GILA HERITAGE

Quarterly of the
NORTHERN GILA COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.
a non-profit organization
PAYSON, ARIZONA

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The Editor's Corner

Elections are just around the corner. No, not November 2 elections, our society elections. Ballots will be mailed out soon so be looking for them and make sure you vote!

If you come across an interesting genealogy article, please share it with your editor for inclusion in a future newsletter.

Hope you all have a Happy Holiday Season!

NORTHERN GILA COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.
A Non-profit Corporation
Genealogy Library Facility
302 East Bonita Street, Payson, AZ
Payson, AZ 85541-5012
(928) 474-2139

WEB SITE: http://users.rootsweb.com/~azngcgs/index.html

Library Hours: **Thursday, Friday, & Saturday, 9 to 4 p.m. Or By Appointment**

We specialize in helping add branches to family trees!

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OFFICERS IN 2004	COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN
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Corresponding Sec...…………….....Lois Brice	Newsletter.........………..........Val Sullivan
Treasurer..........................…......Frieda Chittick	Office Manager………………..Joan Savage

MEETINGS: **Meetings are held at 1:30 p.m., the first Thursday of the month** (unless a holiday) at:

> **NGCGS Library**
> **302 East Bonita Street**
> **Payson, AZ 85541-5012**
> **(928) 474-2139**

> **Visitors always welcome**!

CORRESPONDENCE: Please address all correspondence to:

> **NGCGS Library**
> **302 East Bonita Street**
> **Payson, AZ 85541-5012**

Please include a long self-addressed, stamped envelope for inquiries.

MEMBERSHIP:
Individual..................................$15.	Family (related, same address).........$30.
Individual Life.........................$150.	Family Life (related, same address $200.
	Associate/Library.......................$10.

NEWSLETTER: The *GILA HERITAGE*, ISSN: 0893-7753, is published quarterly and can be read on line at our website (see above for address). The quarterly is not copyrighted. Reprint permission is given, (except for copyrighted material as noted) but please give us credit. Neither NORTHERN GILA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY nor the editor of *GILA HERITAGE* assumes responsibility for errors of facts or judgment on the part of the contributor. Errors will be corrected, however, when brought to our attention.

Have a safe and bountiful Thanksgiving!

Time Magnets by Pages of Time

Walmart was selling magnets from Time Magnets by Pages of Time, so I bought a few just to include in this quarter's newsletter. Wasn't able to get there in time to get the 1900, 1910 or 1960 years, but thought you readers would enjoy comparing the costs of some of the items by year, kind of a "Can you remember when" exercise! I bought the year for 1966 so there wouldn't be a 20-year gap like we have from the 1880 to the 1900 census. Besides, that's the year my second son was born.

Year	Loaf of Bread	Gallon of Gas	Gallon of Milk	Average Income	Dow Jones Average	President	Vice-President	New Car	New House
1920	$.12	$.13	$.67	$2,160	90	Woodrow Wilson	Thomas Marshall	$525	$6,296
1930	.09	.10	.56	1,973	237	Herbert Hoover	Charles Curtis	610	7,146
1940	.08	.11	.51	1,725	134	Franklin Roosevelt	John Garner	850	3,925
1950	.14	.18	.84	3,216	216	Harry Truman	Alben Barkley	1,511	8,450
1966	.22	.32	1.11	6,899	744.32 to 995.15	Lyndon Johnson	Hubert Humphery	2,653	14,175
1970	.24	.36	1.32	9,357	631.16 to 842	Richard Nixon	Spiro Agnew	3,979	23,400
1980	.51	1.19	2.02	19,173	759.13 to 1000.17	Jimmy Carter	Walter Mondale	7,201	68,714
1990	.70	1.34	2.78	28,906	2365.10 to 2999.75	George Bush	Dan Quayle	16,012	123,000

From Time Magnets by Pages of Time

What You Can Find in the SSDI

From George G. Morgan's article
Using the Social Security Death Index.

What Is the SSDI?

