



Irving Genealogical Society

July 2007

Irving, Texas

Volume 15, Number 7

Officers:

President: Joe Sissom

Vice President: Jeanne Mantooth

Secretary: Is Needed

Treasurer: Erle Kellogg

Coming Events

Monday, July 16 - Our program for July will be Dan Fauver who has pioneered the maintenance of tombstones in the area for the last 6 years, developing special tools to do it. A grandfather got him interested in genealogy some years ago via his 8 documented patriot ancestors. Richard Monroe has worked with Dan for several years and suggested his participation. His group has worked in cemeteries from Bonham to Ennis and we look forward to his presentation.

Saturday, August 11, 8:15 – 4:15 – The Fort Worth Genealogical Society presents its Summer Seminar featuring Lloyd Bockstruck. His topics are: Genealogical Research in Georgia – Colonial and State Statutes: Overlooked Sources for Genealogical Research – Pitfalls. Location: Oak Hall, Ft. Worth Botanical Garden Center, 3220 Botanic Garden Blvd, Ft. Worth. \$40.00 Pre-registration (must be received by Aug. 7) – Tickets at door - \$45.00. For more information contact Ann Lefevre at 817-496-9265 or lefevrea@prodigy.net. Note: For those needing only an application, contact me at marykweber@aol.com and I will send you one via e-mail.

Monday, August 20 – Jeri J. Steele is a fifth generation native Texan and a computer professional with over 30 years experience. She also is a professional genealogist specializing in North and East Texas records. Jeri is the current President of the Dallas Genealogical Society and also leads the DGS SIG for The Master Genealogist software. She has been a staff member of the Carrollton Family History Center and is a former director of GENTECH. Jeri currently works for Texas Instruments in Supply Chain Planning as an Applications Analyst. Her love of speaking comes from heavy involvement in Toastmasters International. Jeri's interest in photography has been developed by her professional photographer husband, Bill. At the meeting she will be speaking on choosing a digital camera. Genealogists want 'perfect' photographs in a lightweight, easy to use camera. Jeri shows you what is available in features that genealogists use and some cameras that are available that meet those needs.

From the President

Statewide Cemetery Update

E-mail exchange with the acting president of the Texas State Genealogical Society indicates that "Cemeteries are hot!", that there is interest statewide in increased preservation activity. He has asked me to write an article for the state quarterly which is already under way and to make a presentation to the state board in Nov. in Tyler.

The interest by Jerry Patterson, the state Land Commissioner, is increasing but nothing definitive yet as he is determining exactly how broad his legal authority is.

Don't miss the presentation at the regular meeting by an epitome of volunteering on this subject vital to all researchers.

Joe

Web Site Offer

Word Vital Records.com is offering a 7-day free trial of their web site. This free offer does not require a credit card and there are no strings attached. I subscribed to their free offer and did not find anything that I hadn't found previously on other sites, some of which are fee-based. Since I have a subscription to Ancestry.com (which requires a fee), I could compare the databases and found some duplicates. Ancestry.com databases can be accessed at the Irving Public Library free of charge. However, 7 days of home researching can provide anyone with a lot of information and might be of benefit.

Updates

Jay D. Bayne – Jay D. was released from the hospital last Friday and is recuperating at home.

Grace Lynch – Grace is having a slow recovery from her surgery a few months ago and will need another surgery before she will be up to attending IGS meetings, which she really misses. She asks that we keep her in our thoughts and prayers, as well as phone and visit her.

Native American Research Receives a Boost

Anonymous

Since you asked readers to write in about their Native American heritage a few weeks ago, I thought I would write in and let readers know about a new resource for doing Native American research.

Ancestry.com just put the U.S. Indian Census Schedules, 1885-1940 online. These have always been a useful resource for people researching their Native American roots, but until now you had to access them through NARA or a local family history center. By putting them online, Ancestry has now made them much more accessible.

One of the best things about these censuses--which were taken on Indian reservations--is that they occurred every year. In some ways that makes them much more useful than the U.S. federal censuses, which were only taken every ten years.

So if you have Native American ancestry, make sure to check out this collection. If you don't have an Ancestry.com subscription, find friend or library that does, or try a free three-day subscription.

Previously published in RootsWeb Review: 11 July 2007, Vol. 10, No. 28.

LDS Church plans to be history 'clearinghouse' - 80 billion family files to go online

Deseret Morning News, Thursday, May 17, 2007 by Carrie A. Moore

In what officials say will be a quantum leap forward in providing family history information online, the LDS Church has announced a plan designed to eventually help provide access to as many as 80 billion family records on the Web, in addition to the tens of billions of records it is currently indexing out of its own Granite Vault microfilm archives.

The new Records Access program is being announced this week at the annual meeting of the National Genealogical Society (NGS) in Richmond, Va. The announcement details specifics of how the church is creating partnerships with various archives and other records depositories in a move to become the world's premier international "clearinghouse" for family history.

The first cooperative project under the new program will be to digitize and index U.S. Revolutionary War Pension records with the National Archives in Washington, meaning anyone with ancestors who served in that war will soon be able to access details about that family member online.

Steve W. Anderson, manager of marketing for the church's FamilySearch.org, said the church is working to arrange agreements with commercial Web sites and genealogical organizations worldwide to provide digitizing, indexing and online posting for billions of records, many of which have never been indexed at all, let alone been available online. "Archives all have two things in mind: preservation and making records available," he said. "When push comes to shove, they would rather preserve them than share them, but most would like to do both."

