



San Diego Genealogical Society

Newsletter

June 2004 *Happy Father's Day* Vol. 37, No. 5

A Very Special 'Thank You'

The Society has just learned that member **Nita Freer** and family will soon be moving to Prescott AZ. A member since 1998, she has been active in a number of projects for the Society, including Leaves and Saplings, the library book acquisition committee, aluminum can recycling, rummage sales and many other activities. She has always been energetic, upbeat and provided a lot of constructive input to the Society.

I know I speak for everyone when I say we will truly miss her and wish her and family all the best in their new home. Even out-of-state, she will continue to be a valued member of the Society. Nita, thank you for all your help and support.



Rummage Sale A Big Success

The Society's rummage sale on May 15th, was a huge success. Altogether, we raised over \$1,150! Our sincere thanks to all the volunteers who helped collect, price, store, haul and sell the many donated items. Our appreciation also to all the members who generously gave so many items for the sale.

It is always so amazing what other people will buy that we consider castoffs. Used books sold very well, household items were in demand and furniture moved quickly. Even items that we weren't quite sure what they were found buyers.

A very special **Thank You** to Nita Freer and Karna Webster for organizing and doing so much of the work. Thanks also to Chuck Schroeder and truck for collecting and hauling items and to the others who lent their trucks and muscles to deliver and haul away the few remaining items. And Thank You to the La Mesa Historical Society for letting us use their prime location to hold the sale.

Monthly Meeting, June 12, noon
San Carlos Methodist Church
6554 Cowles Mtn. Blvd. (at Navajo Rd.)

German Research:

"The Hamburg Passenger Lists." Emigrants from Scandinavia, Poland, Russia, Hungary, and many other countries in addition to Germany left from Hamburg. These departure lists are available from 1850 through 1934 and are a goldmine as they contain the place of birth or last residence. This class will cover how to use the various indexes, how to read the lists, and what is available online.

:"Passenger Lists -- Did They Really Come on That Ship?" You found your immigrant on a U.S. arrival passenger list. But can you be sure he or she was actually on that ship, or that the ship really arrived on that date? How accurate are the various indexes? Examples will be shown of some of the errors that have been found relating to arrival lists, and, if the ship left from Hamburg, how to verify whether the arrival list is accurate.

Speaker: Joan Lowrey is a professional genealogist, author and lecturer, specializing in German and U.S. research. She is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, the San Diego Genealogical Society, and numerous other organizations. She is a past-president of the German Research Association and former editor of The German Connection. Since June 1985, she has published a flyer, "Genealogy - Upcoming Events, Classes, Opportunities," listing all San Diego County genealogical events for the month, and posts this information on www.cgssd.org and is co-author of A Guide to Selecting Genealogy Software and A Guide to Genealogy Software. In 1998, The California State Genealogical Alliance awarded her a Distinguished Service Award for contributions and services to the genealogical community.

The Newsletter is published monthly by the San Diego Genealogical Society and mailed to all current members. Submission deadline for articles and announcements is the 15th of the month for the following month. Inclusion is based solely on the discretion of the Editor and/or Board of Directors. Members are encouraged to submit materials for publication, subject to copyright provisions. Please contact the Editor for guidelines.

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Library Notes.....by Anna Acosta

As you have already noticed on the front page our program for the June meeting has changed. Because we were unable to use St. Dunstan's hall on June 12th we have postponed our annual Potluck and Book Auction. We'll have it later in the year.

This is a really short column this month because your Program Director, Elaine Foulger and I are spending May 16-23 in Sacramento at the National Genealogical Society's 2004 Conference. Hopefully we can bring back some good information and ideas to share.

Meanwhile, hope you're taking Caroline Rober's suggestion at the May meeting and reviewing your previous research and notes. Also, wasn't that a great hint to write for a phone book in advance of a research trip. I've always waited until I got there - but no more!

Our thanks to Antoinette Bertolas and Georgia Callian for answering the call for volunteers to dust books. We're always pleased to have new members to discuss our research with.

See you at the library!



The Meaning of Life.....

Any man can be a father, but it takes someone special to be a dad.

President's Message.....

