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CAGG-NI Survey Results

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Spring Genealogy Class Starting

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January 19, 2002

Genealogical Research Using A Digital Camera

STAN SCHMIDT

This presentation will cover the use of a digital camera to record genealogical information.

- A brief discussion on digital cameras and photography
- How it will expand your genealogical research information
- Enhancing the image to improve the quality of the record
- Provide a permanent record that can be stored easily

Stan Schmidt is Director of the Polish Genealogical Society of America. He has served as President, Vice President and Director, and on various committees. He presently is the PGSA Website Manager. Born in Chicago, Stan has lived most of his life in the area, except for a period of time with the U.S. Navy during the Korean Conflict. He graduated from the Illinois Institute of Technology with a BS in Electrical Engineering and Northern Illinois University with a Masters in Business Administration. He has recently retired from a Teradyne, Inc. division that designed and manufactured computerized telephone telecommunications test equipment.

His interest in genealogy began some 25 years ago. He and his wife presently are researching 59 direct line families in Poland going back to the mid-1700's. He has visited Poland seven times in the past fifteen years.

February 16, 2002 Organizing Your Web Browser

BEVERLY LEVINE SMALLWOOD
STEVE OLSON
JIM COTTRELL

Find out how to utilize filters, blocking, bookmarks, address books and other tips to improve your on-line efficiency. Beverly will demonstrate Netscape techniques, Steve will de-mystify Internet Explorer and Jim will ask the musical question, "Do You Yahoo?"

March 16, 2002 Publishing Your Family History

MIKE KARSEN

This presentation shows how various genealogical reports, documents, and personal stories can be easily compiled into a Family History. The Family Tree Maker computer program has a Publishing Center which aids in this effort. All of this can be compiled into a nicely numbered book with a cover page, table of contents, and index.

December Meeting Notes

by Anne Jacobs

We had a very productive meeting with many members attending as well as the newly elected officers. Thank you, those who attended for contributing to next year's planning session. Also, we had a better response to the annual questionnaire asking your input on the programs, newsletter and website. Based on these results, some things may be changing in the newsletter and website. We will have to wait and see what the Newsletter Editor and Webmaster do with your suggestions.

Next year's schedule went together almost effortlessly. Many in attendance had ideas and suggestions of programs they would like to see presented AND these were also reflected in the responding members questionnaires. We hope you enjoy the programs this year and are able to attend them all. As is usual with this group, we had more topics and programs we wanted to present than there are months in the year.

CAGG-NI is interested in maintaining and increasing its membership. If you have already renewed your membership, great! If not, please do so as soon as you can. Also, introduce your friends and family to the group by bringing them to a meeting. We plan on having copies of the new brochure available at the January meeting so members can take them to their local libraries. Please ask for a packet for your library.



Spring Genealogy Class



District 214 Community Education at Prospect High School in Mount Prospect offers a Genealogy Class. The spring class will meet on Mondays from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. for eight weeks starting on February 11th. There are also field trips to the Newberry Library on a Saturday morning and the Wilmette Family History Center on a Friday evening.

This class is taught by our own CAGG-NI President, **Beverly Levine Smallwood**. The very reasonable fee is the same in-district or out. If you are a senior citizen living in-district, ask about the Gold Card discount. The catalog should be out in mid-January. If you are out-of-district or don't receive your catalog, you may call (847) 718-7700 to sign up. Class size is limited, so sign up early.



My Family Tree is Full of Nuts!

President's Letter

Welcome 2002! We have a lot of exciting things happening here at CAGG-NI with so many programs that we couldn't fit them all in the schedule this year!

Our primary mission is, as always, to demonstrate how various technologies may be employed to enhance our genealogical research. This month, Stan Schmidt will show how digital cameras can sometimes be portable copiers.

