



NEWSLETTER

of the
HARFORD COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
143 N. MAIN ST, BEL AIR, MD 21014-3539

January 2013

Happy New Year and welcome to another year of family history hunting.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

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| For the latest information see our HCGS website www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mdhcg/ | We also post our upcoming events on the BelAirPatch www.BelAirPatch.com/events/ |
| “Like” our  at https://www.facebook.com/pages/Harford-County-Generalogical-Society/181956435224989 | And on  www.DaggerPress.com |
| <p>YAHOO! GROUPS http://groups.yahoo.com</p> <p>HaCoGenSoc: <i>Join us after receiving your invitation.</i></p> | |

☞ ☞ Have you joined our HaCoGenSoc Yahoo! Group ? ☞ ☞

2013-2014 HCGS DIRECTORY

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REMINDER

2013 Membership Dues

Enclosed is our 2013 Membership Application / Renewal form for the convenience of those whose dues have not been received. Payment is requested before **February 15, 2013**. Additional forms are available on our website. We are always interested in your thoughts for improving our Society. Please jot down your ideas in the SUGGESTIONS section of the form.

Your support allows our Society to continue to publish research works, share information, help improve member research skills, and distribute this Newsletter.

MEETING SCHEDULE: Spring & November

We hold two general program meetings per year, usually at The Historical Society of Harford County Inc., 143 North Main Street, Bel Air, MD 21014.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to 2013! I hope you had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Years with your family and friends. May 2013 be prosperous in terms of finance, health and genealogical research.

The board will meet soon after the New Year has begun and start in earnest to plan our 2013 programs. On our radar for the fall “conference” is Rebecca Koford who, in honor of the bi-centennial, has offered to do a *Researching Ancestors in the War of 1812* talk for local genealogical societies. You may have heard her speak at an LDS conference, MSA, or other various genealogical societies in MD, PA, or DE. She has several other topics of genealogical interest (see below).

I will also propose to the board that we invite Julia Coldren-Walker back for one of her other talks (she did the *Researching at the DAR Library* talk in 2012. She too has a variety of topics available (also see below).

It would be MOST HELPFUL if you would send an E-mail or snail-mail to the Society indicating any topic that would motivate you to travel and attend our fall conference! You should look for a “sign-up” sheet in the March Newsletter (sooner on the web) ... **if we do not have sufficient interest by March 31, then I would propose abandoning this venture.** Your E-mails and snail-mails will be an early indicator of interest. With the variety of topics available, each speaker could do multiple sessions.

Rebecca Koford’s subjects include:

- **Researching Your War of 1812 Ancestor and the Preserve the Pensions Project** (All Levels)
- **Beginning Genealogy Research: Either You Never Start or You Never Stop** (May be specially adapted for Lineage Societies or DAR Chapters, Level: Beginner)
- **Vital Records: Birth, Marriages, Deaths, and Alternative Sources for Vital Information** (Level: Beginner)
- **Seizing the Census** (Level: Beginner)
- **Understanding Major Research Facilities: NARA, DAR, and State Archives** (Level: Beginner)
- **Local Resources: Courthouses, County and Town Clerks** (Level: Beginner)
- **The Dead and the Dying: Cemetery and Funeral Home Research** (Level: Beginner)
- **State Archives – Online Resources** (Level: Beginner to Intermediate)
- **African-American Brick Wall: Case Studies** (Level: Beginner to Intermediate)
- **Building My Own Brick Wall and the Sledgehammer of Experience** (Level: Beginner to Intermediate)
- **Grandma Where Art Thou? Female Ancestors: A Case Study** (Level: Beginner to Intermediate)
- **Paleography Puzzles: Handwriting for Genealogists** (Level: Beginner to Intermediate)
- **Men of the Same Name: Methodology Case Study** (Level: Intermediate)
- **Newspaper Record Research** (Level: Intermediate)
- **Digging Deeper: City Directories, Taxes, and Voter Registrations** (Level: Intermediate)
- **Organizing Your Genealogy: From Paper to Plastic** (Level: Intermediate)
- **Writing the Family Narrative as a Technique for Breaking Brick Walls** (Level: Intermediate to Advanced)
- **Identifying and Preserving Family Photographs** (Level: Intermediate to Advanced)
- **Writing the Family Narrative: Researching Social History** (Level: Advanced)

Julia Coldren-Walker’s subjects include:

- **But Is It Worth The Money: A Look At Commerical Genealogical Websites:** A review of the commercial websites. What are you getting that you cannot get free? What about membership sites such as American Ancestors (NEHGS)?
- **Genealogical Society Application Process:** A look at the specialized world of lineage applications (Mayflower, Jamestown), War of 1812First Families of the Twin Territories, Descendants of Pirates and Privateers).
- **Genealogy 101:** An introduction to basic family history research.
- **Newspaper Research On The Internet:** Newspapers are more than obituaries and death notices. They provide a glimpse into the life of our ancestors. Who was visiting from out of town and where were they from? Pictures wedding anniversaries and the annual family reunion.