The SSDI is a compilation of information about deceased persons who filed for and received Social Security numbers, who were paid Social Security benefits at some point in their lives, and whose death was reported to the Social Security Administration (SSA). There are several very key points you should understand and bear in mind. Usually, a person whose name appears in the SSDI was employed, paid money into Social Security and, at some time, applied for benefits of some sort. The two most typical benefits paid were old age pension or disability benefits. If the person paid into Social Security but never collected benefits, you will not find him or her in the file. The spouse of someone who paid into Social Security, but who never worked and contributed to Social Security, will not be included in the file unless he or she received their spouse's benefits after the spouse's death, and even this is not a 100 percent certainty.

Persons who worked for the railroad exclusively and did not work in another public sector will not be included in the SSDI. Those persons, instead, contributed to Railroad Retirement, a separate retirement security fund specifically for railroad workers and collected benefits from that organization. Only if the person also worked for a company not affiliated with the railroad will they appear in the SSDI, and they will appear with their unique number assigned to railroad numbers (beginning with a 7). If a person collected benefits at one time and his or her death was not reported to Social Security, that person will not be included in the SSDI.

Ways to Use the SSDI
As you can see, there are a lot of components to the SSDI record. Let me suggest some ways to use the SSDI information in your research.

- **Write Letters for SS-5 Form—**The most obvious activity is to use the letter-generation facility and send off for the SS-5 form. In my column of 2 July 1998, I discussed in detail the vast amount of information available from the SS-5, including the site where the application was made, parents' names, date and place of birth, employer, occupation, and other great details that may point you in other directions.
- **Locating Lost Relatives—**I have had success locating lost branches of the family and information about them by using the SSDI. For example, I found a letter from my grandmother's brother from the 1940s in which he said he was

moving his family to Dayton, OH. A search of his name and Dayton, OH, located a number of records and, by checking the birth date, I was able to confirm his presence there and his date of death.

- **Confirming Dates—**I have often used the SSDI to search for a person of whose name and place of residence I was certain. When you locate their record, you can then check the birth date for the person and compare it against what, if anything, you already have. You can also check death date. If you need corroboration, you can write to the SSA for the SS-5 and/or write to the vital records agency in the Residence location's county and seek a copy of a death certificate.
- **Dates of Birth and Death—**You can use these dates to search for birth certificates, death records, obituaries and other materials. Using the Residence and Last Benefit (if any listed) will help you home in on specific locations.
- **Residence—**I have often used the SSDI to locate the last residence of a specific relative, especially if I knew his or her date of birth. I simply enter the surname and given name, along with date or year of birth, and execute a search. This usually provides me with records to help me isolate the last residence address in the SSA's files. If not, I broaden the search. (TIP: If you don't get a match the first time, there may be a given name problem where the person may have gone by a middle name. Leave the given name blank and try again. Likewise, try alternate spellings of surnames. JOHANSSON may have been spelled as JOHANSON or JOHANNSON or some other way. Be persistent!) In addition, the Residence information may point you to other materials in a specific geographic area, such as land records, tax rolls, voter registration rolls, licenses, court records, newspapers, school records, church records, employment records, probate records, obituaries and a variety of other record types.
- **Place Issued—**The state shown in the SSDI as the one in which the SSN was issued may be a surprise to you. A check of the person's SS-5 form will confirm the place where the application was made and the SSN was issued. I have one ancestor whose Issued location was shown in the SSDI as PA when I expected it to have been NC. On receipt of his SS-5, I found that he was working in PA in the late 1930s at the time he was required to obtain a SSN. This provided me with more details about his movements and employment history, and pointed me toward research in another geographical area I would never have known to check.

From http://www.ancestry.com/learn/library/article.aspx?article=895

The Social Security Death Index is an incredibly rich data source. And because this information is part of the public record, you can find the index online <u>free of charge</u> at various websites including www.ancestry.com.