One of the programs we were unable to fit into the regular program schedule was a demonstration of Family Tree SuperTools (FTST). This is an inexpensive utility program designed to import from most major genealogy programs and provide some terrific functionality. FTST is of special interest to TMG (The Master Genealogist) users since the next version of TMG will be a blending of the two programs. A short article about FTST can be found in the November CAGG-NI newsletter. We will be doing a demo at the February 9th meeting of the TMG users group. Please consider attending. [see other events section]

Another program that just wouldn't fit into the schedule will be incorporated into our web site instead. Say that you knew that your ancestor arrived in Boston on July 12th, 1889. Wouldn't you like to know which libraries have those films on-hand so you wouldn't have to order them and wait? We are looking for scouts to help feed us information about the libraries they use for research. The idea is to create a database of important collections in our area. Contact me at the meeting or via email to help with this library database project. The larger the database, the more useful it will be for us all.

Our newsletter has continued to grow and improve. We are always looking for newsletter content, so please send in your articles. If you want help, Anne Jacobs and I are available to edit and make suggestions.

We'd like add some articles featuring user tips and software highlights of the various genealogy programs we use. There are plenty of TMG authors at the ready, but we need users of other programs (FTM, PAF, etc.) to submit articles too.

A single postage stamp will only deliver an eight page newsletter. Even that expense will soon be going up. So, due to space and cost considerations, this extra content will only be available in the electronically delivered newsletter. We don't want anyone to miss out, so, please see one of the officers or software mentors for help if you are unable to open the newsletters online or as an email attachment. You'll need to download and install the free Adobe Acrobat reader if you haven't already done so. I'd like to add that this newsletter looks great when it comes out of my color printer!

There are links from CAGG-NI's web page to the free

download area at Adobe. Recognizing that not everyone has fast internet access, we are looking into creating CD-ROMs with this and other freeware and shareware programs. These will be available for purchase at future meetings. With this in mind, please email suggestions of software to include and whether you'd be interested in purchasing a CD so we can burn an appropriate number before the meetings. These will be Windows compatible. If you use a Macintosh and have a CD burner, we'd like your help to expand this project!

Lastly, we have a great organization, so let's get the word out. Tell all your friends about us. There is plenty to brag about! We have a group of publicity helpers, each doing part of the job. We need a publicity chairperson to coordinate their efforts. Please consider stepping up and joining the team!

Beverly Levine Smallwood



President	Beverly Levine Smallwood cagg_ni@yahoo.com
VP/Program Director	Patricia Weisshaus PatJW28@interaccess.com
Financial/Membership	Henry (Chip) Douglas CDouglas1@ameritech.net
Promotion/Publicity	Open
Acting Secretary	Anne Jacobs AnneJ@inorbit.com
Newsletter Editor	Jim Cottrell JimboDeuce@Yahoo.com
Refreshments/Greeters	Janice Wasmer
Web Master	Robert Pulse ROPulse@aol.com
Computer Mentors	Ken Cramer Anne Jacobs AnneJ@inorbit.com Robert Pulse
Genealogy Mentors	Larry Olson Geneva Shay Patricia Weisshaus PatJW28@interaccess.com

Other Group Events Compiled by Beverly Levine Smallwood

19 JAN 2002 - 2PM

Historical Research: Putting Your Genealogical Studies Into Context

John F. Swenson

North Suburban Genealogical Society, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Rd.

<http://www.wpld.alibrary.com/nsgs.htm>

20 JAN 2002 - 2PM

"Beginner's Workshop"

by Judith Frazin, president

Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois
Northbrook Public Library (Pollak Room)
1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook

<http://www.jewishgen.org/jgsi/#meetings>

25-26 JAN 2002 - BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

GENTECH 2002

<http://www.gentech.org/>

27 JAN 2002 - 2PM

"Ask the Experts"

co-sponsored by

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois and
the Highland Park Public Library
at the library, 494 Laurel Avenue

<http://www.jewishgen.org/jgsi/#meetings>

02 FEB 2002 - 1:30 PM

What Can Be Found at the Archives of the Clerk of the Circuit Court?

