



NEWSLETTER

of the

HARFORD COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

143 N. MAIN ST, BEL AIR, MD 21014-3539

November 2011

NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING

Date: **Sunday, November 20, 2011** Time: **2:00 PM**

Place: **Historical Society of Harford County HQ, 143 N. Main St, Bel Air, MD 21014**

Program: **Harford County Cannery Families**

The program for November will be a presentation on *Harford County Canneries and Associated Families*. Our speaker, Bernie Bodt, has been collecting tokens, labels, pictures and other information about the Harford County canning industry since the 1950s. His parents, and paternal and maternal (Magness) grandparents, and great grandparents were all involved in Harford's canning industry. As a youngster, he was given tokens from their canning houses that he used as his "play money." Bernie's research has identified 700 canning houses in the county. In 2005, Bernie was featured on a segment of Aberdeen Heritage Trust's, *Historic Harford with Joe Swisher* program discussing his passion, the history of Harford County's Canning Industries. At the request of the Historical Society of Harford County in 2009, Bernie produced a large colorful canning house poster, illustrated with many can labels, and a map locating hundreds of canneries.

Please bring your inquiries, and join us.



MEETING SCHEDULE: March, May, July, September, & November

We hold five meetings per year, usually on the 3rd Sunday of the month. The March, July, September and November meetings begin at 2:00 PM at The Historical Society of Harford County Inc., 143 North Main Street, Bel Air, MD 21014. The May meeting is a box lunch held at various historical locations in the county.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

No smoking gun, but still a worthwhile trip.

In my previous message, I suggested that a new database index available at the Historical Society's *PastPerfect-OnLine* Electronic Catalog might be of interest to some of our remote members and researchers. I made this suggestion based on an experience I had while remotely researching my father's line in Michigan. This month I would like to pass along my "lesson learned" from that Michigan trip. I had hoped the visit would allow me to gain some insight into the relationship between my father and his parents and grand-parents. To that specific end, the trip was not a success. However, the trip was definitely worthwhile.

While I discovered nothing "new" per se, I did find my grandparent's and great-grandparent's obituaries, which I had never seen. And my great-grandfather's obituary provided me with a confirmation (be it a non-primary source) of the link between the third and fourth generations of my tree (which I had only previously known of "third hand").

During my visit with family I still have in Michigan, a phone call was received from my half-first cousin (we shared the same grandfather, but not the same grandmother), that I had never spoken to before, never met, and did not know where she lived. As it turns out, one of my aunts had kept in contact with this lady over the years, and after my aunt's death, my cousin had done the same. After my cousin's death, his daughter moved into his house but kept her father's phone number, which allowed this new connection to be made. What are the odds of all this coming together?

So, hopefully you took the time to peruse the new *PastPerfect-OnLine* Electronic Catalog index that I mentioned at the beginning, found something new, pursued the lead, and had a positive experience, even if not the experience you had hoped for. *Doug*

GENEALOGY TIDBITS

Family History Center Film Ordering

Beginning Oct. 19, 2011, films can no longer be ordered by librarians at the LDS FHCs.

All films must be ordered online through: www.familysearch.org/films Patrons will be able to order from ANY computer, including FHC computers, home, a public library, etc., using a credit or debit card.

New DAR Library GRC National Index Upgrade

The DAR Library and Genealogical Records Committee (GRC) is proud to announce exciting upgrades to the online GRC Index. Each record in the index is now directly connected to information on its source, including book title and page number. Results also link to the book's bibliographic record in the DAR Library catalog, which provides full details on the volume. These upgrades make locating family records easier than ever.

Now you can search using your surnames, to find matching surnames in the lineage of DAR/SAR members, and process your membership application all online.

FamilySearch.org Indexing

Every person matters. Perhaps it is this feeling that prompts millions to seek out their family history. For most of us, records of our ancestors provide a link to our past. An army of volunteers from around the world has been working to make these records available to everyone. You can join people around the world in extracting key information from records. Try indexing online and find out how fun it can be with a 2-minute "test drive."

Using FamilySearch.org, anyone who wants to help preserve this valuable family information can easily extract it from historical records to provide free searchable indexes. All of this can be done from the convenience of our homes.

No special skills are required. Volunteer when you have time. Just register, sign in, and follow the easy steps shown below:

1. Select a batch of 10 to 50 records to download.
2. Copy key information from the record to your computer.
3. Submit the information you have copied back to FamilySearch.

There are no minimum time requirements. You may index at any time or place and for as long as your schedule permits. If you are interrupted, when you return, the indexing program remembers where you were. A batch of work usually takes about 30 minutes to complete, and you have an entire week to finish it. If you cannot finish it, the batch becomes available for someone else to complete. If you do not want to finish it, you can return it.

Most of the FamilySearch indexing training materials are self-instructional. In order to be successful and have a positive and rewarding indexing experience, you will be asked to complete three tutorial lessons, and earn a *Certificate of Completion*.

