use it.

It also has a control which can restrict to results to record types: historical records, family trees, stories and publications, and photos & maps. This setting is also sticky.

Results

You can quickly scan through the top records if you know a lot about the person. “Never go through a page or two,” said Cowan. “If what you want is not coming up in the first couple of pages, redo your search.”

You can also view results by Categories instead of ranked records. Above the first result, on the right, click on Categories or Records.

Cowan likes using browser tabs. When viewing a list of results, you can right click on a result to open it in a new tab. (In Firefox I use ctrl-click to the same effect.) Leave this tab open. Then its easy to compare the record to another record.

Cowan like to transcribe (or extract) records. This forces you to pay attention to the information in the records and the entire record.

As an aside, check out the new image viewer. It makes it easy to extract the information. You can zoom in and it shows row and column headers.

Put the extracts in a chronological list. It is not quite a story, but pretty close. Think about additional collections that will add to the story. Some collections are not name indexed. Consider them as well. Maps are an example. Using these search controls and the records on Ancestry.com you can reveal your ancestor's story.

Wellcome Images Now Available Free of Charge Under the Creative Commons Attribution Licence

This article is from the Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter

Wellcome Images provides a huge archives of more than 100,000 high resolution photographs, ephemera, maps, paintings and drawings. The company has now made a major announcement:

Dear colleague,

We have some very important news to announce. As of today, all historical images that are out of copyright and held by Wellcome Images are being made freely available under the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) licence. This means that they can be used and manipulated freely, for commercial or personal purposes, so long as the original source is acknowledged. High-resolution files from the historical collections can now be downloaded directly from the Wellcome Images website.

The historical collections offer a rich body of historical images, including manuscripts, paintings, etchings, early photography, and advertisements. We have over 100,000 images ranging from ancient medical manuscripts to etchings by artists such as Vincent van Gogh and Francisco Goya, which are now freely available.

The earliest item is a 3000-year-old Egyptian prescription on papyrus, and treasures include exquisite medieval illuminated manuscripts and anatomical drawings, ranging from delicate 16th-century fugitive sheets, whose hinged paper flaps reveal hidden viscera, to Paolo Mascagni's vibrantly coloured etching of an 'exploded' torso.

We are delighted to make our growing archive of historical images freely available to all and provide the mechanism for direct access to them. We hope that users, both personal and commercial, take full advantage of the material available.

Our specialist team of researchers at Wellcome Images are available to advise and assist with sourcing and searching for images, and can be contacted at images@wellcome.ac.uk.

Why not try it out now? Just search for your favourite images, click on 'Download hi-res images' and follow the instructions. The Wellcome Images are available at wellcomeimages.org.

Crowdsourcing to Record Welsh Place Names

This article is from the Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter

A new Web site has launched a crowdsourcing effort to record all the place-names of Wales as they appeared on Ordnance Survey maps at the end of the Victorian period.

Cymru1900Wales.org is a collaborative project, developed jointly by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, The National Library of Wales, University of Wales and the People's Collection Wales. The goal is to use the Wales 1900 gazetteer to form the backbone of a national collection of the country's historic place-names, comprising everything from the earliest medieval records to the field-names still known to modern farming families.

In addition, there is here a huge potential to tap into local knowledge and memory. That is why, as well as simply recording the names as they appear on these historic maps, the organizers want you to tell them more: do you know stories about the origin of the name, true or apocryphal? do you want to record other versions of the place-name (especially ones we might not otherwise easily find), such as a form used by your grandparents? or do you remember the same place going by another name altogether? And then there is a chance to record your memories of the place - these will be kept in a related resource, the People's Collection Wales.

Visitors to the cymru1900wales.org website are being asked to study historic mapping of Wales, published by the Ordnance Survey between 1899 and 1908, and to record the location of all text shown on the maps: the names of towns, villages, woods, farms, rivers, springs, mansions - everything! There is even a competitive element to this mildly addictive process; the more place-names recorded by a volunteer, the higher his or her position in the Contributors' Chart.

You can learn more at <http://www.cymru1900wales.org/>.

With the push towards digitization, are we more likely to “lose” memories?

This article from Upfront With NGS September 2013



Old Negatives

These are some negatives found in an old box. Few photos of these negatives were found and yet, some of these pictures have been reprinted

Copyright 2013, Diane L Richard

With print copies of photos, we used to have to worry about putting them in photo albums (unless we just threw them in a box) and photo albums take up space.

With the advent of digital photos, one can now publish books (many services to choose from) which take up less space or put your images up in the “cloud” to save and share.

