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From the President's Corner

by Walt Bruetsch

Coming Events: Jan. 3, Feb. 7, Mar. 7, Apr. 4, May 2 & Jun. 6: First Saturday of every month, from 10 am to 12 noon, at the Blake Library, individual help with genealogical research.

Jan. 17 - Family History Fair at the Palm City LDS Church, 2401 SW Matheson Blvd., next to the Cummings Library. Classes for all abilities and exhibits in the gym, plus homemade soup for lunch. Beginners at 9 AM, other class periods at 10:15 AM, 12:30 PM and 1:30 PM.

Feb. 20 - MCGS Meeting: 1 PM at the Blake Library. "Preserving Your Documents" by Reba Shepard.

Mar. 20 - MCGS Meeting: 1 PM at the Morgade Library, off Salerno Road. "Irish Research" by Bob Scully & Shirly Pizziferri.

Apr. 17 - MCGS Meeting: 1 PM at the Blake Library. "Saints, Slobs, and Sinners" by Joyce Menard.

May 15 - MCGS Meeting: 1 PM at the Blake Library. "Other Research Locations" by Sandy Larsen.

June 19 - MCGS Meeting: 1 PM at the Blake Library. "Surnames & Locations of Research" - audience participation.

July & August - no MCGS meetings.

For events in the State of Florida, go to <http://www.flsgs.org> Click on Calendar.

Feb. 14 in Vero Beach, FL. Annual Valentine Seminar featuring Maureen Taylor, the Photo Detective. www.irgs.org for details & registration.

Isn't this a wonderful hobby! That was my thought in early October after completing a two hour stint at the computer, using the Internet.

I logged onto the computer, checked the stock market and my email. What's this! An email from Geneal-forum.com, where there has been a response to the DNA forum thread. Let's check it out. Interesting: let's see what else is happening. All's quiet on the various Swiss cantons. But wait, there is a new item under General info.

This Super-user lady has given her website URL. Look at all the genealogical links to other websites! Many I have never known before. Wonderful!

Two hours later, I said: Isn't this a wonderful hobby? I then proceeded to write an article about this website for inclusion in this Genealogy Journal (page 3). This website has to be shared.

That is one of the things that makes this hobby wonderful. The sharing of knowledge by those doing research. People share via the websites they create. Others share by writing articles for their local genealogical journal. Others share via giving a talk at a genealogical meeting, fair, convention, or other event. Others share by giving of their time to create online databases.

Speaking of databases. MCGS has recently added to the Obituary Index database on our website. And we have added the Port Mayaca Cemetery webpage to our MCGS Cemetery Project.

In conclusion, we need MCGS members to share their talents and experiences. It's the next step in being an evolved member of MCGS.
Having fun, Walt

PS: Only five members elected to read their Genealogy Journal via MCGS' website.

Gleaning the FORUM Magazine

by Walt Bruetsch

The collection of magazines in the Genealogy Room of the Blake Library in Stuart, FL provide a variety of articles of interest. The Fall 2008 issue of the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) magazine "Forum" has some interesting articles.

The "Digitizing of Homestead Records" (www.nps.gov/Home). The 31 states effected by the Homestead Act of 1862 are listed. "It is projected that the Homestead Act accounted for perhaps as much as one-third of all new farms established in the American West from 1860 to 1920". So, this information is invaluable for those of us with ancestors in that time period.

The MCGS website has a link to the Bureau of Land Management that will provide current Homestead information. The magic word is "Patent", the term applied when a land grant was given to the new homesteader.

If you have Tennessee ancestors, the article on "First Families of Tennessee (FFT)" will be of interest to you. The FFTs are those families proven to be in Tennessee by 1796. So far there are 2,450 ancestors who have met that criterion.

Under "Records Preservation & Access", there is an interesting article on the Department of Homeland Security establishing a genealogy program for the access to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) naturalization records

(NR). The NR time period is from 27 September 1906 to 1 April 1956. Fees start at \$20 for an index search. The website is www.uscis.gov Then click on Services & Benefits to find a link to Genealogy.

If you are researching out of the USA, be sure to read the articles under the "Ethnic & International" section.

By now, many of us realize that our family's records are not online. So it's time to get away from the computer and get "Out in the Field". Curt Witcher has a very entertaining article about making that road trip and he uses Erie, PA as an example of discovering the history of our ancestors.

With gas being a bit cheaper (down from \$4 to under \$2 per gallon), now may be the time to arrange with other genealogists a field trip to the Vero Beach and/or West Palm Beach libraries. Use a search engine to locate their genealogical libraries.

