



ROOTS & BRANCHES GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Fall, 2004

Newsletter Editor: Carol Izzo (jizzo@totcon.com) Annual Membership: January-December

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The Roots and Branches Genealogical Society meets at the DeLand Library at 6:00 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month, September through June. All submittals to the newsletter are welcome - either through e-mail, or at meetings or can be delivered to the editor's slot in the Genealogy room in the Library.

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PLEASE NOTE:

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE ON JANUARY 1, 2005

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Roots & Branches Meetings 2004-2005

Board meetings: August 27, September 24, October 29, November 19, December 17, 2004. January 28, February 25, March 25, April 22, May 27, 2005. General meetings: September 2, October 7, November 4, December 2, 2004. January 6, February 3, March 3, April 7, May 5, June 2, 2005.

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Free BMD and Family Research Link for Births, Marriages and Deaths Indexes of England and Wales

The civil registration of births, marriages and deaths for England and Wales began July 1, 1837 and is one of the most significant resources for genealogical research. The following Web sites will be most useful to you if you are already familiar with these quarterly civil registration indexes and wish to have the opportunity to search them in your own time, without having to visit a library or a register office in person.

(Free BMD and Family Research...continued from pg. 1)

FreeBMD Search, found at www.freebmd.org.uk, is an ongoing project to transcribe the indexes, and to provide free Internet access to the transcribed indexes. The index transcriptions are carried out by dedicated volunteers and contain information for the period 1837-1983. Although the whole index has not yet been transcribed, it is searchable by event (birth, death or marriage), date range, surname and first name (also surname and first name of spouse), registration district and county. Registration district descriptions are also available at FreeBMD and should be carefully studied. This Web site should be consulted first before using the "pay as you view" site Family Research Link, below.

The Family Research Link, found at www.1837online.com, enables you to search microfilmed images of the original indexes to births, marriages and deaths for England and Wales from 1837 to 2001 from the comfort of your own home. The Family Research Link images are available to search, view (including zooming in on those awkward-to-read names), save to disk and print for a modest fee chargeable online.

The records from 1837 to 1983 can be searched in ten year periods by event, date range and surname (first three letters only). In addition, the records from 1837 to 1983 can be browsed by year and quarter.

Moreover, the index images at Family Research Link are complete. Once an entry is located certificate of birth, death or marriage can be ordered online, provided you are a resident of the UK.

Family Research Link is based in London, England and is part of an independently-owned business that is dedicated to providing high quality genealogical services to professional and non-professional researchers.

Here are some things to keep in mind when searching the indexes at either FreeBMD or Family Research Link:

- **Become familiar with the registration district descriptions. For example, the Ledbury registration district is mainly in Herefordshire, but included parts of Worcestershire. Sub-districts include Ledbury and Yarkhill. Civil parishes within the Ledbury district include: Ashperton, Aylton, Bosbury, Canon Frome, Castle Frome, Coddington, Colwall, Donnington, Eastnor, Egleton, Ledbury, Little Marcle, Mathon (from 1897), Much Marcle, Munsley, Parkhold, Pixley, Putley, Stretton Grandison, Tarrington, Wellington Heath, Woolhope and Yarkhill. Knowing this information can help in locating an individual in the index and also in eliminating multiple entries of people who share the same name, but who were born, died or were married within different districts. For example, a page from the Oct-Dec 4th quarter index for 1846 marriages shows a dozen entries for the name James Davis, but only one of them is in the Ledbury registration district.**

(Free BMD and Family Research...continued from pg. 1 & 2)

- An event might not be indexed in the quarter that it actually happened. For example, a child born on December 20, 1875, might be found in either the Oct-Dec 4th quarter birth index for 1875 or the Jan-Mar 1st quarter birth index for 1876. Don't stop searching just because he or she is not located in the expected 4th quarter index.
- There will be two index entries for marriages: one for the groom and one for the bride. It is a good idea to cross-reference the marriage index entries under both the groom and the bride to make sure the registration district, volume and page number agree before you order a certificate. For example the 1846 marriage of James Davis and Mary Powell shows that the index entries for each agree with Ledbury, Vol. XXVI, Page 298.
Source: Jerry Hale from www.iltrails.org/iroquois/

