

# CAGG-NI

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

mailto: CAGG\_NI@Yahoo.com

## Computer-Assisted Genealogy Group of Northern Illinois

P. O. Box 59567, Schaumburg, IL 60159-0567  
Meetings held at Schaumburg Township District Library  
130 S. Roselle Road, Schaumburg, IL  
Corner of Roselle and Schaumburg Roads  
Third Saturday of each month at 10:30 a.m.

Volume 14, Issue 3

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Saturday  
March 18, 2006

## What's New in 2006

Presented by Ed Rosenthal



Technology guru Ed Rosenthal will update us on the latest and greatest gadgets. By using current technology (VHS to DVD converters, Video Editing, Scanning, Film Scanners, DVD Burners), Ed will be showing you how you can save over a thousand dollars during this year.

Ed Rosenthal has served three terms as the President of CAGG-NI and has been doing family research for over 20 years. He has been a user of Family Tree Maker® (FTM) software for over 10 years.

Ed's profession is a Senior Program Manager and has held positions with Rockwell, Motorola and NEC. Ed has over twenty years experience directing engineering, communications and software projects. Previous, Ed has build several television stations and worked on TV shows such as Phil Donahue, Dinah Shore, and Al McGuire with Sports. He is a certified Project Management Professional (PMP) with a Masters Degree in Project Management (MPM) from Keller.

April 15, 2006

### Organizing Browser & Email

Presented by  
Beverly Levine Smallwood

Can't find that great website you found last week? Overwhelmed by so many emails that you can't keep up? Did you know that there are tools built right into your browser and email programs to control chaos?

May 20, 2006

### Genealogy: The Process

Presented by Carolyn Meeker

Where do you start?  
What do you do next?

A look at the traditional process of genealogy updated with today's tools, flow charting the steps along the way.

## President's Letter

Thanks to all those who helped in setting up, serving, and cleaning up our February meeting at the Schaumburg Family History Center. **Everett Butler**, VP/Programs, made all the arrangements. **Chris Herrmann**, Refreshments, bought the food and helped serve the pizza. **Christine Clark**, Treasurer, helped in serving. **Frank McGovern**, Publicity, and **Bev Smallwood**, Webmaster, helped in cleaning up and schlepping. **Charlie Ori**, Welcome, and **Ginny Jenkins** helped in Registration. **Larry Olson**, as always, was there to lend a helping hand.

CAGGNI had a table at the DuPage Conference. There were more CAGGNI volunteers than the 8 sign-ups at the table. **Kathy Kult** graciously attended to provide a laptop and technical advice. **Frank McGovern** and **Anne Jacobs** staffed the table. **Byron Atkinson**, **Everett Butler**, **Bob Craycroft**, and others helped.

The National Genealogical Society (NGS) Chicago Conference will be held 7-10 June at the Hyatt Regency OHARE, in Rosemont. After April 21, the cost to non-NGS Members will be \$245 for the Conference. CAGGNI will participate in co-hosting a local event on Wednesday Night, June 7th, from 6:30 until 10 PM. The cost for this event will be \$27. Jazz music, a dessert buffet, and a cash bar will provide the atmosphere for networking with speakers and participants. CAGGNI will need volunteers for our table in the exhibit hallway, and NGS will need volunteers for the Conference. There is no charge to be at the CAGGNI Table. Conference volunteers may be comped for their help. Let's support this rare event!

Stephen Morse will be speaking both at NGS as well as at the Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois. <http://www.jewishgen.org/jgsi/future.htm> The Skokie event will be \$10 for the public. Thanks to CAGGNI member, and local speaker, **Mike Karsen** for the

information. <http://hometown.aol.com/mikefamhistorian/>

Please remember that our other CAGGNI speakers—**Bev Smallwood**, **Larry Olson**, and **Anne Jacobs** speak at other genealogical societies in the Chicago Area. Check Other Events in the CAGGNI Newsletter and Website: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~ilcaggni> -- which Bev Smallwood compiles.

Upcoming local events include: March 25th, Tinley Moraine Conference: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~iltmg> Dick Eastman at Newberry Library on April 8th <http://www.newberry.org>

Illinois Archives Open House and Tour on April 21-22 <http://www.rootsweb.com/~ilsgs>

**Jeff Bockman**, <http://www.jeffbockman.com>, Chair of the Chicago Genealogical Consortium—of which, CAGGNI is a member, has suggested that a legacy of the NGS Conference might be a regional network of genealogical societies in the Chicago Area. The network would improve cooperation between the societies as well as provide a basis for advocacy before legislative bodies concerning the importance of genealogical access to Public Records.