'Thank You' is something genealogists say often and say well. We thank all those who help us in our research, from the civil servant at the court house to the clerk at the cemetery. They all go out of their way to do something for us that probably isn't in their job description and certainly doesn't help pay the bills. We also profusely thank fellow researchers who share their hard earned research with us in order to further our own family lines. And this list could go on and on.

My point here is that none of us can be successful by ourselves. This couldn't be more true than with your Society. There are many, many people who work countless hours to make the Society successful for you. We all owe them a big, heartfelt 'thank you' for all that they do. But we can and should do more.

Have you considered volunteering your time to help the Society? There are many jobs that need to be done that only take a few hours a month. How about adopting a library shelf to dust when you visit the library? We need a volunteer to collect the aluminum cans brought to the library and monthly meetings and redeem them at a recycling center for cash for the Society. Could you do this? We are in need of a back-up person to help with getting the newsletter mailed out each month. It only takes 4 hours per month. Can you help?

There are many other opportunities, with no special skills required, only the willingness to help. Watching too much TV? Turn it off for a few hours and help your Society. Not only will you meet some interesting new friends but will also learn more about genealogy. And who knows, you may even find a research cousin or two.

I would ask that you phone our Volunteer Coordinator, Mary Harris at 619-223-3931, and find out how you can help your Society. I don't think it is asking too much of you to give a little back for all the benefits you receive from your Society.

Peter Steelquist

Newsletter Now Online

The Society Newsletter can now be found on our web site. Beginning with the April 2004 issue, the Newsletter will be archived for your future reference. URL is www.rootsweb.com/~casdgs/newsletr.html. With the exception of the last page, you will find the entire Newsletter with color illustrations. Fear not, you will continue to receive your monthly copy in the mail as usual.

Meeting in Review....May 8, 2004

Methodology: Going from Clue to Clue:

Start at the beginning. Use pedigree chart and research *generationally* as well as by location. Know the area where they lived, use period maps and FHC Research Guides. Don't rely on the Internet -- prove every fact.

Organization is the key. Use surname notebooks, hanging document files. 'Each person' check lists are invaluable, make timelines of all known facts, census age charts (look for discrepancies), 'to do' lists -- what you need to look at and where. On computer, store data in 'notes' section and update. Use laptop or PDA for research to have all data with you in the field.

Don't jump to conclusions or assume records don't exist. Ask yourself (and others), 'Who would have that information' and follow-up.

Planning For Your Research Trip:

Make list of what you need to do before you leave home. Verify open hours of all places you'll visit. Find out who to talk to and make appointments in advance. Find out where the original data is (may be sent to regional archive) and don't rely on indexes only.

Use all local resources; phone books, city directories, 'mug books' and particularly newspapers. Court house research mandatory. Particularly look at land deeds. Always ask who else may have family information. Phone same surnames in area for relatives, photos, family documents. Above all, join the societies in your research counties. Post your name and research surnames in local files.

Above all, be polite and courteous to everyone. If they are busy, ask when you can come back. Offer to do the looking yourself. If all else fails, break into tears!

Travel kit should include; laptop computer, digital camera (old records can't be photocopied), small tape recorder (notes, interview relatives), gloves, pants for cemetery work, 'sidewalk' style chalk for grave stones and cloths for all conditions.

Improve Your Genealogy with Study Groups

The Study Group is a 2-hour workshop in which we discuss a specific topic or area. After the discussion, we can provide mentoring should you have a "brick wall" situation in which you need help. We meet the third Tuesday of each month except July, August and December, 10 a.m to noon at the Society library.

June 15 -- The Midwest: Iowa, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio.

Come and learn from experienced researchers.

Wisconsin Ancestors?

Last winter the Wisconsin Historical Society announced the creation of the Wisconsin Name Index, an online database leading to over 100,000 obituaries, biographical sketches and newspaper articles, all about Wisconsin ancestors. The Name Index was a huge success, allowing researchers to look up ancestors in more than 1,500 books and periodicals found in libraries or to order paper copies directly from us. However, there was one resounding comment -- add more content.

Over the past year, the Wisconsin Historical Society has done just that. They have added over 60,000 entries from a variety of sources. Some sources focused on local county histories, with biographical sketches; others were professional histories, many highlighting the women of Wisconsin, while still others centered on Wisconsin's military history.

