

WHITEWATER VALLEY GENEALOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Box 941

Connersville, IN 47331

Vol. 9 No. 2

June 2009

Individual membership dues are \$9 annually payable in June of each year. DUES ARE DUE NOW.

Meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month except December.

Website: www.rootswebancestry.com/~inwvga

COMING EVENTS.

Meeting dates are June 16 and August 18. On July 25 we will be carpooling and going to Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne.

Shelby County Genealogical Society Festival June 12 & 13 at Shelby County Public Library.

Heritage Days is scheduled for June 27 with headquarters at the library.

Local History Fair at State Library October 24.

OFFICERS FOR 2009-2010

President: Sandy Brown
Vice President: John R. Johnson
Secretary: Barbara Smith
Treasurer: Doug Brown

CHANGE

In the last newsletter it was reported that a genealogy based TV program titled "Who Do You Think You Are" would start April 20.

The show has been indefinitely postponed as negotiations are on-going between the network and Lisa Kudrow's production company.

NEW ON WEB

New on the WVGA website is Book 1 of the Myers Funeral Home Records that Sandy Brown transcribed.

FAVORITE WEBSITES

WWW.geocities.com/Area51/Lair/3680/cw/cw.html. This site bills itself as the most complete list of Civil War roster and muster links on the Internet.

RESEARCHING AT FORT WAYNE

Before going to Fort Wayne to the library, you may want to go to their website and search their catalog. By having the number of the books ahead of time it will save you time when you get to the library.

The link to the start page is <http://www.acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy/index.html>. Then go to "catalog" under the search section. It gives you the call number of the books and you can create a list of books you want to look for.

NAMING TRADITIONS

Bob Price shared the following with us:

Our ancestors often used the following naming procedure when picking out a name for a new child. This explains why certain names are VERY common in a given family line. Watching for these patterns can help in your genealogy research.

1st son – father's father
2nd son – mother's father
3rd son – father
4th son – father's oldest brother
5th son – father's 2nd oldest brother or mother's oldest brother
1st daughter – mother's mother
2nd daughter – father's mother
3rd daughter – mother
4th daughter – mother's oldest sister
5th daughter – mother's 2nd oldest sister or father's oldest sister.

FROM THE FILES

(Connersville Evening News – May 26, 1902)

BOLT OF LIGHTNING

Lightning destroyed the large barn on the old Groendyke homestead Saturday night about 12:30 o'clock. William Whipple, a son in law of William M. Stoops, lives on the farm and is quite a loser by the holocaust. The fire was discovered in time to save five horses, which were stabled in the ill fated building. It was impossible, however, to rescue five hogs. These, with a large quantity of hay, oats and corn, were

sacrificed. The barn was one of the finest in the county, being valued at \$1,500. No insurance was carried by the owner. Mr. Whipple carried a small insurance on his personal property.

DEATH OF MRS. MAYBE

The friends of Mrs. George Maybe will be pained to learn that she died this morning at Christ's Hospital, Cincinnati where she has been for the past seven weeks, suffering from nervous disorders.

Deceased was about thirty-five years of age and was very popular with a large circle of friends. She was a member of the Christian Church and was associated with the Rebekah lodge.

Several months ago Mrs. Maybe lost her only child and her mother, since which time she has grieved constantly over her bereavement, which is thought to be a cause of her sickness.

The remains will be brought to this city this evening. No arrangement have been made for the funeral.

THE BEST AND THE WORST

For some time Family Tree Magazine has been featuring two states in each magazine. Included has been information about the state and where to research. That series is now complete and the staff chose which states they thought were the best and worst for doing genealogy.

The best are:

1. Massachusetts
2. Washington
3. Virginia
4. Missouri
5. Arizona
6. Wisconsin
7. Illinois
8. Utah
9. Minnesota
10. Texas

The worst are:

1. Mississippi
2. Wyoming
3. Alaska
4. Nebraska

5. Louisiana
6. Montana
7. West Virginia
8. Oklahoma
9. Idaho
10. New York

If your ancestors came from the other 30, you can both burn with envy and take comfort in knowing that, well, it could be worse.

MILITARY GRAVESTONES

(adapted from Family Chronicle magazine)

Military gravestones have sparse inscriptions that are packed with information about the soldier's service. The abbreviations used on the stones are often not clearly understood by the modern genealogist. Please note, however, for reasons of space, this list does not include common abbreviations for state names, except where they can be confused with other terms.

1C, 2C, 3C (or 1st CL, 2nd CL, 3rd CL

First, second and third class – Naval ranks were denoted by the area of responsibility indicated by a title such as quartermaster, and the achievement level indicated by class.

APP

Apprentice – a naval rank indicating a person who entered the Navy between 14 & 17 years of age and served in the Navy's official apprentice program.

ART.,ARTIE

Artificer – the person charged with the maintenance of military equipment, serving basically as a mechanic, blacksmith and repairman.

ART., ART'Y

Artillery – one of the three branches of the Army, consisting of cannon and the crews that served them. Typically, an artillery regiment consisted of 10 to 12 artillery batteries, depending on the time period.

BATT.

Battery – the basic component of the Army artillery regiment, usually consisting of four to six cannon and their crews, and commanded by a

captain. Batteries were designated by letter (i.e. Battery A)

BATT., BN

Battalion – a regiment could be split into two or three smaller groups known as battalions. In some cases, regiments that were only recruited to a fraction of the strength required for a regiment remained a battalion.

BRIG.

Brigade – in the Army command structure, a brigade consisted of a grouping of regiments.