CAGGNI reserves our Meeting Room from 10 until 1 PM. Although there are members who prefer to leave before Noon, time is still available for the program, discussion, and problem-solving in the Meeting Room; as well as at Dominick's, following the Meeting. Please bring your laptops for problem-solving. Don't be afraid to speak up at anytime! If you want to volunteer for a show-and-tell program segment—please let me know! Any size article for the Newsletter is welcome: [jim@jimcottrell.com](mailto:jim@jimcottrell.com)

St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 11th—is this The Second Coming?

Happy Vernal Equinox!  
<http://stardate.org/radio/program.php?f=detail&id=2005-03-20>

*Harve*

## Internet Desktop

by Deena Butta

### Tips For Success in Searching Ethnic Names Online

There are 2 important things to remember about researching foreign names on the internet: diacritical marks and gender.

These 2 factors influence the spelling of a surname, and can mean the difference between success and failure in an internet search.

It is a good idea to monitor the internet to see if anything new involving your surnames has appeared.

But I was getting bored with typing in my favorite surname (pabisinski) and seeing the same old 137 hits.

One day I realized that name used to be spelled differently in the old country.--it used to be spelled Pabisinski...the "n" had a diacritical mark over it.

Diacritical marks are placed over a letter to indicate that it has a different pronunciation, or to indicate that the word has a different meaning than it would otherwise. English uses diacritical marks almost solely in words of foreign origin, and they are often omitted. Examples of English words using diacritical marks are: "facade" (which uses a cedilla), "resume" (two accent marks), "naive" (umlaut) and "piñata" (tilde).

Because our keyboards do not include these marks, you need to spell the word using a word-processing program, such as Microsoft Word, and then copy and paste it into your search bar.

Open the application...start typing in the name....when you are about to type the letter that includes the diacritic, click on the "insert" menu. When it opens, click on "symbol." Scroll down until you see the letter you need, click on it to highlight, click the "insert" button, and then "close". You will now see the letter with the diacritic in the name you have been

Continued on page 3

## Internet Desktop (Continued)

typing. Finish typing the name, and then copy and paste it into your search bar.

Research the original foreign spellings of your surnames, to see if they include diacritical marks.



When I searched this way, I received 154 hits...and some of them I had never seen before! They were from the old country! I know they are my relatives, because this is a very rare name.

If you are searching foreign telephone books online, use the diacritical marks. It could mean the difference between no results and a huge success! A letter, and the same letter with the diacritical mark, are 2 different letters! Not using the diacritical mark amounts to misspelling the name.

Remember that surname endings for female ancestors change to indicate gender. For example, "pabisinski" changes to "pabisinska," and "zilaitis" changes to "zilaitiene." When I searched for "pabisinska," I only got 8 hits...but they were all brand new! And they were all women!

Until I realize "the next big thing" about searching for relatives online, I will occupy myself with contacting all these people whom I found using the diacritical marks.

Deena Hartray Butta  
Reference Librarian  
Genealogy Specialist  
Glenview Public Library  
1930 Glenview Rd.  
Glenview IL 60025  
(847) 729 7500 x152  
www.glenviewpl.org

## Family History Classes

A series of five classes will be presented by the **DuPage Co. Genealogical Society** at the Bloomingdale Public Library, 101 Fairfield Way, Bloomingdale, IL. The "Back to Basics" group will address: *In the Beginning* on March 20, *For the Record* will be the topic on April 3, April 10 will be *A Sensational Source, All the News That's Fit to Print* will be April 17 and *Full Circle* will be given on April 24.

The classes are from 6:30 to 8:30 and are \$10 for individual nights or \$40 for the group. For more information please see the website <http://www.dcgcs.org>.

**Sandra Eck**  
Publicity Chairman, DCGS

## Support CAGG-NI

### By Shopping March 20-22

Please support **CAGG-NI** by using your Jewel coupons the week after the March meeting. Jewel Shop and Share coupons will be available at the meeting as well as on our website. If you are unable to attend the meeting, print coupons from the link on our home page at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~ilcaggn>

Print a number of them and give them to your family, friends and co-workers. However, you may not distribute them on Jewel's property without jeopardizing this fundraising effort.

Thanks for shopping during this time.