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Free Web Courses at Brigham Young University

The department of Independent Study at Brigham Young University is offering a series of free online courses in family history. They include:

- * Family History / Genealogy - Introductory FHGEN 070 - Free! Introduction to Family History Research FHGEN 080 - Helping Children Love Your Family History
- * Family History / Genealogy - Record Type FHREC 071 - Family Records FHREC 073 - Vital Records FHREC 076 - Military Records

Family History / Genealogy - Regional and Ethnic FHFRA 071 - France: Immigrant Origins FHFRA 072 - France: Vital Records FHFRA 073 - France: Reading French Handwriting FHFRA 075 - France: The Internet & French Genealogy FHFRA 076 - French Research: Paris FHFRA 077 - French Research: Alsace-Lorraine FHGER 071 - Germany: Immigrant Origins FHGER 072 - Germany: U.S. Sources & Surname Changes FHGER 073 - Germany: Jurisdictions, Gazetteers, & Maps FHGER 074 - Germany: Reading German Handwriting FHGER 075 - Germany: Calendars And Feast Days FHGER 076 - Germany: Vital Records FHHUG 071 - Huguenot Research FHSCA 073 - Scandinavia: Jurisdictions, Gazetteers, and Maps FHSCA 075 - Church Records And Feast Days FHSCA 076 - Scand: Census Records FHSCA 077 - Scandinavia: Probate And Other Records
For course descriptions and other details, see http://ce.byu.edu/is/site/special_offers/freecourses.dhtm
Source: Jerry Hale from UpFront@NGSgenealogy.org

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Researching New York Dutch Families: A Checklist Approach

As anyone who has worked on colonial New York or New Jersey families can tell you, researching families whose baptisms, marriages and burials occur in Dutch Reformed Church records can be quite rewarding. The surviving registers of these churches are frequently available in print and the available overall indexes to these registers include the International Genealogical Index (IGI); Wilson Ledley, comp. *Index to Baptismal Surnames [in 16 Reformed Churches]*, Holland Society of New York, 1990 [N.Y. G 12.15]; and *Marriage Index: Selected Areas of New York, 1639-1916*, from Kinship, CD-ROM (Family Tree Maker's Family Archives, 1996). The genealogical information given in the registers is often sufficient in itself to assemble a skeleton pedigree, because of the following helpful Dutch customs:

1. A couple was betrothed in the Dutch Reformed Church and then married after three banns had been read. The betrothal and/or marriage record ordinarily gives marital status and place of origin (which is usually place of birth). After 1664 a marriage license could be obtained in lieu of banns.

2. A woman normally continued to use her maiden name after marriage.

3. The first two children of each sex were often (but not always) named for the four grandparents.

4. Children were baptized shortly after birth and usually had relatives as godparents.

5. Even into the 19th century, patronymics and patronymic initials were still being used. For an overall view of Dutch naming patterns and the use of patronymics vs. surnames, see Rosalie Fellows Bailey, *Dutch Systems in Family Naming: New York-New Jersey* (National Genealogical Society Special Publications, No. 12, 1954) [CS42 N4 Spec.Publ.], and Kenn Stryker-Rodda, "New Netherland Naming Systems and Customs," *Record* 126:35-45. Because New Netherland was such a melting pot, a family in Dutch Reformed Church records might actually have no Dutch ancestry and yet be culturally, linguistically and politically Dutch and be referred to as Dutch. Besides being traceable in New Netherland and New York, clues to the European origins of these families are abundant. Place of origin was sometimes added to a person's name and so even just one occurrence of a name in New Netherland records may provide the clue. Marriage records are the most common source for this information, as they usually include place of origin. Other sources which may provide the desired clue include church membership records and notarial papers. Gwenn F. Epperson's *New Netherland Roots* (Baltimore, 1994) [N.Y. G 55.41] provides a useful basic guide to developing these clues. The *Record* continues to publish articles each year on the origins of New Netherland settlers from the Netherlands, Germany, France, Belgium and England. [No articles have used Scandinavian records yet.]