You can visit their website at www.wisconsinhistory.org/wni to learn more about the Wisconsin Name Index and their other resources.



Shop Ralphs and Food-4-Less to Help Your Society

Have you registered your Ralph's Club Card with the Society and received your Food-4-Less Community Contributions Card? If not, please do so now. You may sign up at our monthly meetings or phone our library (619-588-0065) and leave a message on the recorder. We will need your 13 digit Ralph's Club Card number, located on the back of the card, and your name, address and phone number. For the Food-4-Less program, just your name, address and phone number and we will mail you their card.

By using the cards when you shop, your Society gets up to 5% of the purchase amount and, best of all, it doesn't cost you a penny more. What could be easier! Sign up today and shop often. You will be helping your Society. Thanks.



The Meaning of Life.....

The difference between genius and stupidity is that genius has its limits.

'Google' and Genealogy

The Google search engine has become the most popular search engine not only because it produces accurate and relevant search results but it is also extraordinarily flexible. Knowing how to use Google for your genealogical searches can vastly increase your successful 'hit' rate. Here are some tips and tricks.

The Basics

Google is not case sensitive and assumes that you want results for every word in your search criteria, no matter where they appear on the web page. It ignores common words such as where, will and how. For best results, use a few very precise keywords that are likely to appear on the web page you want to find. Don't phrase your query as a question or a command as those words [e.g. find, search] will also appear and limit your results.

- ❖ If you are looking for a specific phrase, put it in quotes, e.g. "William Smith". This will return results where the two words are right together but not William S. Smith or Wm. Smith.

- ❖ Use the operators "+" and "-" to help limit your selections. Put a + in front of words you want to appear in your results, a "-" in front to exclude the word search. If you are looking for a will, use '+will' in your query as this is a Google ignored word. These can be strung together to increase the effectiveness of your search, particularly if you have a common noun surname like Fox. Thus, Fox +surname - animal will limit unwanted returns.

- ❖ While 'and' is not needed in Google, 'OR' can be an effective operand (must be all uppercase). Use when there are multiple surname spellings or for words that have the same meaning. Thus, Smith OR Smyth, obituary OR obit. would be more effective searches.

- ❖ Abbreviations are not converted. California, Calif., CA are three distinct criteria. This also applies to other words like Association and Assn. Use the OR operand.

- ❖ Google now uses stemming technology to search for words that are similar to some or all the search term. Thus, churches will also return church.

Advanced features

Google has many advanced features that add greatly to its versatility. Here are a few.

- ❖ Advanced Search option lets you limit the search similar to using operands +, -, OR, " " without having

to remember syntax. It also lets you limit or include certain domain names, find similar pages and other pages linked to the page, search only government-mental or university sites, etc. Check it out.

- ❖ Use 'numrange:' to search a range of years. Thus, "William Smith" numrange:1880-1900 [no spaces] will help limit your search to years within that range.

- ❖ Use '~' [tilde] before a keyword to also look for its synonyms. Thus, ~genealogy will also return results for family history, family tree and ancestry.

- ❖ Typing the word 'define' then your keyword will return the word definition, much faster than looking it up. This can be particularly useful for antiquated, medical, acronyms, legal and latin terms found in genealogical documents.

The Google Tabs

The tabs above Google's search criteria box can be very useful for genealogists.

- ❖ "Images" lets you search for photographs of ancestors, tombstones, churches, landmarks, ancestral hometowns, ships, original documents, etc. Use all the above features in your searches. Click on the thumbnail photo to enlarge and reveal the URL where found. Right click on photo, 'Save Photo As' to download.

- ❖ "Groups" are Usenet discussion forums arranged by general interest groups. Can be fun but are of limited use for genealogists.

- ❖ "Directory" helps you focus your query by arranging web sites by category. Thus, 'Society' > 'Genealogy' > 'Surnames' limits your search to surname related sites. Very helpful with common names using operands. Have fun experimenting with this.

The Results Page

Once the results page from your query appears, there are still more options still available for you.

- ❖ At the end of the URL of a returned web site, you'll see "Cached". Google keeps many pages it crawls available in a backed-up format known as 'cached'. If the web site is not available, click on "Cached" to view the saved version of the page. You can view removed sites or broken links.