*Just a  
Reminder...*



## Officers

President	<b>Harve Mankopf</b> <a href="mailto:waterlooboogaloo@yahoo.com">waterlooboogaloo@yahoo.com</a>
Vice President	<b>Everett Butler</b> <a href="mailto:butler.el@gmail.com">butler.el@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	<b>Christine Clark</b> <a href="mailto:cclark60646@yahoo.com">cclark60646@yahoo.com</a>
Secretary	<b>Gerry Czadowski</b> <a href="mailto:GerryCzadowski@Covad.net">GerryCzadowski@Covad.net</a>
Membership Database	<b>Ralph Beaudoin</b> <a href="mailto:beaudoin1913@aol.com">beaudoin1913@aol.com</a>
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Publicity	<b>Frank McGovern</b> <a href="mailto:mcgovern342003@yahoo.com">mcgovern342003@yahoo.com</a>
Fund Raising Coordinator	<b>Anne Jacobs</b>
Newsletter Editor	<b>Jim Cottrell</b> <a href="mailto:Jim@JCottrell.com">Jim@JCottrell.com</a>
Webmaster	<b>Beverly Levine Smallwood</b> <a href="mailto:caggn_bev@yahoo.com">caggn_bev@yahoo.com</a>
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Archivist	<b>Elaine Beaudoin</b> <a href="mailto:watson5855@aol.com">watson5855@aol.com</a>
Refreshments	<b>Chris Herrmann</b> <a href="mailto:ucherm@yahoo.com">ucherm@yahoo.com</a>

# Genealogy Blog Round Up

by Beverly Levine Smallwood

Last month's newsletter introduced the concept of blogs. Please look there for more details on the hows, whys and whats. This month, I'm going to list some blogs that I read and subscribe to via RSS feed. Please remember, you may simply visit their web site to read the blog. I subscribe via RSS so I don't have to remember to check back for new articles. Home delivery, if you will.

A great new blog that is focused on the National Genealogical Society Conference this June. Our blogger, Debbie Mieszala, is doing a great job of highlighting speakers, topics, local research opportunities, getting around, and profiling the societies that make up the local host consortia (that includes CAGGNI). Web: <http://ngs2006.blogspot.com/>; RSS: <http://ngs2006.blogspot.com/atom.xml>.

My favorite blog is Dick Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter [http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans\\_online\\_genealogy/](http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/). He covers the full gamut of topics from gadgets and software to genealogy announcements and online scams warnings. I started out reading his articles on Ancestry and subscribed to his email newsletter. He has two versions, the free version and for a small subscription fee, added content. I pay for the added content which is always interesting and detailed. I learned about blogs and RSS feeds from his newsletter.

He has four RSS feeds: the newsletter [http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans\\_online\\_genealogy/index.rdf](http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/index.rdf); other news <http://othernews.eogn.com/index.rdf>; genealogy announcements <http://announcements.eogn.com/index.rdf>; and all three combined <http://www.eogn.com/all-the-news/index.rdf>. Additionally, he has other blogs that are not genealogy focused. There is some cross-over between all his blogs. You might enjoy these computer/internet related blogs:

- ez-nets: Easy home and small office networking information without all the technical mumbo-jumbo!; blog: <http://www.ez-nets.com/>; RSS: <http://www.ez-nets.com/>

[www.ez-nets.com/index.rdf](http://www.ez-nets.com/index.rdf). Tips about computers and hardware, like how to add a network attached storage device from an old computer.

- portable-computing: The web site for users of Palm, PocketPC, Windows Mobile, Symbian, Linux and other handheld computers; blog: <http://portable-computing.com/>; RSS: <http://www.portable-computing.com/index.rdf>.

- ScamsOnline: Information you need to avoid the many online miscreants and rip-off artists; blog: <http://scamsonline.com/>; RSS: <http://www.scamsonline.com/index.rdf>. Stay abreast of the newest cons and scams. Avoid losing your money and possibly your identity.

GenealogyBLOG is featured on our home page. Their reporting tends to focus on web sites and book reviews, some announcements, and odd human interest stories with a genealogy slant. The RSS feed is no longer working, but I'm looking into that. <http://genealogyblog.com/>

The Newberry Library Genealogy News includes speaking announcements featuring either Newberry people speaking in the area or speakers coming to the Newberry to do a lecture. They feature news items with a genealogy focus in the Chicago area and lists of selected new arrivals in the local and family history department. Web: <http://www.newberry.org/genealogy/news/>; RSS: <http://www.newberry.org/genealogy/news/rss.xml>.

RSSGenealogy.com has links to other web content. It really works better as a web site than as a RSS feed. Check them out at <http://www.rssgenealogy.com/>. On the News

**Don't Live to Geek;  
Geek to Live.**

& Articles tab you'll find 63 listings including: Along those Lines, Ancestry Daily News, Ancestry Quick Tips, Ancestry New or Updated Databases, Association of Professional Genealogists News, BYU Family History & Genealogy Newsletters, CNN Genealogy News, CousinConnect.com News, and much, much more. Under Items for Sale you'll find 13 feeds including genealogy books at Amazon, Ebay newly listed genealogy items, Overstock.com genealogy items, as well as traditional genealogy sites and stores new product announcements. Genealogy Blogs, Chats and Message Boards feature 26 feeds. I'm clearly not subscribed to everything yet! Finally, the Software News area includes announcements about new versions and newsletters published by the vendors. If you don't want to subscribe to a bunch of blog feeds, a visit here once a week or so will link you up with everything.