What the Numbers Mean

You may have looked at your Social Security number and wondered what it means. Here's a look at what the three sets of number represent:

First Three Digits: The first three digits of your number indicate where, why, or how it was issued. They may represent the U.S. state in which the applicant applied for and was awarded his or her number. In North Carolina, the numbers range between 237 and 246; in Oregon, they range between 540 and 544. Additional numbers were assigned for other areas. These include those beginning with 574SE and 586SE, which were assigned to Asian refugees applying for Social Security numbers between April 1975 and November 1979. The number 586 is used for American Samoa, Guam, and the Philippine Islands. The range of 900-999 is not valid but has been used for some special state purposes in the past.

The number range 700-728 was reserved for use by the Railroad Retirement Board, and these were used through 1963 for the assignment of new numbers, and then discontinued. This is an important designation. If you know your ancestor had a number beginning with any number between 700 and 728, he or she did work for the railroad at some extended point in time. If he or she drew Social Security retirement benefits, and the number was in this range, he or she also would have drawn Railroad Retirement benefits as well, assuming he or she applied for benefits.

You can find a complete list of Social Security number ranges in the book, *The Source: A Guidebook of American Genealogy*.

Second Two Digits: The second cluster of numbers, two digits in length, are a code to help identify fraudulent numbers. These are much like check-sums or check-digits used on many items today. An arithmetic formula is applied to add, subtract, multiple, and/or divide the first group of numbers and one of the digits from the resulting answer is used to verify that the number was keyed correctly or was accurate. (Incorrect check digits in some of these on grocery store products are the most common cause for cash register errors and cashiers to have to do price checks, for example.)
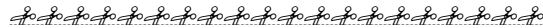
Last Four Digits: The last group of numbers is four digits in length. These numbers are assigned randomly. Contrary to some myths, there is no connection between one's birth date or other data and the last four digits of one's Social Security Number.

Social Security Numbers are unique. They are not reused. They apply to the name and history of one individual and his or her employment earnings and benefit amounts.

How to Obtain Copies of Social Security Records

Now that you know all about the numbers, how do you locate and obtain copies of the records? Well, the most common record you might want to obtain is the SS-5 application form. Here you may find parents' names, place and date of birth, and other information. Social Security just raised their rates effective 1 July 2001 for these to $27 where you can provide the number and $29 where you can only provide the person's name, date, and place of birth, and any other information other than the number to help

them locate the record. You can generate a letter for this purpose from Ancestry.com's SSDI database, too.

<p style="text-align:center">✄✄✄✄✄✄✄✄✄✄✄✄✄✄✄✄✄✄✄✄</p>
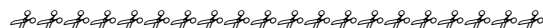
Conforming to Fashions

Many of us "Old Folks" (those over 50, WAY over 50 or hovering near 50) are quite confused about how we should present ourselves. We're unsure about the kind of image we are projecting and whether or not we are correct as we try to be nice and conform to the fashions that the designers in NYC, California, and/or Paris inflict upon the world.

So I made a sincere study of the situation and here are the results.

I don't want to burst your bubble, but despite what you may have seen on the streets, the following combinations DO NOT go together and thus should be avoided:

1. A nose ring and bifocals

2. Spiked hair and bald spots

3. A pierced tongue and dentures

4. Miniskirts and support hose

5. Ankle bracelets and corn pads

6. Speedos and cellulite

7. A belly button ring and a gall bladder surgery scar

8. Unbuttoned disco shirts and a heart monitor

9. Midriff shirts and a midriff bulge

10. Bikinis and liver spots

11. Short shorts and varicose veins

12. In-line skates and a walker

Please keep these basic guidelines foremost in your mind when you shop.

<p style="text-align:center">✄✄✄✄✄✄✄✄✄✄✄✄✄✄✄✄✄✄✄✄</p>

Won't you help keep our library open by volunteering? Call our President Alice Kenmore at 474-6332 or our Head Librarian Judy Voran at 476-3972. Several of our current librarians will be gone, and we need alternate librarians for substitutes!