(Researching New York Dutch Families...cont'd from page 4)

As with many areas of genealogical research, the first step in researching a New York Dutch family should usually be to determine what has already been compiled on the family *and* what you can glean from readily-available published primary sources.

The principal aids for finding what has been compiled are library catalogs and the three key indexes of national scope: *Periodical Source Index [PERSI]*, *Genealogical Periodical Annual Index*, and *Jacobus' Index to Genealogical Periodicals*. See also Meredith B. Colket, Jr., *Founders of Early American Families*, revised edition, 1985 [CS42.15 C64]. The following genealogical periodicals are particularly important for this research, both for compiled genealogies and for primary source material:

- *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record (NYG&B)*
- *The NYG&B Newsletter*
- *Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey*
- *De Halve Maen*
- *The American Genealogist*
- *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*
- *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register*
- *The Dutch Settlers Society of Albany Yearbook*
- *New Netherland Connections*

Source: NYG&B

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Essex County, Massachusetts – 1930 Census - is on nine (9) films. Each town is on one film.

Source: Marjorie Heaney

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Military Medical Records

Compiled service records and pension files are the best place to start looking for medical records. Considerable medical information can be gotten from the personnel file. The record of medical examinations and physician's affidavits often provides an interesting description of an individual.

<http://www.civilwarmed.org> – handy reference to medical terms and diseases of the Civil War era under the research tab on the web site.

Twentieth century military records which include extant medical records are stored at the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri. Their web site is: http://www.archives.gov/facilities/mo/st_louis/military_personnel_records.html.

Books on civil war medicine: General Reference Book – *Civil War Medicine: Challenges and Triumphs* by Alfred Jay Bollet, M.D.

– *One Vast Hospital: The Civil War Sites in Frederick, Maryland after Antietam* by Terry Reimer

Source: NGS News Magazine, January 2004

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Tips For Researching Italian Ancestors

– Exhaust all American sources before bridging the ocean.

– Read guidebooks on research on Italy, such as John Philip Colletta's *Finding Italian Roots*.

– Check the catalog of the Family History Library to see if records from your ancestor's town have been microfilmed.

– If you don't read Italian, you can still undertake Italian research. Guidebooks as the one above offer English translations for most of the records you will be using. Also, arm yourself with an Italian-English dictionary and the Italian word list available from the Family History Library. You can also check a college or university near you to see if someone can read Italian.

– Watch for a tiny, but important word, *fu*. If you see this preceding a name, it means that person is deceased.

– Remember that Italians used a naming practice called "necronyms." Because names were chosen to honor the older generations, if a child died bearing a relative's name, it was given to the child born next.

Source: New England Ancestors Spring 2003

**ROOTS & BRANCHES GENEALOGY SOCIETY OF VOLUSIA COUNTY
2005 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL**

Name: (M) _____ Maiden Name: _____

Street/P.O. Address _____ Telephone Number: _____

City _____ County _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____

E-mail address: _____ NEW Member _____ RENEWAL _____

Membership period January - December. Please make check payable to the Roots and Branches Genealogy Society of Volusia County and mail to P. O. Box 612, Deland, Florida 32721-0612.

_____ Individual & Family - \$10

AN ANCESTOR CHART IS REQUESTED. PLEASE SUBMIT AT YOUR EARLIEST CONVENIENCE

-NEW MEMBER INFORMATION-

SURNAMES _____ LOCATION, TIME _____ SURNAMES _____ LOCATION, TIME _____

Guides to Finding Passenger records:

- Colletta, John P. *They Came In Ships: A Guide To Finding Your Immigrant Ancestor's Arrival Record.*
 - Lockhart, D.C. "Holland-America Line passenger lists, at the Boston Public Library (BPL) Microtext Department" or (www.jewishgen.org/infofiles/hollam3.txt)
 - Recu, K., "Holland-America Line (HAL) passenger lists 1900-1940" or (www.jewishgen.org/infofiles/hollam.txt)
 - Smith, M.L., "Manifest markings - a guide to interpreting passenger list annotations" or (www.jewishgen.org/infofiles/Manifests/).
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