Christopher Dunham has two blogs of interest. His self description will give you a flavor of what to expect: "The descendant of a surprisingly large number of ancestors. Turn-ons: transcribing, cemetery-hopping, and girls with big GEDCOMs. Turn-offs: stingy town clerks, open graves, and girls who don't give sources. His Genealogue features funny story links and much original fun stuff like: 10 reasons to date a genealogist. If you need a chuckle, visit: <http://genealogue.blogspot.com/> or subscribe to <http://feeds.feedburner.com/TheGenealogue>. His other blog, Genealogy Websites I Don't Hate, features reviews of web sites. He describes the site, content, search tips and links to the site. Think of it as a page a day calendar, only instead of

## Blogs (Continued)

improving your vocabulary, you're learning about genealogy web sites.

Web: <http://genealogysites.blogspot.com/>; RSS: <http://feeds.feedburner.com/GenealogyWebsitesIDontHate>.

Several sites are simply personal web sites/blogs by people interested in genealogy. They discuss their adventures in research and ask for help with their brick walls. Visit Janet's Genealogy Blog "my story, discoveries, tips, software, books, URLs, in my journey to fill in my family tree" at <http://tokrud.typepad.com/genealogy/>. Craig Manson's GeneaBlogie at <http://geneablogie.blogspot.com/> which he describes his blog mission as "an occasional journal chronicling the author's adventures in genealogy and the exploration of his American family of families."

Kenneth G. Aitken has a blog focused on Genealogy Education: ideas for family history teachers, speakers, librarians and society programmers. Web: <http://genealogyeducation.wordpress.com/>; RSS: <http://genealogyeducation.wordpress.com/feed/>.

I'm subscribed to several other computer techie blogs that the more geeky among you might enjoy. Here are two:

- Lifehacker <http://www.lifehacker.com/> see the site for feed links.

- Steve Bass's Tips & Tweaks (PCWorld column) <http://blogs.pcworld.com/tipsandtweaks/> RSS: <http://blogs.pcworld.com/tipsandtweaks/index.rss>

Lifehacker welcomes you with "Computers make us more productive. Yeah, right. Lifehacker recommends the downloads, web sites and shortcuts that actually save time. Don't live to geek; geek to live."

I can't think of a better way to put it.

## Feb Meeting Notes

### Real Genealogical Research on the Web Presented by Jeffrey A. Bockman February 18, 2006 Meeting Notes By Gerard Czadowski

Our speaker, **Jeffrey Bockman**, presented us with a brief survey of various "real records" and record indexes which can be found on the web as well as some sites which are useful research reference tools.

Included among the sites Jeffery pointed out in his presentation were sites containing actual images of Family Bibles. Various on-line sources for vital records, cemetery records, immigration records, military records and land records were also shown.

Some general reference sites for note for the genealogist — such as gazetteers, mapping, translations and library sites — were shown.

To help you with your internet research Jeffrey has created a web page

with an extensive compilation of useful links which you can visit at: <http://users.anet.com/~jeffb/www.htm>. This page includes links to all the sites which were shown at the meeting (and many, many more).

Jeffrey provided the following tips to keep in mind while doing research on the web:

- Don't forget everything you have ever learned about genealogy just because you are using a computer
- Research still requires problem solving
- You can access some real records
- You can access some indexes to records
- You can determine how to get records
- Always verify information found on the web – check the sources yourself and make your own interpretations of the data
- Save copies of what you find on the web – the internet source may disappear



One of our members asked if there is a PAF Users Group in the Chicago area. As many of you know, CAGG-NI started as a PAF Users Group and changed focus to a broader scope as more and more members began to use different software packages. You may also know of CAGG-NI's The Master Genealogist Users Group which meets the second Saturday of the month.

Following this question, some discussion of the possibility of creating a new CAGG-NI users' group focusing on PAF began. The first step in this process should be to gauge the interest in such a group. If you are a PAF user and are interested in participating in a PAF Users' Group, please send a message to the CAGG-NI mailbox at

[cagg\\_ni@yahoo.com](mailto:cagg_ni@yahoo.com) expressing your interest. If you have thoughts on meeting frequency, content, etc., please include this in your message.