- ❖ The "Similar pages" will retrieve web sites with similar pages to your search criteria. You can find more about the topic without knowing the keywords Google used and not having to do another search.

- ❖ If your results page is in a foreign language, click on the 'Language Tools' at the top of the page and Google will translate the page, albeit quite literally

continued on next page

but well enough to get the meaning. Works for French, German, Italian Portuguese and Spanish. Google is powerful but sometimes your search may be too narrow to produce desired results. Sometimes a person may be listed by his nickname, his middle name or an abbreviation. You may find the multiple searches give better results. Thus, search for "William Styers Smith", > "William S. Smith", > "William Smith", > "Wm. Smith", > "W. S. Smith" and other possible combinations. You never can be sure how your criteria may have been used. So, go to www.Google.com and Google often.



Research Tip.....by Philip Naff

Last-Known-to-Be-Living Date

One of the first things one tries to do as a genealogist is fill in those blanks for birth and death dates, but they aren't as forthcoming as one thinks they should always be. If one is building a genealogy of a collateral line, a death date may be just as hard as a birth date is to find in working backwards in time, in researching you own ancestors, for example.

Soon after beginning my research, I began to realize that another date became just as important as birth and death dates in research, and that is what I call the "last-known-to-be-living date." This is the date of the most recent document that you can attribute to a person you are researching, before you can accurately determine when they died. In the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries it is usually the date of the U.S. census enumerations, but it can be the date on which somebody was listed as the beneficiary of a will or perhaps when they were mentioned as a survivor in a relative's obituary. Just about every document a genealogist uses can be a source for this date.

One thing I do when filling out any family group sheet, whether using a paper form, a word processor, a genealogy program (which may have to be tweaked a little to follow my suggestion) is to insert a row of blanks and numbers after the blank for their birth date that looks like this: "(/50; /60; /70; /80; /1900; /10; /20; /30)". As I find the person in the census I fill in each blank with the age that was recorded for each census year. If I find the person was 18 in 1880, I fill in the blank to look like this: "18/80" and then I know they were last alive on June 1, 1880, the Census Day of that enumeration. It also serves as a checklist to use in finding in building a complete U.S. census record for each individual I am researching.

As I fill in the blanks I have a figure with which to compare the accuracy of any future discoveries regarding a date of birth, and I also have a "last-known-to-be-living" checklist using the U.S. census.

Having a "last-known-to-be-living date" has also helped me to eliminate many possible false matches in looking for an individual's date of death, especially in communities where there were several with the same name and age.



NEW AT THE FAMILY HISTORY CENTER

by Colleen Kline

Many patrons at the FHC may be working on the same surnames. But, how would you know? A "SURNAME EXCHANGE" box has been created. Simply fill out a surname index card (provided by the box) for each surname and place it in the box alphabetically. These cards are openly accessible for all to look at.

Each card asks the following: Localities and Time Frame. Put your name and a contact number and there is a strong possibility someone locally could be searching the same family.

As you know the SDGS has the same search possibility. Each member has filled out a generation chart and those names are listed at the society library for your perusal.



Free Online Genealogy Class

Are you new to genealogy? Or looking for a free instructional course to get others started in genealogy? Well, there is a no cost web site that offers a six modular course which can be taken at anytime. It covers 1) Getting Started, 2) Using Online Resources, 3) Gathering Key Records, 4) Exploring Further, 5) Sharing Information and 6) Quiz. There is a Tools section with downloadable forms and links to other web sites at intervals throughout the course. It is non-commercial and will certainly do well in getting a beginner on their way. The URL is: www.learnweb-skills.com/family/intro.htm Check it out, bookmark it and pass it on. Become a genealogy mentor.

Tracing Your Ancestry Through DNA

DNA tests have been around for many years, but it is only recently that the cost of genetic testing has finally come down into the realm of possibility for the average individual interested in tracing their roots.

The Basics

As DNA is passed down from one generation to the next, some parts remain almost unchanged, while other parts change greatly. This creates an unbreakable link between generations and it can be of great help in reconstructing our family histories.