BRIG. GEN.

Brigadier General – the lowest rank for Army generals, being one rank above a colonel and one rank below a major general. Brigadier generals would generally command a brigade or a division.

BVT.

Brevet – a brevet was a reward for bravery in battle or some equal event. It allowed a soldier to have an increase in rank, but with no increase in pay or responsibility. In short, it was an honorary rank.

C.A., C.A.C.

Coast Artillery or Coast Artillery Corps
The Coast Artillery Corps came into existence in 1901 generally replacing heavy artillery.

CAPT.

Captain – In the Army, a captain commanded a battery of artillery, a troop of cavalry or a company of infantry and was one rank above first lieutenant and one rank below major. In the Navy, a captain was higher in the command structure, being just below the rank of commodore and two below rear admiral. A naval captain could command a capital ship, such as a cruiser or battleship.

CAS.DET.

Casual Detachment – a group of men “detached” or ordered to operate separately from their regiment or company for a specific duty.

CAV.

Cavalry – one of the three branches of the Army, consisting of armed horsemen. It is worth emphasizing that the spelling is “cavalry” not

“calvary”. Calvary refers to a Biblical location. Cavalry refers to horsemen.

C.B.M.

Chief Boatswain’s Mate – In the Navy, the top non-commissioned officer in a ship’s Deck Division.

CLD.

Colored – this term is used to indicate military units that generally consisted of African Americans.

CO.,COMP.

Company – the basic component of the Army infantry regiment, commanded by a captain. Companies were always designated by a letter (i.e., CO. E) and theoretically consisted of 80 to 110 men. The number of companies in a regiment usually varied from 10 to 12 depending on the time period.

COL.

Colonel – the Army officer in command of a regiment or a brigade. A colonel was one rank below brigadier general, and one rank above lieutenant colonel. Alternatively, COL can be an abbreviation for “colored” in the name of a regiment (i.e. 22nd U. S. Col. Inf.) or the abbreviation for Colorado.

CORP., CORP’L, CPL.

Corporal – the lowest non-commissioned officer rank in an Army or Marine unit. In an infantry company, the corporal commanded a squad.

COX.

Coxswain – technically a Boatswain’s Mate, 3rd Class, a coxswain was a Navy non-commissioned officer detained to handle a ship’s boats, gigs, cutters and barge.

C.P.O.

Chief Petty Officer – the highest non-commissioned officer rank in the Navy.

C,S,A., C.S

Confederate States of America or Confederate States – denotes a confederate veteran of the Civil War.

C.W.V.

Civil war veteran
(to be continued next issue)

RIGHT SIDE UP

(from Family Tree Magazine)

Have you been protecting the wrong side of your CDs? Most people protect the play side of the discs (the bottom) and don't think about the label side. That's a big mistake. The protective layer of plastic is actually thinner on the label side than the bottom. Immediately below that thin protective layer on top is the precious dye layer where your data resides. Scratch the top, and you've got a serious problem.

DIGITAL ARCHIVING – WILL YOUR WORK SURVIVE THE DIGITAL AGE

According to the Library of Congress' digital preservation site we are creating a digital dark age because so many of our life's records are digital, and digital records are so unstable. For example: While the web began to be a major force in elections starting in 1994, the Library of Congress only started archiving candidates websites in 2000, likewise 44% of the internet sites in 1998 had disappeared one year later. And, of course, I'm sure you have never had a computer crash. **DIGITAL MATERIALS ARE MUCH MORE FRAGILE THAN PHYSICAL MATERIALS.** What record are you really leaving of your life? And are you protecting the digital genealogy files that you are creating?

There are 5 steps you can take to make sure your digital files are protected.

1. Dissemination: The more copies there is of something the more likely it is to survive. Send copies to everyone and upload to databases.
2. Refreshing and backup: Don't rely on only one back-up system and make sure you move to the new technology. What computer were you using 10 years ago.
3. Replication: Keep your information in several formats so that later, when you want to use it, the future technology is still able to access it. Think Word Perfect version 2. Paper is still really best.
4. Migration: Stay current with the technology and make sure that all files are converted to new formats.

5. Naming, Tagging and Filing: Being able to find the file may be as important as making sure the file survived.

GENEALOGY RESEARCH TIPS

(From 101 Best Genealogy Research Tips)

11. Add to your Tool Box

Just as you wouldn't expect your first set of carpenter's tools to handle every woodworking project you might ever tackle, so you will need to occasionally expand your genealogical tool box to suit the ever-expanding challenges of tracing your family's history. This means occasionally purchasing new specialist guides and handbooks to help you learn the intricacies of a new set of records, taking courses in genealogical records, techniques and technology skills, such as photography, web design or handwriting analysis, signing up for guided tours of new libraries and archives and attending regional and national conferences where you can learn from the experts, find out about the latest products and make new contacts with other researchers.

12. Trade Places

Sometimes tough problems require a fresh perspective. Trading research roadblocks with a fellow genealogist, even for a brief period, can often give you new insight and help you spot gaps in your research methodology, unexamined assumptions or contradictory evidence that is holding you back.

13. Sign Up for Newsletters

In the world of genealogy, information is the key. You may not think that there would be much "news" to report, given that our ancestors' lives were all, long ago, a part of history, but there is much, in fact, that is regularly new. Old records are "discovered" after being hidden away in someone's attic for generations, genealogical societies produce new transcripts and indexes to valuable handwritten records, for-profit companies digitally scan and make old records newly available on line, new guide books are written, and libraries offer new classes to help you master your skills.