Why Be a Volunteer?
It's not for money, it's nor for fame,
It's not for any personal gain.
It's just for love of fellow man,
It's just to lend a helping hand.
It's just to give a tithe of self.
That's something you can't buy with wealth.

It's not for medals won with pride,
It's for that feeling deep inside.
It's that reward down in your heart,
It's that feeling that you've been a part
Of helping others far and near
That makes you be a volunteer!
                    Author Unknown

Mark Your Calendars Now!

Upcoming Classes will be held the 3rd Saturday of Each Month from 1:00-4:00 PM.

January	DNA workshop: Finding your ancestors through genes.	Judy Voran	Genealogy Library	$15
February	Immigration/Naturalization Earliest –1850 & 1850-present	Voran & Sullivan	Public Library	$20
March	Exploring Irish Websites	Val Sullivan	GCC	$25
April	Breaking Down Brick Walls: Analyzing Data	Judy Voran	Public Library	$20
May	Military Records	Val Sullivan	Genealogy Library	$15
June	What Cemeteries Can Reveal!	Val Sullivan	Genealogy Library	$15

Idea from Joan Savage:

For our Society's December Christmas party on December 2, 2004, let's each bring the library a Christmas present to help reduce our operating costs. Ideas for a present would include a ream of paper, genealogy books you no longer need, genealogy CDs you no longer need, stamps, empty notebooks, toner cartridges for the printer, toilet paper, paper towels, other office supplies. Be creative. Some things cost more money, so consider purchasing your gift with another member of the Society!
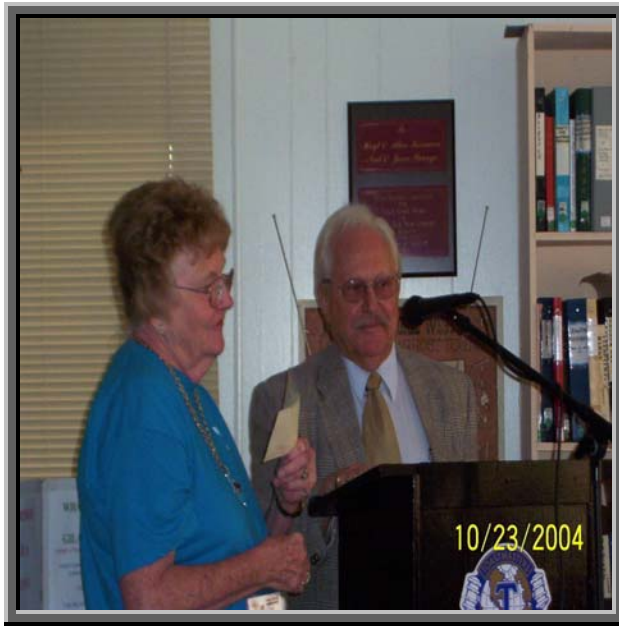
NGCGS Holds its First Anniversary in our New Facility

The afternoon of October 23, 2004 was on the cool side when the Society held its first anniversary of occupancy in our new facility, so the festivities were held inside. Between 25 and 30 members celebrated the event. The planning committee comprised of Lettie Cale, Margaret Coffey, and Lois Brice invited Jane Peace and Jinx Pyle to present a program on their families, both of whom were pioneers in the Payson area.

Ron Christensen, Gila County District #1 Supervisor, presented the Society with a check for $5,000. Thank you so much, Ron! And Mayor Barbara Brewer talked briefly about what an asset our library is for the Town of Payson.

We were then treated to ice cream cakes donated by the Dairy Queen and the Marble Slab Creamery, along with punch, coffee, mints and nuts. Joann Thompson made a beautiful fall floral arrangement for the table. Thank you, Joann! And Marge Templeton won the raffle for the quilt made by Sue Owen. Congratulations, Marge!

Below are some of the pictures taken at the party.

Ron Christensen Presenting President Alice Kenmore with a check.

Town Mayor Barbara Brewer

Marge Templeton and her new Quilt   **Frieda, Jack and Marge, all ears!**

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