While it can't provide you with your entire family tree or tell you who your ancestors are, DNA testing can:

- ❖ Determine if two people are related
- ❖ Determine if two people descend from the same ancestor
- ❖ Find out if you are related to others with the same surname
- ❖ Prove or disprove your family tree research
- ❖ Provide clues about your ethnic origin

There are two basic types of DNA tests available for genealogical testing:

mtDNA Tests - Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) is contained in the cytoplasm of the cell. This type of DNA is passed by a mother to both male and female offspring without any mixing, so your mtDNA is the same as your mother's mtDNA, which is the same as her mother's mtDNA. mtDNA changes very slowly so it cannot determine close relationships as well as it can determine general relatedness. If two people have an exact match in their mtDNA, then there is a very good chance they share a common maternal ancestor, but it is hard to determine if this is a recent ancestor or one who lived hundreds of years ago. It is important to keep in mind with this test that a male's mtDNA comes only from his mother and is not passed on to his offspring.

Y Line Tests - More recently, the Y chromosome in the nuclear DNA is being used to establish family ties. The Y chromosomal DNA test is only available for males, since the Y chromosome is only passed down the male line from father to son. Tiny chemical markers on the Y chromosome create a distinctive pattern, known as a haplotype, that distinguishes one male lineage from another. Shared markers can indicate relatedness between two men, though not the exact degree of the relationship. Y chromosome testing is most often used by individuals

with the same last name to learn if they share a common ancestor.

Markers on both mtDNA and Y chromosome tests can also be used to determine an individual's haplogroup, a grouping of individuals with the same genetic characteristics. This test may provide you with interesting information about the deep ancestral lineage of your paternal and/or maternal lines.

DNA tests can be used by genealogists to:

Link specific individuals - e.g. test to see whether you and a person you think may be a cousin descend from a common ancestor.

Prove or disprove the ancestry of people sharing the same last name - e.g. test to see if males carrying the CRISP surname are related to each other

Map the genetic origins of large population groups - e.g. test to see whether you have European or African American ancestry

What You Can and Can't Learn From DNA Testing

Since Y-chromosome DNA is found only within the all-male patrilineal line and mtDNA only provides matches to the all-female matrilineal line, DNA testing is only applicable to lines going back through two of our eight great-grandparents - our father's paternal grandfather and our mother's maternal grandmother. If you want to use DNA to determine ancestry through any of your other six great-grandparents you will need to convince an aunt, uncle, or cousin who descends through an all-male or all-female line to provide a DNA sample. Additionally, since women don't carry the Y-chromosome, their paternal male line can only be traced through the DNA of a father or brother.

What is your goal?

To best use DNA testing to learn about your ancestry you should start by narrowing down a question you are trying to answer and then select the people to test based on the question. For example, you may wish to know if the Tennessee CRISP families are related to the North Carolina CRISP families. To answer this question with DNA testing, you would then need to select several male CRISP descendants from each of the lines and compare the results of their DNA tests. A match would prove that the two lines descend from a common ancestor, though would not be able to determine which ancestor. The common ancestor could be their father, or it could be a male from over a thousand years ago. This common ancestor can be further narrowed down by testing additional people and/or additional markers.

Most Recent Common Ancestor (MRCA)

When you submit a DNA sample for testing an exact match in the results between you and another individual indicates that you share a common ancestor

somewhere back in your family tree. This ancestor is referred to as your Most Recent Common Ancestor or MRCA. The results on their own will not be able to indicate who this specific ancestor is, but may be able to help you narrow it down to within a few generations. What can I learn from my results?

An individual's DNA test provides little information on its own. It is not possible to take these numbers, plug them into a formula, and find out who your ancestors are. The marker numbers provided in your DNA test results only begin to take on genealogical significance when you compare your results with other people and population studies. If you don't have a group of potential relatives interested in pursuing DNA testing with you, your only real option is to input your DNA test results into the many DNA databases starting to spring up on the Net, in the hopes of finding a match with someone who has already been tested. Many DNA testing companies will also let you know if your DNA markers are a match with other results in their database, provided that both you and the other individual have given written permission to release these results.

Understanding the Results of Your Y-Chromosome DNA Test (Y-Line):

Your DNA sample will be tested at a number of different data points called loci or markers and analyzed for the number of repeats at each of those locations.