With the push towards digitization, are we more likely to “lose” memories? *continued*

One used to have to take one’s film to a store to get processed and then patiently wait for it to be developed and to see the photos you had taken. I remember coming back from trips and having rolls and rolls of film (not always labeled as to which day of the trip) and then as I could afford to, getting them developed. And, different cameras took different film. Do you remember 126? 110?



More Old Negatives

These are some more negatives found in an old box. Different format film and none of these had accompanying photos!

Copyright 2013, Diane L Richard

With the advent of digital photos, we now have our images instantaneously available to us. My cell phone takes better photos than some of my earliest cameras did! Remember Polaroid photos? Having to wait for the image to appear and then putting the special coating on each one.

With the push towards digitization, are we more likely to “lose” memories? *continued*

This “brief” walk down photographic memory lane was inspired by reading this piece, [Print What You Want to Preserve](#). If you’ve ever experienced computer crashes, lost cell phones, cloud service failures or any technology failures where you have “lost” photos, you will want to read this piece.

Though, I love the cloud, and though I love my digital camera and cell phone, and I do use crashplan and an off-line backup hard drive, I still sometimes print out images and I always create photo books for each vacation or special event (e.g. graduation).

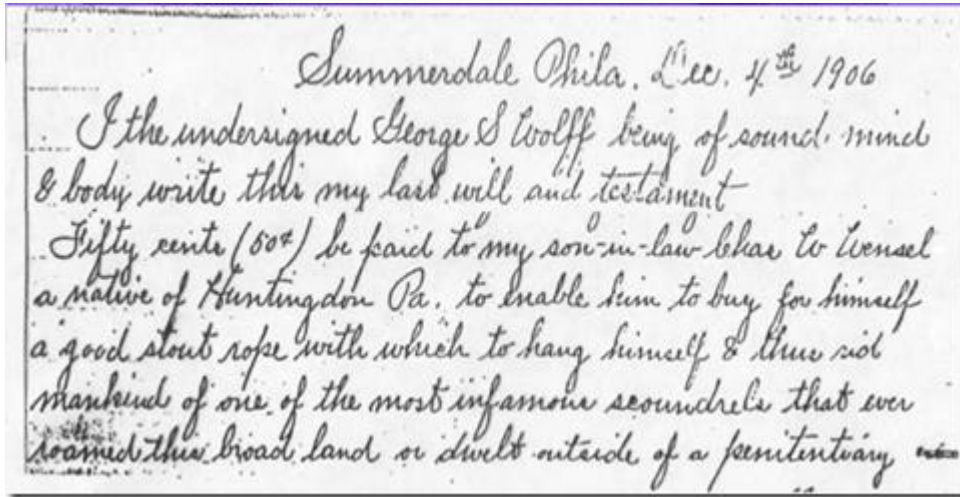
With our move towards more and more digitization (which can be wonderful), sometimes, there is still a reason to “print” some of what you want to preserve. Just like reading a book is still not the same as reading my kindle. Look at a digital photo album isn’t quite the same as sharing some time on the couch with my family as we flip the pages of a photo book ...

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Editor’s comments: At the January Texarkana USA GS meeting one member related the sad story of the destruction of a friend’s family history records in a house fire. It does happen. It can be a fire, storm, or digital disaster. I recommend clicking on the “Print What You Want to Preserve” link at the top of this page and reading the story.

Records Say the Darnedest Things (from Ancestry Insider)

A coworker shared this will with me:



Summerdale Phila. Dec. 4th 1906
I the undersigned George S Wolff being of sound mind
& body write this my last will and testament
Fifty cents (50¢) be paid to my son-in-law Chas W Wensel
a native of Huntingdon Pa. to enable him to buy for himself
a good stout rope with which to hang himself & thus rid
mankind of one of the most infamous scoundrels that ever
roamed this broad land or dwelt outside of a penitentiary

Summerdale Phila. Dec. 4th 1906

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mankind of one of the most infamous scoundrels that ever
roamed this broad land or dwelt outside of a penitentiary

Yes, records say the darnedest things.

Sources

Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania, Wills 302:175-6, no. 2249, George S. Wolff will, proved 10 November 1908; Register of Wills, City Hall, Philadelphia; Family History Library microfilm 1,311,083.

The full text of the will can be found in "Sidelight: A Disgruntled Father-in-Law," *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 97 (March 2009): 16.

Administrative Stuff

Contributions: If you have news for the Ezine, send it! doug44mann@gmail.com –Thanks!

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