- **You Better Watch Out: Omissions, Errors & Fraud:** A look at the problems with published genealogies and even original documents including omissions, mistakes, and fraud. How to protect yourself from being taken in.
- **Vital Records On The Internet:** A look at the many sites that provide access to vital records. Includes both free, society, and commercial websites.
- **What's So Important About Citing My Sources:** Why the common excuse "But I am just doing this for my own family" is NOT acceptable for the family genealogist. Documenting your sources is as important if not more so than the actual information you have. Citations allow the reader to find the documents you used and evaluate them for themselves. It also allows you to retrace your steps 5 months or 10 years later. The basic information you need to provide the reader, and how to cite it.

Again, I ask you to send an E-mail or snail-mail to our Society indicating any topic that would motivate you to travel to Bel Air, and attend our fall conference! - Doug

GENEALOGY TIDBITS

Christmas & Genealogy

We want to hear from members about what Christmas brought to their genealogical endeavors. Did someone make known family stories, secrets, hints, pictures, diaries, awards, or tidbits of information over the wassail bowl? Did you get books, computer programs, subscriptions, or other tools to aid in the hunt? Some of you may have bought something on your own, perhaps with a Gift Card, to aid in your research. Did someone invite you stay in their home while attending a nearby conference?

Send an email, letter, or post something on our HaCoGenSoc Yahoo! Groups forum. Each of us can learn something new or become re-energized, if others take the effort to share their journey. Rich

Document Your Research on the Go

Use the note-taking, task organization, or record-gathering tools on your portable computing tools to keep notes on research you have done. Remember to jot down both your successful searches as well as your unsuccessful ones. Using the incredible portability of netbooks, notebooks, tablets, or smartphones allows you to keep powerful tools, including a camera, and immense data sources at your finger tips, without toting cumbersome luggage. JONES, Jordan; "Using Technology to prepare for a research trip," NGS Magazine, Vol 38 No 4 (Oct-Dec 2012); pp 58-60. Abstracted in part with permission for non-commercial use.

FamilySearch Wiki

In the FamilySearch.org "Research Wiki," you can learn how to do genealogical research or share your knowledge with others. Research Wiki is a tool people can use to learn how to find their ancestors. It offers information on how to find, use, and analyze records of genealogical value. The site's content is variously targeted to beginners, intermediate and expert researchers. Some suitable types of content for the wiki are: (a) Instructions on how to find, use, and analyze records that are genealogically useful, (b) Historical definitions of legal terms, occupations, and other terms that are useful to genealogists, and (c) Images of records used as examples of the kind of information a type of record will contain. FamilySearch.org

GENEALOGY FEATURE

2012 Family History Center Workshop

This past fall, I again attended the Baltimore Family History Workshop, in Essex, MD, just 35 minutes from Bel Air. I have always been amazed at the wide selection of topics, competency of the speakers (25), and number of participants (266). In our November 2011 HCGS Newsletter, I described a few of the classes I attended that fall in hopes of encouraging all of you to take advantage of this annual genealogical workshop. This year there were 50 classes to choose from (not including 3 that were

cancelled due to illnesses) that were distributed over 5 one-hour sessions, plus an opening speech by Michael McCormick, from MD State Archives, and EVERYTHING WAS FREE ! The only costs were voluntary, consisting of: a syllabus CD for \$4.00, plus small snacks and bottled water for free-will donations. This year the Essex FHC Workshop is scheduled for Saturday, October 12, 2013, with registration opening in late August.

To provide samples of the topics, and as an enticement to attend, I have included descriptions and comments for a few of the classes. Not included are topics presented by Julia Coldren-Walker (4 classes) and Rebecca W. Koford (3 classes), since I have previously attended many of their excellent seminars and they will be featured at our HCGS all-day conference later this year.

DNA - The Newest Tool for Genealogists: Y-DNA, mtDNA, and Family Finder Tests was presented by Jim Bartlett, who has been the Administrator of the BARTLETT-DNA Project (240 participants) for 10 years and enjoys teaching this simple, yet powerful, new tool to other genealogists.