These repeats are known as STRs (Short Tandem Repeats). These special markers are given names like DYS391 or DYS455. Each of the numbers that you get back in your Y-chromosome test result refers to how many times a pattern is repeated at one of those markers. The number of repeats is referred to by geneticists as the alleles of a marker.

What is the effect of adding more markers?

Adding additional markers increases the precision of DNA test results, providing a greater degree of probability that a MRCA (most recent common ancestor) can be identified within a lower number of generations. For example, if two individuals match exactly at all loci in a 12 marker test, there is a 50% probability of a MRCA within the last 14 generations. If they exactly match at all loci in a 21 marker test, there is a 50% probability of a MRCA within the last 8 generations. There is a fairly dramatic improvement in going from 12 to 21 markers but, after that point, the precision starts to level off making the expense of testing additional markers less useful.

Understanding the Results of Your Mitochondrial DNA Test (mtDNA):

Your mtDNA will be tested on a sequence of two separate regions on your mtDNA inherited from your

mother. The first region is called Hyper-Variable Region 1 (HVR-1 or HVS-I) and sequences 470 nucleotides (positions 16100 through 16569). The second region is called Hyper-Variable Region 2 (HVR-2 or HVS-II) and sequences 290 nucleotides (positions 1 through 290). This DNA sequence is then compared to a reference sequence, the Cambridge Reference Sequence, and any differences are reported.

The two most interesting uses of mtDNA sequences are comparing your results with others and determining your haplogroup. An exact match between two individuals indicates that they share a common ancestor, but because mtDNA mutates extremely slowly this common ancestor could have lived thousands of years ago. Matches which are similar are further classified into broad groups, known as haplogroups. A mtDNA test will provide you with information about your specific haplogroup which may provide information on distant family origins and ethnic backgrounds.

DNA Testing and Surname Study Groups.

While there are a number of DNA testing companies, the two used most in genealogy are Family Tree DNA and Relative Genetics. Both have ongoing surname study groups and can help in setting up new groups. Prices and detailed procedures can be found on their web sites.

Family Tree DNA has over 900 ongoing surname group programs, representing more than 8,000 unique surnames and has over 20,000 data records. Visit their web site (www.familytreedna.com) to see if your surname is registered. If so, click on your surname and find out how many members the group has and the scope of the study.

Relative Genetics (www.familytree.com), with fewer surname groups, also lets you search for your surname. Both have extensive information on DNA testing.

If your surname is not listed, you may want to consider starting a surname study. However, managing a study is a big job. In addition to defining your objectives, it entails recruiting participants, communicating results and educating people on DNA research. Setting up a web site or mailing list can be of great assistance. To view an ongoing surname project, visit the Wells project web site, <http://www.rootsweb.com/~wellsfam/dnaproje/dnaproje.html>.

Keep in mind that DNA testing for the purposes of proving ancestry is NOT a substitute for traditional family history research. Instead, it is a tool to be used in conjunction with family history research to aid in proving or disproving suspected family relationships. It is definitely an exciting new tool to add to your genealogy toolbox!

This poem will bring back memories to those members who are now Grandmas!

GRANDMA'S SHOES

When I was very little, all Grandmas that I knew
Were wearing the same kind of ugly Grandma shoes.

You know the kind I mean, clunky heeled, black,
lace-up kind,
They just looked so very awful that it weighed upon
my mind.

For I knew when I grew old, I'd have to wear those
shoes
I'd think of that, from time to time, it seemed like
such bad news.

I never was a rebel. I wore saddle shoes to school
And next came ballerinas, then sandals, pretty cool.

And then came spikes with pointed toes, then plat-
forms, very tall,
As each new fashion came along, I wore them one
and all.

But always, in the distance, looming in my future
there,
Was that awful pair of ugly shoes, the kind that
Grandmas wear.

I eventually got married, and then became a mom,
Our kids grew up and left, and then their children
came along.

I knew I was a grandma and the time was drawing
near
When those chunky, black, old lace-up shoes were
what I'd have to wear.

How would I do my gardening, or take my morning
hike?
I couldn't even think about how I would ride my bike!

But fashions kept evolving and one day I realized
That the shape of things to come was changing, right
before my eyes.

And now, when I go shopping, what I see fills me
with glee
For, in my jeans and Reeboks, I'm as comfy as I can
be.