Even the "Book Reviews" are of interest, especially if you have ancestors from the St. Louis area. There is a new book available that gives guidance to finding those resources in the city and county. Some 16 books are reviewed in this Fall 2008 issue of the FORUM.

The "Calendar of Events" is of additional interest because it suggests a variety of meeting programs that might be of interest to our MCGS society.

Gen Room Musings by Lloyd Welker

There are a couple of topics to write about in this issue. One is the SWAP BOX and the other is WEBSITES.

Next to the Magazine Rack in the Special Collections (Genealogy) Room at the Blake Library, there is a brown corrugated cardboard box labeled SWAP BOX. It contains copies of journals that members no longer need, past issues of magazines and newsletters, etc. The SWAP BOX is free: free for you to discard your journals, free for you to take home an item that interests you, and free for you to sit in the room, read an item of interest and then return the magazine to the box. If you have a genealogy book that you wish to discard, please check with me for possible addition to the collection. Otherwise, donate it to Bonnie's Books as reference material.

Now about WEBSITES. As you know websites can come online and go offline or rise and fall in content. Genealogical websites are no different. A white three-ring notebook (appropriately labeled Websites) is located on the center table in the Genealogy Room,. This was developed by MCGS members who deemed these websites worthy of recommendation to others. There has been no review of these sites. If you have a favorite site, send me an e-mail at lloyd809@hotmail.com and I will include it in the next revision. Please use a subject in your e-mail like MCGS Website, because I delete messages routinely when I do not recognize the sender. Alternatively leave a note for me with a volunteer in the

Genealogy Room. The WEBSITE notebook is worth some of your time.

Each issue of Everton's *Genealogical Helper*, in the part titled Net Family History, includes **Everton's Best Rated Genealogy Sites** in the category chosen for that issue. The reviewer includes a brief description of the site, whether it is free or pay and details of data that may be expected on the site. Pages for each category are stapled together and are in the website notebook. The latest and two back issues of the magazine are in the magazine rack in the Genealogy Room.

A Hidden Treasure by Walt Bruetsch

For those of us doing European / Germanic research, I recommend you investigate the URL

<http://www.itencorinne.ch/index2.html>

The many links begin about a third of the way down the webpage. And this is a long list! It's in German, but it is fairly easy to ascertain the various websites.

Featured are: General sites, German East Area, American-Canadian Immigration, German Sources for American Immigration, USA States Databases, Germanic World War Deaths-Missing Soldiers links, American-Canadian-Australian World War Databases and Captured Soldiers War Databases. Under each of the above "featured" items are many links.

But the best of all, from a history viewpoint, is the link to "Beide Weltkriege", "Both World Wars".

Be sure to try this website!

Access to Newspaper Archives

Five (and possibly more) members of MCGS are also members of the Ohio Genealogical Society. This membership provides them with access to a National Newspapers archive representing newspaper articles in various cities throughout the U.S. If you are in need of accessing newspaper articles, these MCGS members are willing to assist you. Not every newspaper is accessible via the archive; however, many more newspapers are being added daily.

We can all use a "little help from our friends." Contact the following individuals (telephone #s via MCGS membership list) if you would like to avail yourself of their offer of assistance: Arlene Ackermann, Paul Beall, Ken Caldwell, Kimberly Carvel, Colleen Kimball, or Lee Vought.

Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness

by Michael J. Leclerc, as published in The Genealogical Inquirer of Plymouth County (MA) Genealogists, 1 Nov '08, Vol. 8, No. 9

With more than 4,000 volunteers across the US and around the world, Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness (RAOGK.org) is one of the most active free genealogical websites available.

Volunteers have agreed to perform a genealogical task at least once per month in their local area. While the research is performed for free, users are required to reimburse any costs experienced by the volunteer, such as parking fees, postage, photocopies, printing, etc.

Users are asked not to request information if they live within traveling distance of the locality, described as

within 50 miles of the location of our request. You may request one or two items concerning one or two ancestors. Volunteers may request prepayment for expenses expected to be incurred.

ROAGK volunteers do information lookups and document retrieval. They do not normally do in-depth research.

Volunteers are only obligated to do one lookup per month, although many do more. You may be placed on a waiting list if that volunteer has other requests to fill before you. If you make more than one request per month of a researcher, they may request a research fee.

Find a volunteer by browsing a table of state, then towns. Foreign countries are listed in a separate table after the U.S. states. Clicking on a state (or country) name will bring you to a page listing localities covered, the names of the volunteers who will research in that locality, and the kinds of tasks that they will perform for you.