The church is forming agreements with organizations to help film or digitally image their collections, which can be posted on an organization's Web site, as well as on FamilySearch.org. In some cases, FamilySearch will simply provide a link to a specific organization's Web site, where a small fee for access will be charged to view the records.

The program "recruits volunteers from around the world to index a batch of records at a time. They transcribe those pieces of information - names, dates, locations, marriage, death and birth dates - and make an index that allows the record to be searched by name or place or event," Anderson said. The project not only will provide "vital statistics," but by imaging the documents, users will be able to pull up a digitized image of the actual record itself. "That's a whole different experience, to see an image of the original document," he said.

The program provides the flexibility necessary to work with small archives as well as giant repositories, he said. It helps those without any resources to complete the entire imaging, indexing and online posting process, and those with more resources who may simply need help posting information online or driving traffic to their Web site.

Once the church has signed an agreement to work with a specific organization, personnel there typically want to recruit their own patrons to help them index. But with imaging the documents - taking digital photos of them - we do that for them in almost all cases. ... They want preservation-quality digital images, and we do that better than anybody. We've been doing it for decades, to produce the 2.4 million rolls of microfilm that now reside in the church's Granite Mountain near the mouth of Little Cottonwood Canyon, Anderson said.

FamilySearch can also put indexing projects in progress on its Web site, where volunteers can help index public collections of records. The Revolutionary War records are a "perfect example. We're doing the imaging, posting on our site and will recruit volunteers to help index. An online family history Web site called Footnote.com will create electronic indexes of the records and host the actual images there for public access. The indexes and images of those records will also be viewable at LDS Family History Centers, as well as at FamilySearch.org.

Anderson said "numerous other national and international projects" of a similar nature are now under development and will be announced as agreements are signed or data is published. As a result of the "affiliate arrangement, Anderson said FamilySearch.org will "have all the indexes for everything. You can think of it more or less like a Google - you go there to find the source of information you're looking for. Sometimes we're the source, and sometimes a third party is the source." At least one or two similar agreements are expected to be announced this week in Virginia, Anderson said, noting several of the church's family history specialists are presenting at the conference this week.

While some Web sites may eventually use their information as a money-making enterprise, as commercial family history companies now do, Anderson said the church is not charging partners to help them make their records available. Church officials have been looking to form such partnerships "for some time now," Anderson said, but have had to push forward the development of technology that would allow it to happen with "the way we scan, photo, transfer and archive. Because some of the necessary technology wasn't available, we had to develop it ourselves." Working with a scanner producer, the church helped develop high-speed scanners that can scan a roll of microfilm in "a couple of minutes," as opposed to an hour or more that traditional scanners required.

New software developed to process that information into images and make it ready for processing, as well as to manage the warehousing of such huge information banks, also had to be created, Anderson said. "Almost every step of the way, there were significant engineering projects or hardware that needed to be developed." Now that the technology is in place, the Records Access project will mean "at least 20 billion unique new names that will be in those records (to be posted online), but I'm not uncomfortable saying it could be 80 billion." That's compared with a total of about 5 billion names now online, he said. The new technology and resulting "affiliate" agreements through FamilySearch will "fundamentally change people's ability to find their ancestors and connect with their families online. It's just going to be a real watershed event," Anderson said.

Fort Worth Library News

Date: Tue, 10 Jul 2007 14:10:26 -0500
From: "Library-Ancestry in Action" <ancestry@fortworthlibrary.org>
Subject: Sea Venture

Greetings All,

It is a summer of genealogy books! Another book has arrived on our shelf that is thrilling and exciting loaded with genealogy information Sea Venture: Shipwreck, Survival, and the Salvation of the First English Colony in the New World by Kieran Doherty, gives a detailed look at the ship blown off course and landing in Bermuda. Here is what Publisher's Weekly says about the book:

In 1609, the two-year-old English settlement in Jamestown was struggling to survive, having been decimated by hostile Native Americans, disease, political mismanagement and lack of food. Early in the summer, a fleet of nine ships and over 600 hopeful settlers left England to bring supplies and new life to the beleaguered colony. The flagship, Sea Venture, never made it to Jamestown: swept off course by a hurricane, it landed in Bermuda. Doherty, vividly recreates the journey of the Sea Venture, the survival of its passengers and the eventual rebuilding of two new ships (Patience and Deliverance) from the Sea Venture's timbers. A year and a half after leaving England, the Sea Venture's passengers landed at the Virginia settlement only to find it on the verge of extinction. The ship's leaders refashioned the charter of the settlement, strove to establish new relationships with the Native Americans and restored the colony's agricultural fortunes, assuring the English a foothold in the New World. The most famous account of this shipwreck is Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, but Doherty's fast-paced and colorful blow-by-blow account is a swashbuckling tale of adventure in the age of exploration. Eight pages of black & white photos.

So if you have completed the Lisa Alther book*, (and, wasn't it a fun read), try the Sea Venture.

Enjoy,

Shirley Apley, Senior Librarian
Genealogy, History, Archives
Fort Worth Public Library

*The book Shirley is referring to is "Kinfolks: Falling Off the Family Tree – The Search for My Melungeon Ancestors."

Mary K Weber, Newsletter Editor