And I look at all these little girls, and there, upon their
feet
Are chunky, black, old Grandma shoes, and they
really think that's neat.

.....Author unknown

Message Boards Let Others Find You

You can be the best researcher, go to every library and archive and hire the best genealogists to help you but you are only using a fraction of the resources available if you aren't using message boards. So what are message boards and why are they so beneficial? A message board is a place where people with similar interests post written messages which others read. The reader may either post a response on the message board or send a private reply to the person who posted the message via e-mail. There are literally thousands of genealogical message boards on the web. There are message boards for surnames, countries, states, counties, ethnic groups and a variety of other topics including those in foreign countries in native languages.

Message boards are great to browse and search, either with an installed search engine or using the find feature (ctrl-f) in your browser. But you are not realizing their full benefit unless you post your own messages. If other people can't find YOU, then you are missing the greatest opportunity for successful research.

So, what is involved in using message boards? There are three components of an effective message board posting - subject line, message content and signature. Let's take a look at these in detail.

The **subject line** is most important. You want to capture the readers' attention and let them know exactly what the subject is. An effective, specific and informative subject line is the key to successful communication. In many instances, this may be all that is read. Some actual examples of bad subject lines are: "JONES", "John Smith", "Help!!!", "Still looking", "Attn: OH researchers" - I think you get the idea. An effective subject line should contain the following: 1) name of the individual, with surname in all capitals, 2) the location where you are seeking records, being as specific as possible for the record type, 3) the time period, again as specific as known. This provides the readers with many details in a brief subject line that allows them to determine if they want to read the posting. Examples of good subject lines are: "BUSHNELL, Daniel, b 1872, Lane OR", "John BALL, b. abt 1790 m Sarah BROWN", "DAVIS, Enos, 1770-1811, PA>SC>OH" (> indicates moved from one place to another).

Good **message content** should state exactly what information you are seeking. It should include as much pertinent information as possible for the reader to

determine if they have the information that will help you. It is best to include only one person per posting. To induce a response, you may want to briefly mention what information you have and that you will share.

The **signature** includes your name and information about how to respond to you. It is generally assumed that any responses will be posted to the message board where they will be helpful to other researchers. If you want to receive a private reply, include your e-mail address.

Thoughtfully constructed message board postings that include meaningful subject lines and detail-rich content are more likely to elicit responses. Invest a little time in creating better message board postings and chances are you will achieve success.

So, now that you are ready to use the message boards, which ones should you use? The most popular are:

- <http://www.ancestry.com/share/>
- <http://www.rootsweb.com/>
- <http://genforum.genealogy.com/>
- <http://www.familyhistory.com/>
- <http://www.yourfamily.com/>
- <http://genealogyregister.com/mboards.html>

For additional information on message boards, start at Cindi's List, <http://www.cyndislist.com/queries.htm>, and begin to explore all the specialized boards out there. It will open a whole new world and bring you the highest returns for your efforts. Good Luck!



PERSI Ain't No Sissy

If you wanted to search over 1.7 million records in nearly 6,000 different journals and other periodicals in the U. S. and abroad, you would rely on PERSI -- short for 'Periodical Source Index'. It began as an ambitious project of the Allen County Public Library in Ft. Wayne, Indiana and is the largest subject index to genealogical and historical periodical articles in the world. PERSI is a comprehensive subject index covering genealogy and local history periodicals written in English and French (Canada) since 1800. The time period of the articles ranges from the 1700s to the present.

So, why should you use PERSI? It is estimated that 25% to 30% of the available knowledge on a given topic is only accessible only in genealogical periodicals. Thousands of articles are written every year

about various genealogical or historical topics, many in new or obscure sources. While PERSI is updated on an annual basis (last year alone added 100,000 citations), there are many periodicals, both current and historical, that have not yet found their way into the collection.

So, how do you access PERSI? Although there is not free access online, you can use it from a number of sources. There are bound volumes at many libraries, a CD ROM version available in the SDGS library, FHC and elsewhere and Ancestry.com makes it available online as part of their subscription.