This group will not form without interest of our membership. The person expressing a desire for a PAF Users' Group is willing head the formation of the group. However, other commitments prevent participation prior to July-August. After mid summer, organizing meetings can be scheduled by this member. If you are interested in starting the group prior to this, indicate that in your e-mail.

If this idea would make your membership in CAGG-NI more valuable, let us know!

## Other Group Events *compiled by Beverly Levine Smallwood*

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16 MAR 2006 - ELGIN

BOB LAWRENCE

**Life in the Past Lane: What life was like in the Pre- and Post-Antebellum Periods**

Elgin Genealogical Society

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

23 MAR 2006 - DARIEN

**Kathleen O'Leary - Using Filby**

Indian Prairie Public Library - Genealogy Group

[http://www.indianprairie.lib.il.us/genealogy\\_group.htm](http://www.indianprairie.lib.il.us/genealogy_group.htm)

23 MAR 2006 - GENEVA

COREY SHORT

**Funeral Home Laws and Records**

Kane County Genealogical Society

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

26 MAR 2006 - CHICAGO

**Genealogy Committee Meeting**

CONTACT: BRIAN DONOVAN

(P) 773-282-7035 (SATURDAYS 9-2)

Irish American Heritage Center

<http://www.irishamhc.com/programs.asp#history>

26 MAR 2006 - SKOKIE

MYRNA SIEGEL & WALTER REED

**How to visit your ancestral homelands:**

**Lithuania, Belarus, and Gernay**

Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois

<http://www.jewishgen.org/jgsi/index.htm>

01 APR 2006 - CHICAGO

**Meeting at National Archives and Records Administration**

Chicago Genealogical Society

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

08 APR 2006 - SCHAUMBURG

**The Master Genealogist (TMG) User Group TBA**

CAGG-NI TMG Special Interest Group

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

08 APR 2006 - HAZEL CREST

DAN NIEMIEC

**Effective Use of Email & Message Boards**

South Suburban Genealogical & Historical Society

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

11 APR 2006 - MUNDELEIN

Dan Niemiec -

**Who Stole My Paper???**

Chicago Newspaper Research

Lake County Genealogical Society

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

11 APR 2006 - SCHAUMBURG

**Paul Milner - How to Build a Personal Genealogical Reference Library**

STDL Genealogy Group - Contact Tony Kierna at 847-923-3394

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

12 APR 2006 - WINFIELD

GRACE DUMELLE

**Finding Your Chicago Ancestors**

DuPage County Genealogical Society

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

15 APR 2006 - SCHAUMBURG

**Beverly Levine Smallwood**

**Organizing Browser & Email**

CAGG-NI

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

20 APR 2006 - ELGIN

DANIEL J. KANE

**Your Ancestors' Siblings Can Tell You What Your Ancestor 'Forgot' to Mention**

Elgin Genealogical Society

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

20 APR 2006 - MCHENRY

DEBBIE & JIM McARDLE

**MCIGS' Version of the Antiques Road Show**

McHenry County Genealogical Society

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

20 APR 2006 - ARLINGTON HEIGHTS

**Dan Niemiec - Italian Genealogy**

Northwest Suburban Council of Genealogists

<http://www.mtprospect.org/nsgs/>

27 APR 2006 - DARIEN

**Ancestry**

Indian Prairie Public Library - Genealogy Group

[http://www.indianprairie.lib.il.us/genealogy\\_group.htm](http://www.indianprairie.lib.il.us/genealogy_group.htm)

## Other Group Events

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27 APR 2006 - GENEVA

MOLLY HOFER

### "Who Gets Grandma's Yellow Plate?" Transferring Non-Titled Property

Kane County Genealogical Society

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

30 APR 2006 - CHICAGO

### Genealogy Committee Meeting

CONTACT: BRIAN DONOVAN

(P) 773-282-7035 (SATURDAYS 9-2)