Description: "This presentation will provide simple explanations of how DNA works - no biology needed. You will learn how to use DNA test results to learn more about your surname line and your all-female ancestry, the genealogies of your ancestors, finding biological fathers, linking SURNAME tree branches, and discovering your ancestry before records, including Deep Ancestry. Included are DNA tests for your all-male ancestry, for your all-female ancestry, and the newest test, for men or women, that reports DNA links with your cousins from all of your ancestors."

There were some technical terms like SNP (Single Nucleotide Polymorphism) and centimorgan (abbreviated cM) or map unit (m.u.), but the speaker focused more on benefits of several types of DNA testing. This class was for those with an intermediate level understanding of DNA tests and results, but his earlier class was for beginners, that laid a foundation of terms, usage, and benefits.

The basic "take-away" was to get tested, and do the research to establish your genealogy. These tests only add names and help confirm your research.

The most respected DNA for Family History research expert I know is Dr. Thomas T. Shawker, M.D., but Jim Bartlett is a better salesperson, and speaks with concepts and vocabulary that are a little easier to digest. This was an excellent session.

Navigating the 1940 Census was presented by Dottie Aleshire, a professional genealogist, long time FHC in Columbia, MD, volunteer, and taught genealogy courses at the college level.

Description: "The good news is that the 1940 Census was released on 2 April 2012 [completely indexed by 2 August 2012, and available on FamilySearch.org and Ancestry.com]. This Census offers new information on education, relationships, citizenship, housing, and occupation. It differs from earlier Census schedules with special finding aids that may also apply to future Census releases."

The speaker focused on how to search for information in this census, but most of her material was applicable to all U.S. census records. As for immediate preparation, she promoted making a list of ancestors that were alive on April 1, 1940 [enumeration day +/-], before starting to search the records. It was obvious to me that the speaker's material was assembled before having the opportunity to scrutinize the newly released index with new search tools. Even so, she did an excellent job teaching the group how to best navigate census records, often citing Dollarhide's work.

Obituaries - A Treasure Trove for Genealogists was presented by Adrian Gravelle, an Army lawyer by occupation. He has been a genealogy researcher for over thirty years, and since his retirement in 1997, has been a full-time researcher and occasional instructor, specializing in French-Canadian genealogical research. He is also an active volunteer at the FHC in Columbia, MD.

Description: "This presentation includes a short history of obituaries, a discussion of their reliability in genealogical research, the importance of obituaries in genealogical research, techniques for finding

obituaries on the Internet, Internet tools used in conjunction with obituaries, understanding the wording in obituaries, and examples of good, bad, humorous, and not-so-humorous obituaries.”

A few of his noteworthy points included a simple time span for printed newspaper death notices is 1940 to 1990. Before then, only the rich and famous warranted a full obituary, while now days newspapers are on the decline, and funeral home websites are gaining ground. One example of instant fame that provided a few lines of print is my great-grandfather William Henry Cage who was a lowly freight train conductor. When he was killed in a B&O RR accident in Harford County on a snowy 1912 Christmas Eve just before his last of 14 children was born, his death became the subject of Harford and Baltimore newspapers, otherwise his passing may have gone unnoticed.

The speaker ended his talk by highlighting poorly written obits, and obits that try to hide family secrets, an interlude that got the whole class laughing. This was followed by his “**reasons to write your own obituary.**” He is quite the entertainer, very intelligent and especially engaging.

Primary Maryland Land Records for Family History Research, with emphasis on the lower eastern shore, was presented by John C. Lyons. For a number of years he has been using source land records to develop a complete digital map and database of the more than 12,000 Maryland private land grants in 4 counties on the Lower Eastern Shore showing settlement, economic, and social development of the region since the 1660s. One key source for his research is John C. Kilty's [Maryland] “Land-Holder's Assistant, and Land-Office Guide,” 1808 [see MD State Archives, Vol. 73 available online].

In his workshop he covered Warrants, Escheat Warrants, Paid & Quit-Rent Patents, Patented & Unpatented Certificates of Survey, and Resurveys. His Certificate of Survey “template” and explanations helped in understanding the basic certificate outline and the details available on certificates. On the downside was a lack of information about land ownership changes by probate actions. He made good use of excellent images, and gave a well organized lesson.

Class Enrollment in Advance is required so that the organizers can match the capacity of the 11 classrooms to interest level. Do not fret over choices because you can freely pick and chose workshops all day unless a room is full. I enrolled in Vern Skinner’s **Researching Your German Ancestry** seminar, but after attending several German research sessions over the last four years by the late John T. Humphrey, CG, I quickly recognized the material, and swiftly moved to another classroom.

