



Newsletter

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LEGISLATION THREATENS SOCIAL SECURITY DEATH INDEX

The following information was contributed by Ronald D. Doctor, JGS Oregon Membership Chairman. He sites as his source the California State Genealogical Alliance: [Thanks also to Rose Marie Harshmann for a similar contribution.]

The Social Security Death Index is one of the most important databases in our genealogical toolbox. Federal legislation currently being considered would shut down this database. Read the following article from this week's Eastman's Online Newsletter and consider writing to the appropriate Congressional people.

GIVING A FUTURE TO THE PAST

There are many ways that you may contribute to CCGS--such as through a bequest; different types of endowments or trusts; as well as gifting cash or securities. Please ask at the CCGS library for information about the Ancestry Endowment Society.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION - A CALL TO ACTION

At the federal level there are two bills on privacy and the use of Social Security Numbers working their way through the system. They are called the Social Security Misuse Prevention Act. Granted, the misuse of Social Security Numbers has gone on much too long, but as the bills are worded it could spell the end of the Social Security Death indexes. Even if they were to exempt the present Death Indexes, no further indexes could be developed.

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The Utah Genealogical Society has worked to get the authors to amend the bill to protect the continued availability of the death indexes, but so far there have been no amendments. It is time for the genealogy community to let Washington know how we feel. We want people's privacy protected, but we do not want to see this very important historical research tool lost forever. It is important to thousands of genealogists and family health historians.

We ask that they make the following amendments in S228 and HR637:

1. Under Sec. 3 (a)(1)(a) DEFINITIONS, add the following definition:

“SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER - The term ‘social security number; refers to the Social Security number of a living individual.”

2. Under Sec. 4(a)(1)(e)(2) LIST OF PAPER AND OTHER NONELECTRONIC RECORDS,
delete “(D) death certificates.”

You can contact the authors:



S228

Senator Dianne Feinstein
331 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-3841/FAX 202-228-3954
<http://feinstein.senate.gov/email.html>

Senator Patrick J. Leahy
433 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-4242
senator_leahy@leahy.senate.gov

Senator Judd Gregg
393 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-3324
mailbox@gregg.senate.gov

HR637

Representative John E. Sweeney
416 Cannon Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-5614/FAX 202-225-6234

To be added to the network, send your name, name of your organization, and e-mail address, stating your wish to be added to the Legislative Network, to ijones@accessbee.com

—22 April 2003, CSGA Legislative Network, Iris Carter Jones.

[Permission is granted to reprint Legislative reports. Please cite your source.]

To discuss this further, please visit the newsletter Discussion Board at <http://www.RootsForum.com> and click on “Discussion Board.”

NOTE FROM CCGS PRESIDENT



Genealogists are passionate about finding and preserving their family history. Whenever you are in the process let me urge you to briefly interrupt your research today and do two things to safeguard your work.

1 - Back up your research files both genealogical and word-processing. It is best done every time you make a significant data entry, but no less than every two weeks. Daily, I speak to people who have thousands of names and tens of thousands of events in their computers. What would you do if your computer failed and all of your data was lost? I would probably find a new hobby rather than re-enter the information again.

2 - Use the "book option" of your genealogical program to generate your ancestor's story now. All genealogists intend to write "a book" someday. However unexpected illness or premature death often means the book is never written and data is once again lost. This approach is not perfect, but it does preserve your information in a readily accessible format until you are able to write something more personal and complete. If you donate a copy to CCGS we will retain it in our vertical files or bind and place it on our shelves with the other 500+ family stories.

Act today to protect your important work. Delaying could mean that your descendants would one day have to start all over again. That would be a shame!

Bill Duchie

HERITAGE QUEST CENSUS RECORDS

AVAILABLE AT HOME!

Jane Miller of the Fort Vancouver Regional Library sends this message. "Many of the years are indexed in Heritage Quest. 1790, 1800, 1810, 1820, 1860, 1870, 1890, 1910, 1920. The rest will be soon. The ones you see on the first page of the census area lists those.

The Browse function at the top left of the list allows you to search in the years that aren't yet indexed. People often miss that and think all the years aren't there, but they are and will soon all be indexed." If you have a library card with one of the branches of the Fort Vancouver Regional Library system, you can access the Heritage Quest census records with your home computer. The site is located at <http://www.fvrl.org>.

CCGS LIBRARY WINDOW DISPLAY

If you haven't seen the CCGS library window display for this month, then you're missing an interesting informative exhibit. The exhibit is about our newest CCGS member. Marian Russell. This lovely lady came to our library recently to join us and it was a delight to meet her in person. During WWII she was a resident in a prisoner-of-war camp in the Philippines. Displayed in the window are news stories, pictures and various memorabilia to show the camp and their lives during that time. It's amazing to see what she lived through during that terrible time. Hopefully at least, one of the newspapers in our area will be interested in featuring a story about her.