Current Projects:

- Italy, Napoli Prov., Castellammare di Stabia [Death Records](#)
- US., 1930 Federal [Census](#)
- Ukraine, Kyiv Orthodox Consistory [Church Book](#)
- UK, Essex [Parish Registers](#)
- Germany, Baden, Achern [Church Book](#)
- Mexico, 1930 Federal [Census](#)
- US, Tennessee County [Marriages](#)

Check it out at <https://Indexing.FamilySearch.org>

What do those terms really mean?

by John W. Heisey

What is the first thing you do when you meet a word of doubtful meaning? Do you look it up at once, or do you ignore it? In some cases it may not matter too much if it is ignored, while in others, such as in genealogy, ignoring certain words can result in a research disaster. The best thing to do in all cases is to look up the words and, if necessary, write down the meaning for any future use. For genealogists, that can be especially good advice because these terms will probably be encountered, time after time.

As a brief dictionary of some of those less-familiar words that genealogists need to know, look at the following:

ABSTRACT: This, too, is a summary made by "taking out" the important information from a written document.

Although it contains pertinent data, it does not have to be in complete sentences. The abstract may even be in an outline form, but that may be a little confusing to a reader since some important details may be missed.

CERTIFIED: Often found at the end of a copied document and accompanied by a signature and name and a seal, this denotes that the document is genuine. The signer of the certificate portion may or may not be a legally confirmed or appointed notary public but merely an official of the organization making the certified copy.

COPY: Any written document which sets down exactly what was in the original is considered to be a copy. It may be handwritten, typed, or duplicated mechanically in some other manner (photocopy, photography, etc.). There is no such thing as "an original copy," unless it is used in reference to the first copy ever made directly from an original document.

EXCERPT: This is the taking from some record, written or spoken, the actual wording of a sentence or phrase to add to something that is being written, or spoken. To use such information, the source from which that data came, should be mentioned first.

EXTRACT: While this, too, may be something set down on paper or spoken, it is only the main parts of the information in a much longer document or speech. Usually there is a mention that the material was taken from another document or communication of some sort and is not the whole information. The extracted material

may be expressed in incomplete sentences, even partial sentences without superfluous words, but it should be noted in quotation marks if the information is a direct quote.

HOLOGRAPH: Usually this refers to something recorded entirely in an individual's own handwriting, rather than typewritten. It usually concerns a letter, a will, deed, or some other legal document.

MANUSCRIPT: Originally meaning a handwritten document, today it can be any record or document which has not been printed or published.

NOTARY PUBLIC: This is an individual who is legally authorized, for a set period of time, to witness and authenticate documents. To show authentication, an official seal is affixed to the document accompanied by the notary's signature and data concerning his or her term of office.

PLAGIARISM: This is the legal term used when someone uses another person's written material, and presents it as his or her own, without giving credit to the true author. Normally such use should be by direct quote.

PROXY: While this term is seldom used, it indicates that someone other than the organizer (speaker or writer) had actually signed the paper. This could be due to the illness of the originator or some other reason such as illiteracy.

SUMMARY: As the word sounds, this can be a short or lengthy summing up of information contained in a spoken or written message. In any case, it should contain all the information pertinent to the topic, but little or no explanation or interpretation. Just the facts are summarized, thus allowing the reader or listener to make up his or her own mind about what was communicated.

TRANSCRIPTION: This term means that some communication has been written down on paper or some other substance. It could be some oral information which was set down on paper, or the information was written in an alphabet that cannot be easily read or understood, or was originally written in a foreign language. At any rate, the transcribed information is set down exactly as it was originally expressed, but in an understandable form.

TRANSLATION: This means taking a spoken or written message from one language and putting it into another language.

TRUE COPY: A term often noted in legal documents as a "true copy compared with the original," it should be an exact duplicate of that original record except that the copy may be typewritten or printed whereas the original may be handwritten.

VERBATIM: This is the term used to describe any information reproduced exactly as it is written or spoken. That means just what it says - exactly - with all errors in spelling, grammar, etc., so there is no possibility of misunderstanding what was said or written.

While it is good to know what these terms really mean, they do not have to be used in all cases where the definitions would apply. Instead, use simple language and describe the type of document at hand, using words that someone will understand, except for specific source attributions that should be included.

Knowing what terms pertain to a record helps to more accurately evaluate its rarity, worth, genuineness, and even the date the record was created.

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GENEALOGY FEATURE

2011 Family History Workshop

Well here goes another of my continuing education pleas. The 2011 annual Family History Workshop, in Essex, MD, was time well spent. Located just off MD702, east of the beltway I-695, the Baltimore Stake, 120 Stemmers Run Rd., is a short trip from Harford County, and the event was FREE. Participants only needed to bring a light lunch, or some snacks, to carry them through the 8:00am to 4:00pm event. Best of all, nobody was selling anything!