Phil Costello, archivist

Chicago Genealogical Society at the Newberry Library

<http://www.chgogs.org/calendar.html>

05 FEB 2002 - 9:30AM

Marilyn Genz, author of

"20,000 Men and Me"

will talk about her experience as civilian who went to the front lines in Viet Nam in 1969.

Elgin Genealogical Society
Gail Borden Public Library

<http://www.elginarea.org/egs/>

07 FEB 2002 - 7PM

Research at the LDS History Center

Deanna Spingola, Director of the Naperville FHC
Tinley Moraine Genealogist

at the Tinley Park High School
6111 W 175th Street

07 FEB 2002 - 6PM

\$10 TO NON-MEMBERS

Brian Donovan

Researching Irish Ancestors

Friends of Genealogy, Newberry Library

<http://www.newberry.org/nl/genealogy/L3gfriends.html>

09 FEB 2002 - 10:30AM

Family Tree Super Tools Demo

TMG (The Master Genealogist) User Group
Schaumburg District Library, 130 S. Roselle Road

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~ilcaggni/>

10 FEB 2002 - 2:30PM

Klaus Hergt, author of the book entitled
"Exiled to Siberia," will be speaking about the
Soviet deportation of the Polish people during WWII.

Polish Genealogical Society of America at
Polish Museum of America, 984 N. Milwaukee Ave
<http://www.pgsa.org/meetings.htm>

16 FEB 2002 - 2PM

Preserving Memories Workshop

Marianne Dlugo and Jeanne Felcan

North Suburban Genealogical Society, at the
Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Rd.

<http://www.wpld.alibrary.com/nsgs.htm>

02 MAR 2002 - 9AM-3:45PM

DuPage County Genealogical Society 27th Annual Conference

Four lecture periods with a choice of three speakers
each period and a sit down lunch are include in your fee.
You may register online (using PayPal) or by mail.

<http://www.dcgsg.org/wrkshp02.html> for details

06 APR 2002

Indiana Genealogical Society Annual Conference

Richmond, IN

<http://www.IndGenSoc.org/conference.html>

15-18 MAY 2002

2002 National Genealogical Society Conference

Milwaukee, WI

<http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/>

On April 1st, 2002, the National Archives and its regional branches will make the 1930 census available to the public for the first time. Having immigrated after 1920, this will be the first census appearances for my grandfather and his brother. This census includes some new questions and expands on some that have been asked before. One new question asked was whether the household had one of those newfangled radio contraptions!

The bad news, (You knew there'd be bad news, didn't you?) is that this census is largely unindexed. Soundex cards were only prepared for Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, seven counties in Kentucky¹, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and seven counties in West Virginia². That means we must do our homework if we are to have any hope of finding anyone. The good news is that we can start laying the groundwork today.

Step One: Figure out who to look for.

Go through your dataset and decide who would have been alive in 1930. A good starting point would be those families you located on, or are on your list of the missing for, the 1920 census.

Make a list of their names as you expect them to appear on the census. Now, calculate how old they would be on April 1st, 1930 and add their ages. Highlight the adults, especially those you expect to be the head of household. A spreadsheet would be a good option here as it will allow for sorting and rearranging. If you are not comfortable with that, 3x5 index cards are the next best thing.

Step Two: Figure out where they were living in 1930.

Look in city directories and telephone books. Examine their address on the 1920 census. Check over any vital records or other documents generated in the 1920s and 30s. Try to find their address at or near April 1st, 1930. The National Archives branch in Chicago has already purchased city directories for most of the major cities in the country. Chicago's last city directory was dated 1928/29 and it is available at any number of libraries including Arlington Heights Memorial Library, the Newberry, Harold Washington, and the Chicago Historical Society downtown. Unlike the National Archives, these places are all open on Satur-

days.

Add the addresses found to the spreadsheet, list, or index cards you began in step one.