Irish American Heritage Center

<http://www.irishamhc.com/programs.asp#history>

30 APR 2006 - SKOKIE

### Mike Karsen - How to Find Your Immigrant Ancestor's Arrival Record Online

Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois

<http://www.jewishgen.org/jgsi/index.htm>

## Special Events

25 MAR 2006 - TINLEY PARK

### Conference featuring Loretto Szucs Focus on Your Ancestors

CALL MARGARET KAPUSTIAK 630-753-9807 FOR INFORMATION

Tinley Moraine Genealogists

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

01 APR 2006 - AUSTIN, IN

### Annual Conference

FEATURING DIANE VANSKIVER GAGEL, NAOMI SEXTON,  
DOROTHY RICE & KANDIE ADKINSON

Indiana Genealogical Society

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

08 APR 2006 - CHICAGO

### Dick Eastman

### Genealogy Research & Technology

CALL 312-255-3700 FOR REQUIRED RESERVATIONS

Newberry Library

<http://www.newberry.org/genealogy/genealogyevents.html>

08 APR 2006 - ST. LOUIS

### Genealogy Fair

FEATURING RICHARD G. SAYRE & PAMELA BOYER PORTER

St. Louis Genealogical Society

<http://stlgs.org/fair.htm>

21-22 APR 2006 - SPRINGFIELD, IL

PRE-REGISTER BY APRIL 15TH

### Illinois State Archives Tour and Death Certificate Assistance Program

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~ilsgs/spwkshp/06SPregistration.html>

21-22 APR 2006 - STEVENS POINT, WI

### Gene-A-Rama - John Konvalinka

Wisconsin State Genealogical Society

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

22 APR 2006 - QUAD CITIES

### 32nd Annual

### Quad Cities Genealogical Conference

JAMES L. HANSON, REFERENCE LIBRARIAN

WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Quad Cities Genealogical Conference

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~ilbgsrim/news/2006GenConference.html>

29 APR 2006 - CHICAGO

### Path to the Past:

### Discovering Grandma's Secrets

Polish Genealogical Society

<http://www.pgsa.org/meetings.htm>

06 JUN 2006 - SKOKIE

### Dr. Stephen Morse - One-Step Webpages: A Potpourri of Genealogical Search Tools

Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois

<http://www.jewishgen.org/jgsi/index.htm>

07-10 JUN 2006 - CHICAGO!

### NGS Conference

### CAGGNI is among the Consortia hosting

National Genealogical Society

<http://www.eshow2000.com/ngs/registration.cfm>

15 JUL 2006 - WHITEWATER, WI

KORY L. MEYERINK

### 3 R's of German Research: Reading, 'Riting & Records

German Interest Group - Wisconsin

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~wigig/index.html>

01-04 AUG 2006 - BYU CONFERENCE CENTER

### 38th Annual Genealogy and Family History Conference

BYU Conferences and Workshops

<http://ce.byu.edu/cw/cwgeneal/>

# Links Around the World

Frank McGovern, Columnist

Dan Wertz, Columnist

This month's Links "Around the World" offers links to Canada, our neighbor north of the border. We hope that these links will be informative and provide you with the link that will advance your research.

## British Columbia Vital Statistics Agency Website -

Here you will find information to help you order certificates for vital events, such as birth, death, marriage, will registry and legal name change.

<http://www.vs.gov.bc.ca/index.html>

**Links to Genealogical and Historical Web Sites** - This page contains links to, Canadian web sites, miscellaneous reference material, internet search engines, sites with multiple links and news groups.

<http://www.bcgs.ca/links.htm>

**Our Roots** - Local histories on line brings Canadian history to life! This unique, online record of local histories reflects the breadth and depth of Canada's heritage, and celebrates the diverse landscapes, resources, and people who have contributed to its national character. Looking for information on this site is made easy when you search the site using key words, dates, subjects or authors.

<http://www.ourroots.ca/e/intro1.asp>

**Discover Canada Through Maps and Facts** - This online atlas offers a collection of maps and related information. Select and view over nine hundred maps dating as far back as 1906.

<http://atlas.gc.ca/site/english/index.html>

General inquiries to Veterans Affairs may be direct through the Veterans Affairs web site or toll free telephone number 1-866-522-2122

Their e-mail address: [information@vac-acc.gc.ca](mailto:information@vac-acc.gc.ca)

**Ontario Cemetery Finding Aid [OCAFA]** - This database is intended to be a "pointer" database only. It consists of the surnames, given names, cemetery name and location of more than two million internments in Ontario and one county in the province of Quebec. The file does not contain transcriptions of dates, but it does tell the researcher which county, township and cemetery contains a given surname.

<http://www.islandnet.com/ocfa/about.html>

**Census of Canada 1901** - The 1901 Census offers a rich source of information at the turn of the 20th Century. Through this research tool you can access digitized images of original census returns, which record age, nationality, religion, profession, income,

education, etc for every single resident of Canada on 31 March 1901.

[http://www.archives.ca/02/020122\\_e.html](http://www.archives.ca/02/020122_e.html)

## Who can help me find information about my family tree?

Ontario Genealogical Society  
Toronto, ON M4R 1B9  
Telephone: 416-489-0734  
Fax: 416-489-9803

**The Office of Registrar General** holds records for the births that happened during the past ninety five years, marriages that happened during the past eighty years, and deaths that happened during the past seventy years. To obtain records prior to that time, contact:

The Archives of Ontario  
Vital Statistics Reference Archivist  
77 Greenville Street  
Toronto, ON M5S 1B3

Or call the Vital Statistics Hotline at 416-327-1593.