EPITAPH

At the cemetery in New Preston, Conn. is an ancient stone, dated 1782, bearing these lines:

Ye people all now pass by, Stop here and view this place.

Remember shortly you must die, Who are of Adams race.

LIBRARIANS NEEDED

With the commitment of many hard-working volunteers, CCGS is able to maintain our library, which provides resources to help members and non-members in their genealogical research. We are in need of more library volunteers to staff the hours we are now open. And, as we get more librarians we can add even more days/hours that the library is open. Training as a librarian is a great way to get to know the resources of the library, which is tremendously helpful in your own ancestor search, and to get acquainted with other CCGS members. You will feel the satisfaction of helping others with their research.

Training involves working one-on-one with an experienced librarian until you feel ready to be a regularly scheduled librarian. Two librarians work each shift, so there's always someone to help you with questions you might have. In addition, the library committee schedules periodic training sessions for all librarians. These sessions focus on particular areas of interest, such as using CDs, using equipment, understanding the Dewey Decimal System, etc.

The most important qualities for a librarian are the desire to make people feel welcome in the library, a willingness to learn about the resources of the CCGS library, and an eagerness to assist patrons to the best of your ability.

Please contact Doris Wastradowski, dwastra@attbi.com 360-693-6436, if you have an interest in becoming a librarian or know someone you think would be a good librarian.

Many thanks to Jane Wetzel, who enthusiastically took on the responsibility for the indexing project. Due to family obligations, Jane is no longer able to be in charge of this effort to index books in the library that have no indexes. Please let us know if you have interest in helping with the indexing project. You will be provided with all the information you need to do the job.

If you have any suggestions, questions, or concerns related to the library, please contact Elinor Perlich, Anita Roberts, or Jennifer Warren.

From Tombstone in New Jersey

Julia Adams

Died of thin shoes, April 17, 1839, Age 19 years

IT'S FREEBIE FRIDAY AGAIN!

Our fourth Freebie Friday was held on May 2nd. Non-members of CCGS may visit the library on the fourth Friday of the month and they won't be charged the regular \$3 fee for non-members. A member does not need to attend with them. Just a reminder—the library is open on Fridays from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.

On Sunday, May 18th, the quarterly Welcome Day for new members was held. Just a reminder—all members are invited to visit our library from 2 until 4 p.m. to greet our new members. This is on a third Sunday so the library is open and staffed from 1 until 5 p.m. Watch for the next quarterly meeting.



INDEXING COMMITTEE

Jane Wetzel send this plea:

“I need a volunteer to take over for me as Indexing Committee Chairman. The program is all set up, but the new chairman will need to recruit more volunteers for indexing and oversee the program.”

[This is one job that perhaps our out-of-town members could help with—just toss it around. Maybe we could mail the book to a member and they mail it back with the compiled index when finished, but there would have to be some type of time limitation.]

LIBRARY COMPUTERS & EQUIPMENT

The three new Dell computers are installed and running at our library. They all arrived as scheduled in April. We still don't have the networking finished, although the crew did install new cables (the old ones were obsolete), and a router box. Almost all of the software is now reinstalled on each computer. The old librarian's computer is still in place as the FoxPro program must still be used for searching for books until Readerware is completely set up. Also, it's the only one from which you can print at this time. Many thanks to Brian Hart (Betty's husband), Phil Thompson and Larry Dean who came into the library to assist Don Finel and Pat Bauer with the installation. Also a special thank you to Diana Cruz for using her expertise in finding the solution for transferring the files from FoxPro, which she's continuing to work on at home. (If I've forgotten anyone, I'll include you twice next time!)

*To the Sacred Memory of Little Jerry
Grim death has taken darling little Jerry,
The son of Joseph and Serena Howells;
Seven days he wrestled with the Dysentery,
And then he perished in his little bowels.*



COMPUTER DESK ANYONE?

CCGS is in need of a small computer desk for the new computer at the front of the library. The one we have is not of sufficient width for the new computer. We are using the original desk but it is too crowded and we would like to make it easier to use. If you have a small desk you would like to donate, please send a note to <patbauer@pacifier.com> with the dimensions of the desk and other details about it. She will forward the information to the committee. The space was measured and it was decided that 36 inches in width would probably be adequate. Please don't bring any equipment to the library without getting an O.K.! Your help is greatly appreciated.