Clicking on a volunteer's name brings you to an easy-to-fill-out form. Enter your name, your email address (entered twice for verification) and your request, then press send. You should receive a response from the volunteer within 2 to 14 days.

If you use RAOGK regularly, consider making a donation to support the group's efforts. Remember that it is entirely volunteer driven, and there are expenses to maintain the website and communication contacts. You can donate right on the site. [Previously printed in NEHGS eNews No. 357, Jan. 16, 2008 and from Genealogical Tips, Vol. 46., No. 1, Jan, Feb, Mar 2008]

London Historical Records To Go Online

Source: [BBC News](#) via the GeneaNet Newsletter
email on 6 September 2008

The London Metropolitan Archive and Guildhall Library Manuscripts date from the early 16th Century to 2006. Owned by the City of London, they include parish records, school records, electoral registers, lists of workhouse labourers and wills.

The first records are expected to be launched in early 2009. Those records will include parish records from more than 10,000 Greater London parish registers of baptisms, marriages and burials, dating from the 1530s to the 20th Century.

London school admissions from 843 schools, dating from the early Victorian times to 1911, will also be made available initially.

It is hoped the records will help people trying to trace the roots of ancestors who lived in or passed through London at some point in time.

Brenner Collection to be Digitized

World Vital Records.com Newsletter, May 12, 2008

The Brenner Collection (BC) was discovered in a Bavarian barn and includes data from approximately 97 parishes, primarily within the vicinity of Ansbach, and also other places in Mittelfranken, Bavaria. Using the extracts found in the BC is comparable to searching the original parish registers, with the exception that these records have been alphabetized and arranged in families by Family Search over a ten-year period.

The Family Search Records Access Program (RAP) works with record custodians and companies to preserve and publish the world's genealogical records. Under the RAP agreement for the BC, Family Search will digitize the records, and FamilyLink.com will create the indexes. When the index is completed, it will be available for free at both www.FamilySearch.org and www.WorldVitalRecords.com. Access to the images themselves will be free to Family Search members and to World Vital Records.com subscribers.

Overseas Info by Nancy Kirsch

The Sept/Oct 2008 issue of Evertons Genealogical Helper Magazine has ten pages on Australian Research, five on Canada, four on Ireland, three on Scotland and eight on England and Wales. It also has articles on Germany.

A User's Guide to the General Register Office in Dublin by Eileen O'Duill.

This very informative article can be found on <http://blogs.ancestry.com/circle/>. It is too long to put in our Journal. You will need to review the 19 October 2008 issue of this 24/7 Family History Circle, a weekly electronic newsletter. Look for Archives Section on the right hand side of the page.

Your Guide to Google

The Family Tree Magazine, Jan. 2009 issue has the article "Your Guide to Google" by Allison Stacy. "Try these 13 tricks to master the Web giants' other handy family history features." This issue is available in the Genealogy Room.

New York City Research

by Annette Clark, published in The Bulletin from the Gen. Soc. of South Brevard (FL), Oct 2008, Vol. 34, Issue 4.

For those of you who research in the NYC area, visiting the NYC Municipal Archives(<http://www.nyc.gov/html/records/home.html>) is an important and rewarding experience. Located in the Surrogate's Court Building at 31 Chambers Street in downtown Manhattan, it is easily accessible by subway. Since I come to the City from Long Island, I take the LI Railroad to Penn Station, then the A train to Chambers Street. It takes about an 1.25 hours and a 5 minute walk to the Archives. Do not drive, as there is virtually no parking in the area. All visitors must present a photo ID and pass through security magnetometers, so remember to leave your weapons at home. The Archives are open to the public Monday through Thursday 9 AM to 4:30 PM, Friday 9 AM to 1 PM.

The fee for using the microfilm is \$5 for the day. You may look at as many MF as you wish for this fee. If you need to obtain a copy of a certificate that you identify on the MF, the fee is \$10 each, and the clerk prints it for you. You may copy city directory and census pages yourself for 25 cents per page.

The certificates are filed by Borough (Co.) and number. Unless you already know the certificate number, you must use the indexes to determine the certificate number. A complete listing of their holdings is available on their website; however in general the records are from 1847 to 1930.

To save some time looking at indexes, visit the Italian Gen. Group website (<http://www.italianguen.org/Default.htm>). No, they don't just deal with Italian genealogy. They have several searchable databases dealing with NYC records as well as some nearby counties. Their indexes include a death index (1891 - 1937) for NYC as well as a Suffolk County marriage index (1908 - 1935). Naturalization records are also indexed.