Visit their Web site at:

[www.archives.gov.on.ca](http://www.archives.gov.on.ca)

**Librarians helping Canadian genealogists** climb family trees. Take time to review this site.

<http://canadianlibgenie.blogspot.com>

**Ontario Genealogical Society Provincial Index (OGSPI)** - A hypertext library established in 1997 as a volunteer project to index an unlimited range of genealogical information on Ontario families

<http://www.ogs.on.ca/ogspi/welcome.htm>

**Basic Search Census of Canada 1911** - This site covers all Provinces and Territories.

<http://www.collectionscanada.ca/archivianet/1911/006003-100.01-e.html>

We are planning specific topics for each month and as always if our members could assist us with their help it would be appreciated. You can forward your information to the following, Dan Wertz

at [dam.wertz@comcast.net](mailto:dam.wertz@comcast.net) or Frank McGovern at [mcgovern34@hotmail.com](mailto:mcgovern34@hotmail.com)

Our Schedule for topics for 2006:

April	Digital Photography
May	Germany
June	Maps
July	Sweden, Norway, Denmark & Finland
August	Military
Sept	Russia & former SSR Republics
October	Libraries and other major source locations
November	France
December	Spain, Portugal, South and Central America

# Bringing "Value" to Your Genealogical Society

by *George G. Morgan*

We live in financially difficult times. Many of us have, as a result, made significant changes in our discretionary spending. We have deferred or given up non-essential items and statistics show that charitable contributions top out early in the year. In short, we have all had to become savvy consumers and many of us choose to spend our money on those activities that provide real enjoyment and value to us.

Genealogical society memberships are still a great value for your money. If you belong to a local society, each of your membership meetings is a social and educational opportunity with friends who share your "genealogy addiction." They probably also have additional projects that allow you to participate in indexing, publishing, and/or preserving records. If you belong to national genealogical societies and societies in those areas where you are researching your ancestors, you may be unable to attend the meetings, but you receive their newsletters, journals or magazines, and notices of new publications and news about records becoming accessible or, unfortunately in some cases, being closed to the public for so-called "security reasons." The information allows you to learn and to take appropriate action.

Unfortunately, as our incomes fail to keep pace with inflation and costs, many of us have had to make the difficult choice of whether to continue our memberships in various genealogical societies. Many societies' memberships have declined, particularly those that offer lesser value to their members. In my own local society, of which I am a director, we have been discussing how to add value for our existing members and how to draw new members. In "Along Those Lines . . ." this week, I want to offer some suggestions that your society may consider in order to add more value and make membership more attractive to existing and

potential members.

## **Educational Opportunities**

A primary purpose of a genealogical society is to provide information to its members. This can take a number of forms. Publication of newsletters and periodicals is a valuable way to reach all the society members because each member has a subscription included in the value of his or her dues.

In addition, your society should be sending copies of each publication to local libraries and other libraries in the state with genealogical collections so as to get the word out to other potential members of what your society is doing and what it has to offer. A copy of your publications should be sent to the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana, so that it will be preserved and so that its contents will be indexed in the venerable Periodical Source Index (PERSI). You may also want to develop relationships with other genealogical societies to exchange publications in a "trade-in-kind" arrangement. Their publications become part of your library too.

Presentation of a monthly program is an important part of the society's educational function too. Perhaps not everyone will be interested in research in one particular area, but when solid genealogical research methodologies and tips are presented, everyone benefits from the perspective. And, if you want to get the word out about your monthly meetings, make friends with members of the local press (including the smaller community newspapers), with libraries in your area, and with surrounding genealogy societies and send a letter and/or e-mail at least forty-five days in advance so that they can publicize your society's activities. You are sure to draw interested parties to visit and check out your society.

Your society may also wish to substitute an annual conference or workshop for one of its monthly programs. If your society is small and has a small budget, perhaps you can

have several short lectures by members, invite genealogical vendors to exhibit, have the society sponsor a used book sale table, and serve sandwich lunch boxes prepared by a local delicatessen or grocery store. Charge enough to cover your expenses and add a couple of dollars more to the price, and then get started with publicity. Larger, more established societies may want to engage one or more regionally- or nationally-known speakers for a whole day of presentations, host more vendors, sell books, and give away donated door prizes.