LIBRARIANS SCHEDULE

Did you know there is a monthly Librarian Schedule on our web page? You can check it out by going to the CCGS home page and click on the line that says Library Information. Then look for the line that says Librarians' Schedule. There are still a few empty spots in the schedule so, if you are a trained librarian and can give an extra day, please contact our scheduler, Karen Frost at <kfrost1@msn.com> to volunteer. If you find errors in the posted calendar, please let Pat Bauer know so she can correct it.

WILL CALL BOX FULL!

We have a Will Call box at the library which is overflowing with items people have not picked up. Ten different persons have items reserved. If you want to know if you are on the list visit the CCGS website for details. Please stop by and pick them up soon, or they will be thrown away.

BOXES NEEDED FOR MAILING BOOKS! If you have any 9"x12" boxes which are from 2 to 6 inches deep and heavy enough to hold books, please leave them at our library for Anita Roberts. She's running out of good boxes in which to mail the CCGS books to our customers.

CHAT NIGHTS

Remember the Thursday evening online genealogical chat room sponsored by CCGS. The door to the chat room is opened by Pat Bauer about 6:45 p.m.. To access the chat room visit the CCGS home page at <http://www.ccg-s-wa.org>. Click on the line telling of the chat room and follow the directions on the next page.

If it's your first time, when you access the chat room (labeled conference room on the door, and is on the business page of member Jennifer Petersen) this is the RIGHT place. Go to "Options" (underlined in red at the bottom right of the page) and click on it. Change the posting frequency from 5 to 20 to avoid the "jumpy" screen. Use your browser's "back" key to return to the chat room. Nancy Petersen and Pat hope to see you in the chat room soon. They enjoy a busy evening when they have lots of visitors with questions.



NEWSLETTERS ONLINE

Many of our past CCGS Newsletters are now online for your enjoyment. Thanks to editor Gene Kuechmann for the files which were posted by Pat Bauer on the web page. There are a few missing pages which were paste-ups in the original edition but many of those missing items are now outdated so we won't

worry about them. Each Newsletter takes 1 to 2 minutes to open, which means you must be patient! A few Newsletters are missing but all available ones back to January 2001 are on the web site. Go to the CCGS home page at <http://www.ccg-s-wa.org> and click on the line which says "Newsletters." Enjoy!

ADDITIONS & REMOVAL

If you want to be removed from the weekly reminder and notes message that comes via e-mail, please send Pat Bauer a reply note and she will take care of it immediately. She tries to add pertinent information about CCGS and many of you have commented that you are enjoying the messages. If you have something relating to CCGS to include, please send your note by Tuesday afternoon each week.

LOTS OF COMPUTER TIPS! Thanks to Don Finel for information about the PCWriter page, which has all kinds of computer tips. There is a complete index of past tips at <http://users.t3.cc/pcwriter/pages/page4.html>. It is a good idea to print out the entire index of tips so you can refer to it when needing information.

WANTED

"BATTLE GROUND IN & AROUND"

This book by Louise Allworth is now out of print. If anyone has one they want to sell please contact Beverly Ward Neitz at 503-694-5602. She was a visitor at our library this week and left this request.

IRISH INTEREST GROUP

Ten persons attended the May 19th meeting. We discussed a wide range of topics from handheld computers for your genealogy, to preserving your work for the next generation, to Irish words in everyday life. We reviewed several books for possible purchase by the group for the library. The next meeting will be on Monday, June 16 at 10 a.m. Marge and Bob Fizzell will talk about their recent trip to Ireland. There will be no meetings in July or August but we will reconvene in September.

SOUTH KING COUNTY GS MEETINGS

South King County Genealogical Society monthly meetings are held at the First Baptist Church, 11420 SE 248th Street, Kent, WA 98031. They are held from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon. We have a link to their web page from the CCGS links page at <http://www.ccgswa.org/p3397.htm>. They are in alphabetical order. Page down until you come to South King County and click there. If you're in their area they would like you to visit their meetings.

MANITOBA VITALS ONLINE

Thanks to Rose Marie Harshmann for sharing information about this site. It says: Vital Statistics

Genealogy Searches for Unrestricted Records...

Effective January 1, 2003, The Vital Statistics Act was proclaimed providing unrestricted access to the following records:

Births more than 100 years ago,

Marriages more than 80 years ago, and

Deaths more than 70 years ago.