Attending workshops, seminars, and conferences helps broaden your world view, improve your research skills, stimulate your desire to break through your brick-walls, while raising your level of expertise. Please strive to continue your education. Besides, the people you meet at these events share your interesting hobby.

Rich Appel

GENEALOGY HAPPENINGS

Delaware State Archives - A Genealogical Summit

Date: **02 March 2013** (Sat) 1:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Place: Delaware Public Archives, 121 Duke of York St, Dover, DE 19901 Ms. Lyons 302-234-0460

Registration: FREE on site. See also <http://archives.delaware.gov/outreach/index.shtml>

Program: This summit is co-sponsored by the Delaware Public Archives, Downstate Delaware Genealogical Society, Friends of the Archives, Delaware Genealogical Society, and Sussex County Genealogical Society. The two afternoon sessions are:

1:00 pm ***Tips and Techniques for Using Technology in Genealogy Research*** by Shamele Jordon, genealogical lecturer and podcaster.

2:30 pm ***Using Ancestry.com to Find Your Family Roots.*** by Sabrina Peterson, Director of Global Imaging for Ancestry.com

Washington DC Family History Center -WorkshopsDate: **04 May 2013** (Sat) 9:00 am - 3:15 pmPlace: **Washington DC Family History Center**, 10000 Stonybrook Dr, Kensington, MD 20895Registration: FREE. **Register after 01 March** on-line <http://www.wdcfhc.org> or call the Family History Center at 301-587-0042 during regular business hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 9:30 am-4:30 pm & 7:00 pm-9:30 pm; Friday: 9:30 am-1:00 pm; & Saturday: 9:30 am-4:30 pm.Seminar descriptions soon to be on-line at <http://www.wdcfhc.org>Program: **To Be Announced**. This conference is free of charge with multiple classes from beginning to advanced level genealogy. The keynote speaker **To Be Announced**.

Updated 01/04/13

2013 National Genealogical Society ConferenceDate: **8-11 May 2013** (Wed-Sat) +Bus tour on Tuesday May 7thPlace: **The Las Vegas Convention Center** in Las Vegas, Nevada.Registration: online at: http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/attendee_registration or by mail
http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/galleries/new-gallery/2013_Registration_Form.pdfVisit http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/conference_infoContact: conference@ngsgenealogy.org or 1-800-473-0060Program: **Building New Bridges**, a four-day conference offers more than 150 lectures on researching peoples and places of the West, migration to and from the West, law, military records, immigration, methodology, academic history, family history writing, Board for Certification of Genealogists® Skillbuilding, African-American and other ethnic research, technological innovation in genealogy (GenTech), and more. Online Program at: <http://members.ngsgenealogy.org/Conferences/Program2013.cfm>A 6-hour bus tour to Hoover Dam & Clark County Museum is available before the conference begins on Tuesday May 7th.
http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/galleries/new-gallery/2013_Conference_Registration_Brochure_20_November.pdf

Save the date and register now!. Las Vegas Hotel, Conference Center, & Casino are all on this site.

2013 Federation of Genealogical Societies ConferenceDate: **21-24 August 2013** (Wed-Sat) +Librarian's Day Tuesday Aug 20thPlace: **Fort Wayne, Indiana**Registration: See: <http://www.fgs.org> later this year for detailssee preview flyer at http://www.fgs.org/upload/files/FGS2013_Conference_Flyer.pdfProgram: **Journey Through Generations**Fort Wayne, Indiana, is also home to *The Genealogy Center of the Allen County Public Library*, a HCGS member.**FUTURE HCGS MEETING**Our Society is planning a **HEREDITARY SOCIETY FAIR** in the spring of 2013 at The Historical Society of Harford County Headquarters, 143 North Main Street, Bel Air, MD 21014. Several local Hereditary Societies have agreed to staff display tables, introduce you to their societies, and membership benefits. Each one of these groups has ancestral records linking their members to historical events. Please look for our announcements, and plan on bring some friends.See our Newsletters, our website www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mdhcg/ other online venues, Facebook, BelairPatch, The_Dagger, and our new HaCoGenSoc Yahoo!_Group, for the latest information.**Have you joined our HaCoGenSoc Yahoo! Group ?**

Post what you would like to know, and what you would like to see. Post questions and inquiries for all of us to see, and some of us to respond. Let us discover where this adventure takes us.