Next month, we'll talk about maps. If you want to skip ahead, NARA has put up some tips at: <http://www.nara.gov/genealogy/1930cen.html>.

¹ Bell, Floyd, Harlan, Kenton, Muhlenberg, Perry, and Pike Counties in Kentucky

² Fayette, Harrison, Kanawha, Logan, McDowell, Mercer, and Raleigh Counties in West Virginia

Chicagoland Family History Centers

Buffalo Grove FHC News (Cook, Lake Counties)

15 East Port Clinton Road
(Corner of Prairie & Port Clinton Roads)
1-847-913-5387

Hours: Wed., Thurs. 10:00am-2:00pm and
7:00pm-9:30pm
Sat. 10:00am-2:00pm

Closed Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Friday

The Buffalo Grove FHC has accepted a donation of over 50 CDs including volumes 6-49 of Broderbund's World Family Tree series. These CDs are now available for patron use.

Naperville FHC News (DuPage, Kane Counties)

1320 Ridgeland Road
Ridgeland and Naper Boulevard
1-630-505-0233

Hours: Tues.-Thurs. 9:00am-9:00pm,
Fri.-Sat. 9:00am-4:00pm
Closed Sunday, Monday

The Naperville FHC now has their own domain/web site. The URL is: <http://www.napervillefhc.org> The classes, holiday hours and the CD list are there.

Schaumburg FHC News (Cook County)

1320 West Schaumburg Road
1-847-885-4130

Hours: Tues., Thur. 9:00am-9:30pm
Wed 9:00am-4:00pm, 7:00pm-9:30pm
Sat. 9:00am-1:00pm

Closed Sunday, Monday and Friday
Closed: July, Thanksgiving week,
2 weeks over Christmas & New Years
Always call to confirm hours

Survey Results Tabulated by Robert Pulse

Ranking of Survey Topics Responding Rank

What's New in 2002?	24	4.1
Online search services of various libraries	22	4.0
Scanning photos into files (preservation)	25	4.0
Software image enhancement	21	4.0
Electronic Sources/Surfing	22	3.9
Research/Organizing Documentation	20	3.8
Scanning techniques and software	23	3.8
Exchanging data (GEDCOM) with others	22	3.6
Creating Family History Books	22	3.5
Handling of fragile images and documents	21	3.5
Note taking w/ Laptops and Spreadsheets	22	3.4
What Does That Library Hold?	20	3.3
Develop a coordinated research plan	19	3.3
CD-ROM making	20	3.2
CD-ROM Products/PhoneDisc/SSDI	21	3.1
How do I.....? How-to topics	18	3.1
Family Books - Show and Tell	21	3.0
Genealogy software demos	23	2.9
Land Records / Mapping Software	21	2.8
Maps and Gazetteers	20	2.6
Global Positioning System (GPS)	21	2.6
Computer Fundamentals Made Clear	20	2.4
Queries: Genealogy Puzzles and Problems	18	2.4
Ancestral File submission/Workshop	22	2.0
Organizing Family Reunions	19	1.9
What do I do first?	19	1.4

Suggested Programs Responding

Bygones Review or Repeat	3
Ancestral File Software Developers	1
Boolean Searches	1
Member's Genealogical Successes & Failures	1
Case Studies	1
Family History - Q/A	1
First 15 minutes of meeting: Problem Solving	1
Fraternal Organization Records	1
GEDCOM - (15 minute explanation)	1
German Genealogy on line	1
How to use 1880 Census	1
In-depth analysis of Ancestry.com	1
Irish genealogy on line	1
Birth/Death Records prior to State records	1
Organize your work with ACT 2000	1
Genealogical Tips & Techniques	1
Source Citation from the ground up	1
State Census	1
Web search techniques	1
Genealogy magazines Ratings/Websites	1