## **Establish Special Interest Groups**

Do you know what your members and visitors really want? Our local society, the Florida Genealogical Society, Inc., in Tampa, has developed a questionnaire to try to find out. We put it on our website ([click here to view](#)) and we will be distributing paper copies at our next several society meetings. We will then compile the information to determine interest levels in various areas. Here are some of the ideas we will consider based on the responses we receive.

- Facilitate an informal roundtable discussion prior to each regular meeting to allow people to discuss their brick walls and successes, share information about research resources, suggest research methodologies to one another, and to discuss any other issues of genealogical interest.

- Establish Special Interest Groups (SIGs) where there is a significant interest level. That might include research in England, Ireland, Scandinavia, Germany, Italy, Eastern Europe, religious research, military research, immigration and/or naturalization, or computer topics. As part of our evaluation of topics, we plan to work with the main library in Tampa where the genealogical and local history collection is located. The library schedules and conducts a number of public genealogy classes. Where we can

# Bringing "Value" to Your Genealogical Society

refer our members to existing classes, we will do so. We will offer to collaborate with the library to develop classes our members and visitors tell us they want or need and either develop the classes together or individually. We also will partner with the library to schedule meeting room space and computer lab facilities if possible. Please note that SIGs do not have to meet in conjunction with the regular society meeting or at a public facility. Many societies' SIGs meet in members' homes.

Develop special educational programs separate from the society's monthly meeting that focus on small groups of members' needs. For example, we already know that a few people in our society are researching ancestors in Missouri. Knowing this, we can research and present a short program specially tailored to that small group.

## Field Trips

I enjoy traveling with other genealogists "in a pack." Field trips to other libraries can be arranged in advance. Your members can carpool or charter a bus or large van, and plan to make a day (or more) of the trip. Our society is planning a joint meeting with the Pinellas Genealogy Society in Largo, Florida, and will then have a tour of the brand-new library and its extensive genealogical society. However, our society board is already discussing field trips to the Orlando Public Library, the Indian River County Public Library in Vero Beach, and the Polk County Public Library in Bartow. Each of these facilities is with three hours' driving distance and we can schedule a tour on arrival and then dig in to research in these libraries' excellent collections.

## Projects Of All Sorts

It's certainly easy to pay your society dues and then sit back and let other people do the work of running the society, but if you're the kind of person who likes to pitch in and have fun, volunteering with your local society can be extremely rewarding. We are

fortunate to have people who are willing to get involved in projects of all sorts that can serve the society and the community at large.

Our local society last year had a group of volunteers working in the main Tampa library's Genealogy and Local History Department to go through the vertical file cabinets of genealogical folders, review the contents, and to create an index that we will publish. During the project, team members discovered original marriage certificates, Bible pages, and other primary documents. They also were thrilled with the sheer amount of historical material they found.

Many societies help preserve original documents by indexing them, photocopying them onto acid-free paper, digitizing them with scanners, and then make the facsimiles available to the public and protecting the originals by storing them.

Other societies get groups together and canvass cemeteries, transcribe monumental or gravestone inscriptions or plaques, and then index and publish a book. This is a way to preserve the data on the markers which may be eroding away, and it can be a fundraising project too.

## Summary

I happen to belong to about twenty societies worldwide, and I find my memberships are very beneficial. We recently had tickets to the road production of the hit Broadway show, *Wicked*, playing here in Tampa. The tickets were \$65.00 apiece. That money could pay for my annual membership dues in three small to medium-size genealogical societies. One night's entertainment or a year's genealogical information? Think about it!

Happy Hunting!

Georg

<http://ahaseminars.com/index.htm>

Upcoming Engagements Include:

February 22, 2006

Englewood Genealogical Society,  
Englewood, FL

March 1, 2006

Volusia County Genealogical Society,  
Daytona Beach, FL

March 11, 2006

Tallahassee Genealogical Society,  
Tallahassee, FL

March 14, 2006

Citrus County Genealogical Society,  
Lecanto, FL

March 21, 2006

South Bay Genealogical Society, Sun  
City Center, Ruskin, FL

March 23, 2006

Muskogee County Genealogical Society  
Meeting, Muskogee, OK

March 24, 2006

Writers' Workshop, Muskogee, OK

March 25, 2006

Muskogee County Genealogical Society  
Conference, Muskogee, OK

April 11, 2006

Brandon Area Historical and Genea-  
logical Society, Brandon, FL

April 22, 2006

Virginia Beach Genealogical Society,  
Virginia Beach, VA

April 27, 2006

The Villages Genealogical Society, The  
Villages, FL

April 28-29, 2006

Ohio Genealogical Society, Toledo, OH

May 26-28, 2006

Ontario Genealogical Society, Oshawa,  
Ontario, Canada

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