To research newspapers for NYC information, use Ancestry.com's Historical Newspapers (available by subscription). After inputting the name to be researched and New York as the location, click on Search, and then click on the "Stories & Publications" tab. If you're lucky, there will be hits in NY Times (1857 - Current) file. They are categorized by birth, marriage and death notices. Images of the original newspapers are available. [Ancestry.com has several NYC databases.]

Researching in Massachusetts?

by Walt Bruetsch

The State Library of Massachusetts has reorganized their website: www.mass.gov/lib Scroll down to find Quick Links, with a link to Genealogy. Then there are many more links.

Mayflower Families: Corrections & Additions from The Gen. Inq., Sept. 6, '08

If you are a descendant of Mayflower Families, you may want to make this site a favorite. Susan Roser maintains this site: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~canms/corrections.html>

Web Sites From Indian River G.S.

Here are some suggested website from the Indian River Gen Soc, FL, Vol. 29, #6 & 7.

Italian Research: The Carini Exchange, a Gen. & Hist. website dedicated to bringing people together from around the world with an interest or heritage in Carini, Provincia di Palermo, Sicilia
<http://www.cariniexchange.com>

Ireland: Griffith's Valuation: Try this site: http://griffiths.askaboutireland.ie/gv4/gv_family_search_form.php

Naturalization Records Research: Try this government site:
<http://www.archives.gov/northeast/nyc/finding-aids/naturalization-records.html>

The Black Coal Miner website:
<http://www.blackcoalminerheritage.net/>

Maryland Land Records: If you wish to apply for an account, you have to register. Access to this system is being provided free to all those interested in testing the system. <http://www.mdlandrec.net/>

50 Most Popular Genealogy Websites for 2008: By Kory L. Meyerink. Includes Free and Fee based sites.
<http://www.progenealogists.com/top50genealogy2008.htm>

1881 Canada Census Images: The Library and Archives of Canada have put the images online. It is fully searchable and you can view the actual page for any

ancestor. <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/census-1881/index-e.html>

Massachusetts Archives: Vital records index from 1841 to 1910; and Boston immigration database from 1848 - 1891 that is still in progress. In addition there is a searchable index to the complete archive collection.
<http://www.sec.state.ma.us/arc/arcidx.htm>

Genealogy Resources by State

by Dick Eastman, July 12, 2008

Genealogists constantly pore over old records. Of course, the biggest provider of old records in the US is the US Government. The government even maintains a listing of significant record collections available for genealogists. The List also mentions many state and local archives. You can view the listing at http://www.usa.gov/Citizen/Topics/History_General.shtml Click on American History, Family History and Genealogy, Historic Places and Preservation and / or Military History.

Research in Scotland

The 12 November 2008 issue of the 24/7 Family History Circle blog, URL: <http://blogs.ancestry.com/circle/> has a very interesting article titled "Research in Scotland" by Sherry Irvine, CG. Included are links to the websites that she uses most often in her Scottish Research. Ms. Irvine also gives her top list of places to visit, if you go to Scotland to do research.

MCGS' 2009 Likely Board of Directors

Member at Large	Jerry Bloom	cell: 920-559-7440
Member at Large	Kim Carvel	229-8486
Member at Large	David Eldridge	546-5083
Member at Large	Tom Lewis	287-0670
Member at Large	Sandy McDonnell	781-3800
Member at Large	Dianne McKeon	221-8281
Member at Large	Lee Vought	286-6470

(Official voting will be after this Journal goes to print.)

Martin County Genealogical Society membership meetings are generally held the third Friday of each month at 1 p.m. Guests are welcome. There is a short business meeting preceding a program. Annual Membership Dues are \$20 for one and \$25 for a family & organization.

Email addresses can be found on the MCGS website. Members: Please give Lee your updated email addresses!

Dues for 2009 are due. A membership form can be found on the MCGS website, and it's use is encouraged so that up-to-date information is given along with your check.

Schedule for MCGS' FTM SIG

MCGS has a Family Tree Maker Special Interest Group. Join this SIG for an informal sharing of knowledge in the use of Family Tree Maker, Word, and Excel. It is held at the **Morgade Library** off Salerno Road, west of US 1, next to the IRCC campus. **For 2009, it is the second Thursday of every month from 2 pm to 4 pm.** This is a free event, given by Sandy McDonnell and others. Bring your laptop for individual help after the meeting.

MCGS's DNA SIG will be meeting after the MCGS meetings, on a "as requested" basis.

MCGS's Germanic SIG will be meeting after the MCGS meetings, on a "as requested" basis.

Check MCGS's website for news on the other Special Interest Groups within MCGS: the New England Region SIG.