Attendees were asked to preregister for classes so that speakers could be assigned to appropriately sized rooms. There were 265 persons preregistered, plus more that just showed-up. I saw our own HCGS members Bill & Linda Millway, and Dan Shanahan in attendance, and almost certainly failed to notice others in the crowd. If there were seats available, anybody could attend any session. Every hour there were nine to twelve classes in session, for a total of 59 unique seminars. Also running throughout the day were mini-personal attention sessions on Brickwall smashing, Deed Mapping, and reading old German Handwriting. All 30 or so speakers were local, extremely knowledgeable, and received as their honorarium, a free box lunch.

On a personal level I attended the Keynote address, plus six seminars. A very fruitful session was the *Research at the DAR Library*, by Coldren-Walker. She provided a good understanding of the records held by the DAR, and focused on how to access and use those records. Her side stories were colorful and stirred the attention of the audience.

The DAR Library holds over 300,000 genealogical files, consisting of books, city directories, DAR & SAR membership applications, microfilms, and documents, which are in the process of being re-indexed, and digitized for online access. Re-indexing is being done because non-librarians setup their old geographical area based filing which has been found to be too awkward to search. Everyone was encouraged to utilize the DAR Library's new expanded Genealogical Research Committee's online search capabilities. She warned us that a sundry of survivors petitioned and many were granted a pension, but often their relationship included different surnames, and questionable authenticity.

An especially enjoyable, exciting, and informative session was *Real Widows of the Pension Office*, by Loos-Noji. Her close affiliation with the Pension Office was highlighted by her animated stories of children, mothers of sons, and widows either married, remarried, multiple marriages, undocumented marriages, or no marital relationship at all. The really sad stories were those who pleaded their case, but never received a penny. Each Trifold wrapper (an individual bundle of pension papers) could contain a single document, or a treasure-trove of family history, such as applications, personal war-time letters, relationship evidence, guardianships, addresses, and the eventual Drop (from the rolls) Cards. We need to remember that widows' pensions were only granted to survivors of soldiers who died in service or as a result of their service. The rules covering these pensions changed often, even to the end when the rules were changed in 1958 to award a survivor's pension to the widow of a Confederate Civil War veteran, but unfortunately she died before receiving any payments.

These are samplings of merely two of the many seminars presented, but they draw attention to many opportunities to broaden your horizons, improve your research skills, and stimulate your desire to break through brickwalls, or embellish your family history with details about the lives of your ancestors. *Education yields knowledge, and knowledge is power. So continue your education.*

Rich Appel

GENEALOGY HAPPENINGS

The 17 million Stories Of Ellis Island: What's Fact, What's Myth?!

Date: **9 November 2011** (Wed) 6:00pm – 7:30pm

Place: **Roland Park Country School**, Baltimore, MD

Registration: call **Kaleidoscope Lifelong Learning** at 410-323-5500, ext 3091 for additional information and directions. Fee is \$40 for this one session.

See also http://www.rpcs.org/Kaleidoscope/fall_kaleidoscope.aspx See Fall 2011 Catalog p.29 for more details.

Program is a single session hosted by **Kaleidoscope Lifelong Learning** at Roland Park Country School. The speaker is the popular genealogical lecturer and NARA Records expert, and national lecturer, **John Phillip Colletta, PhD**.

Millions of Americans trace their ancestry to immigrants who arrived at Ellis Island. Yet many myths and misconceptions about the place hamper family research and distort the stories of our ancestors. When exactly was Ellis Island operating as an immigrant inspection station? Why did thousands of immigrants who came through the port of New York never set foot of Ellis Island? Were all the Ellis Island records lost in a fire in 1897? Did immigration officials change the names of immigrants? This presentation puts Ellis Island into its proper place within the larger context of U.S. immigration history. It sets the record straight regarding what's fact and what is myth.

Maryland Genealogical Society –Fall Seminar

Date: **12 November 2011** (Sat) 8:30am – 3:30pm

Place: **Hampton Inn & Suites**, (Federick-Ft. Detrick) 1565 Opossumtown Pike **Frederick, MD**.

Registration: Online, or on site starting at 8:30am 12Nov2011, \$40 for non-MdGS members.

Fee includes seminars, continental breakfast, and lunch.

Form online at: http://www.mdgensoc.org/2011%20Files/MDGN_v39_n4FallInsert.pdf

Program: **Underutilized Genealogical Resources in Maryland**, presented by the following speakers:

- Amy Richmond – Southern Maryland Studies Center
- Rob Schoeberlein – Baltimore City Archives
- Wanda Hall – Lovely Lane Museum and Archives (and other church records)
- Jerry Hynson – Reginald Lewis Museum & other African American Resources

...with additional presentations and materials provided on various county, local genealogical society, and local historical society resources. Vendors will populate the exhibit area.

MARCH MEETING

Our **Sunday, March 18, 2012** Society meeting will be held at The Historical Society of Harford County Headquarters, 143 N. MAIN ST, BEL AIR, MD 21014 at **2:00 PM**. Please save the date, mark your calendars, and invite friends.

See the March Newsletter and our website for the latest information on our net program.

Please help us by offering your suggestions for
program topics, and meeting venues.