SOME DAR INFORMATION

Thanks to Don Finel for this piece of information. Please visit the DAR's website at <http://www.dar.org> some time to view the new index that they have posted in the library's portion of the site. Since the 1910s DAR members have been collecting unpublished genealogical materials, largely Bible and cemetery transcriptions, in what are called the Genealogical Records Committee Reports. There are nearly 18,000 volumes of these typescripts in their library. It is the only collection with all of the compilations, and the volume numbering only works at the DAR Library. Many of you may have some of the GRC reports from your own state, but they have been numbered and arranged for all of the state materials based on the holdings in their collection, which is considered the master set. (Don filled out a form for his gggg grandfather, Joshua Belden, and received the information back in a couple of days. He already knew he was in the war of 1776 and wanted to see what records they might have. It was "no pension" for either Joshua or his wife, Anna.)

ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY TRIP



A trip being planned for the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana scheduled to take place October 12-19, 2003 was discussed at the May 27th general meeting. For several years there has been discussion about CCGS planing a genealogical research trip to this facility. Jennifer Warren and Sharon Wodtke are co-chairing the planning this first-ever CCGS trip to Fort Wayne. More information about this trip including hotels is posted on the CCGS web page: <http://www.ccgswa.org/p255.htm>. You can also send an e-mail query to Jennifer at jwarren@pacifier.com or Sharon at wodtke@wa-net.com.

The latest date possible to make group rate flight arrangements is August 13, 2003. At that time payment in full is required. If you are interested in a group rate, please contact Jennifer or Sharon asap. If we are unable to arrange for a group rate, individuals will be responsible for making their own flight arrangements. As of May 17 the lowest price for airline tickets to Fort Wayne is about \$440 for a senior (62+)

RESEARCH TRIP TO FHL IN SALT LAKE CITY PLANNED FOR 2003

Leave: Sunday, Oct. 5

Return: Sunday, Oct. 12

We will be staying at the Carlton Hotel, 140 East South Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84111

Hotel reservations will be made by Jeanine Bailiff to get the discount offered by the hotel for genealogical groups. Give room preferences to Marge Greenen as soon as possible. If you need a roommate let her know. If you want to stay at a different hotel such as Salt Lake Plaza, it will be your responsibility to obtain reservations.

CCGS Contacts are: Jeanine Bailiff 360-566-9422 or <igmb@pacifier.com>
Marge Greenen: 360-892-6773 or <mgreenen@pacifier.com>

HELPFUL SEARCH ENGINE WEBSITES

On April 12th at the GFO Seminar in Portland, Anne Leptich and an associate presented a Seminar on Genealogical Research Using the Internet. Some helpful websites were reviewed. These are some worth checking out :

General Search Engines:

Alta Vista - <http://www.altavista.com>

Findspot - <http://www.findspot.com>

Yahoo - <http://www.yahoo.com>

Site Specific:

Cyndi's List - <http://www.familysearch.org>

Family Search - <http://www.familysearch.org>

US Genweb Projects - <http://www.usgenweb.org/>

Genealogy Specific

Gencircles - <http://gencircles.com/>

Surname Web - <http://www.surnameweb.org>

Gensource - <http://gensource.com/ifoundit/>

Internet Family Finder - <http://www.genealogy.com/iff/top.html>

Gensearcher - <http://www.gensearcher.com/>

Fee Sites:

Ancestry - www.ancestry.com

Roots Web - www.rootsweb.com

Evertons - www.everton.com/use/xx.htm (xx stands for the 2-letter postal code of the state you want to research.)

Other:

US Gen Web - www.usgenweb.org/XX (Last two letters are the 2-letter postal code of the state you want to research)

World Gen Web - <http://worldgenweb.org>

Bureau of Land Management - www.glorerecords.blm.gov/

Library of Congress - www.loc.gov/

Ellis Island Immigration Records - <http://www.ellislandrecords.org>





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Library: 717 Grand Blvd.
360-750-5688

President: William DUCHIE
Vice President: (vacant)
Secretary: Janette BIRCH
Treasurer: Joy SCHMOLDT
Past President: Sharon WODTKE

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

NEW TECHNOLOGIES FOR AN OLD HOBBY

At the June 23rd meeting several knowledgeable members of the Society will participate in an overall survey of technological advances that have changed and enhanced family research. After a quick look at the traditional tools that genealogists still use, we will consider what can be done using newer, still evolving, technological tools. These tools include photography, audio and video recording, computers, scanning, personal digital assistants, the Internet and even genetics.

The presentation will be fast-paced and will deal chiefly with what can be done, rather than how to do it. We hope you will respond to the presentation by giving us your personal list of which tools you want to know more about. Your suggestions will guide us in planning some of our future meetings and mini-classes.

JUNE MEETING - Tuesday, June 23, 2003 - 7 - 9 p.m.
St. Luke's Episcopal Church Parish Hall, 426 E. 4th Plain Blvd,
Vancouver.