How is the PERSI organized? The CD-ROM version has four main sections: Surname Section, Locality Section, Research Methodologies Section and PERSI Bibliography. The Surname Section lists genealogical articles about specific people or families. A search in this section by surname or keyword will find all matching articles, regardless of where these families resided. The Locality Section indexes genealogical articles concerning specific regions of the United States, Canada and the world. Researchers can filter searches to a specific country, Canadian province or U. S. state, and even to a specific county within that state. The Research Methodologies Section indexes "how-to" articles on various subjects. Ancestry.com breaks down the Locality Section into three separate search windows; U. S., Canada and Foreign Localities.

When you find an appropriate citation in PERSI, you will be able to follow a link from the citation to information on the publisher of the periodical. It will also list other repositories holding this specific title. How do you get a copy of the article? If you are fortunate enough to be at the Allen County Library, you can get copies off the microfilms or you can visit one of the other libraries listed. Be sure to check the SDGS library and other local libraries (university, public, FHC) that may not be included in the citation. If you don't find it nearby, you can still get copies by mail. Print out the order form (www.acpl.lib.in.us/database/graphics/order_form.html) and you can request up to six articles at one time. There is a flat \$7.50 fee, plus \$0.20 per page copied. You don't enclose money with your request as they will send you a bill when they return the copies. Be patient, however, this process can take up to 8 weeks.

So, now that you know about the vast genealogical resources of PERSI, don't wimp out -- use it today and use it often to enhance your research.



Father's Day, contrary to popular misbelief, was not established as a holiday in order to help greeting card manufacturers sell more cards. In fact when a 'father's day' was first proposed there were no Father's Day cards!



Mrs. John B. Dodd, of Washington, first proposed the idea of a "father's day" in 1909. Mrs. Dodd wanted a special day to honor her father, William Smart. William Smart, a Civil War veteran, was widowed when his wife (Mrs. Dodd's mother) died in childbirth with their sixth child. Mr. Smart was left to raise the newborn and his other five children by himself on a rural farm in eastern Washington state. It was after Mrs. Dodd became an adult that she realized the strength and selflessness her father had shown in raising his children as a single parent.

The first Father's Day was observed on June 19, 1910 in Spokane Washington. At about the same time in various towns and cities across American other people were beginning to celebrate a "father's day." In 1924 President Calvin Coolidge supported the idea of a national Father's Day. Finally in 1966 President Lyndon Johnson signed a presidential proclamation declaring the 3rd Sunday of June as Father's Day.

Father's Day has become a day to not only honor your father, but all men who act as a father figure. Stepfathers, uncles, grandfathers, and adult male friends are all to be honored on Father's Day. Roses are the Father's Day flowers: red to be worn for a living father and white if the father has died.

Origins of "Happy Birthday to You",

The song we sing so often was composed by sisters Mildred J. Hill and Dr. Patty Smith Hill, two Louisville, Kentucky-based schoolteachers, although the sisters cannot necessarily claim the credit for the lyrics. When the sisters first composed the tune in 1893, it had nothing to do with birthdays, but was employed to accompany a simple classroom song the sisters had written entitled "Good Morning to All", published that year in a songbook entitled *Song Stories of the Kindergarten*.

In 1924, the tune and some of the lyrics to "Good Morning to All" were reprinted without permission in a songbook edited by Robert H. Coleman. Although Coleman retained the title "Good Morning to All", he modified the second stanza of the song so that the first, second and fourth lines read "happy birthday to you", and changed the third line of the song from "good morning dear children" to "happy birthday dear (name)".

Coleman's modification caught on over the next decade, and by the early 1930s "Happy Birthday to You" had become more popular than the original. When the song began to be performed nightly in a Broadway musical called *As Thousands Cheer*, the Hills grew tired of the theft of their tune and initiated a lawsuit.

The lawsuit was successful, and the copyright to both the tune and the modified version of the song was officially granted to the Hills in 1935. Eventually the copyright passed from the Hill family to the Birch Tree Group, Ltd., which in turn sold the rights to the song to Warner Communications in 1988, for approximately \$25 million. (It is believed that the song generates roughly \$2 million in royalties and licensing revenues annually.)

According to the Guinness Book of World Records, "Happy Birthday To You" is today one of the three most popular songs in the English language, with "Auld Lang Syne" and "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow" providing its only competition.from History Magazine