Programs Volunteered Responding

1880 US & 1881 UK CD's	2
Bygones - Family Tree Super-tools	1
Creating Family History Book with PAF etc.	1
Basic Computer Skills	1
Ellis Island	1
Source Citation from the ground up	1
Technology oriented CD-ROM or other items	1
Create Family Books using Fam Tree Maker	1

Newsletter Survey Responding Rank

Meeting Topic Description Preview	19	2.8
Feature Article	19	2.7
Other Group Events	19	2.6
President's Letter	19	2.6
Last Month's Meeting Notes	17	2.5
Family History Center News	17	2.3
What's the Buzz	18	2.3
Tag Line	16	2.3
Monthly Family Story Question	16	2.1
Monthly Puzzler	14	1.7



Top 10 Reasons Why You Should Install Adobe Acrobat Reader

1. Acrobat Reader is an Industry Standard
Most new Software you buy today has the documentation in Acrobat Reader format. Over 300 million copies have been distributed.
2. You don't need to have the software that a file was created in to read or print it.
3. You can read it without printing it or even read it without downloading it.
4. You can search for key words.
5. You can print selected pages without having to print the entire document.
6. It takes up less space than the original file does.
7. We don't have to print, copy, fold and mail the newsletter.
8. You get the newsletter a week earlier
9. We save the postage and copying cost.
10. It's FREE!

Family Story Question of the Month

How do you display your interest in genealogy in your home?

December Puzzler

Have you ever opened a document file and found a series of unprintable characters (boxes, etc.)? What is a reason this happens? How can you still look at the contents of this file?

December Puzzler Answer

This may occur because you have an older release of the software than was used to create the document. As software is “improved”, file structures change and become incompatible with previous releases of the same package. In the case of a word processing document, formatting codes often appear at the beginning and end of the file. The unprintable characters are these codes. You can still view the contents of the document by moving past these codes. The document verbiage is found after these codes which can go on for pages. Keep paging past the codes until you encounter English. By highlighting the beginning and ending unprintable characters and deleting them, you can retrieve the essence of the document. You will have lost all special formatting codes. You can then save the document as a document or a text file.

January Puzzler

What happens when you try to save a file which is too large for the medium to which you are saving it?

January Puzzler Answer

Depending on the software you are using, you may or may not be warned. Many times, the file is NOT saved and you are not warned. You may be trying to create a backup and the process completes “normally”. You believe you are safe and have a backup when you don’t. You can determine if this has happened to you by looking at the detail contents of the medium to which you have saved. If the size of the file you have saved is 0 characters long, nothing was saved and you have no backup. This same result occurs with copying or any other file creation operation which is not completed normally.

Subject: Internet: Taking the Temperature of a Newsgroup

From: DummiesDaily
<feedback@dummiesdaily.com>

A quick scan of newsgroup headers can reveal a lot of information, not only about the subjects under discussion but also about the culture and customs of the group you’re about to join. They can tell you other things about the group, too:

- * Do you see an abundance of current postings? If so, the group is probably active and a good place to get current information on your topic.
 - * Do you see a lot of spam? If so, the group is probably no longer visited by people who actually care about the subject.
 - * Do you see lots of nonsense headers? The group may have outlived its usefulness as a research tool and deteriorated into a social hangout or a total waste of time.
-

Subject: Internet: Crafting Quality Subject Lines

From: DummiesDaily
<feedback@dummiesdaily.com>

A universal feature of e-mail programs is the Subject field. It’s a place for you to enter a short description of what the message is about. The recipient sees the subject and your name in an incoming-messages list when he or she picks up mail. Because many e-mail users find a hundred or more messages on their computer every morning, your recipient is going to have to choose in what order to read messages — so state your subject as clearly as possible.

Here are some examples of subject lines:

- Poor: “Need information”
- Fair: “Real estate question”
- Better: “About the Binkley sale”
- Best: “Closing date for Binkley?”

Most e-mail programs let you have a blank subject, but we wish they would at least warn you when you forget the subject line. Always include a subject.
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