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October 21, 2006

The 3 G's: GIS, GPS and Genealogy

by Gerry Czadowski

This program will provide an introduction to GIS (Geographical Information System) and GPS (Global Positioning System) technologies and examine their potential in genealogical research.

September 16, 2006

Building Your Book

by Larry Olson

Writing a family history (or other non-fiction book) need not be an insurmountable task if it's approached in the right way.



Larry will present some of the tips he learned in a seminar given by Dan Poynter, best-selling author of "Writing Nonfiction".

Larry is a native of Minneapolis, of Norwegian and German extraction. He has been doing genealogical research since 1973, and uses The Master Genealogist™ (TMG) software to maintain his family tree information. Larry has held the positions of President, Program Chair, Publicity Chair, and Membership Chair for CAGG-NI.

November 18, 2006

Intro to Digital Photography

by Byron Atkinson

This program will introduce the basics of digital cameras, and highlight some of the differences between high end and more basic cameras. Byron is updating his popular program with the newest information and gear.

December 2, 2006

2007 Program Planning Session

All Members

Help plan the programs and events for the coming year.

All members are invited to share their views and participate in the planning.

Organize Your Library Collection with Ease

By Elaine Beaudoin

Have you ever tried to remember if you own a particular genealogy book or, for that matter, any book, CD recording, video, etc.? Or, if you remember that you own the item, do you remember where you stored it? Or, when you want to cite the item you own in a bibliography or use it as a source citation, wouldn't you love to have it easily available on the computer?

Well, if you answered yes to any of these questions there is a new website just for you – www.LibraryThing.com. LibraryThing is an online service which enables users to catalog their books and most other media very easily. No software is needed and it is free, at least up to a point.

LibraryThing is a cataloging application which searches the Library of Congress, Amazon.com and over 45 worldwide, on-line public catalogs. If you enter the item's ISBN, the full bibliographical citation appears. If you enter the author or title, a whole list of items by the same author or similar title will appear for you to choose from. If you have a unique manuscript, you can add the specific bibliographical information yourself. And, it not only provides author, title, publisher, and year of publication but it also gives you the Dewey and Library of Congress call numbers. So if you really want to give order to your personal library, you can download the call numbers on to labels and adhere them to your book or CD!

Once you log on to the site www.LibraryThing.com all you have to provide is a user name and a password to start entering your collection. If you wish, you can fill out an individual profile and provide personal information, including a photo. But this

is not required. Also, you may choose to make your collection public or private by clicking on "Account Type" and choosing either "public" or "private" access.

One of the things you can do on the site is write a review of your book. If your library is "public" then others can



read your review and see how you rate the book or other media. This can be very helpful to the genealogy community, especially for unique titles. Or, by making your collection "private" you can keep your notes to yourself, not worrying about who is looking at what you own. In either event, once you add titles to your library collection, it is available to you from both your home computer and any other computer that has internet access.

LibraryThing offers several ways to display your information. It has five built-in display styles so you can choose just what information you want

to include in the list or printout. You can also edit these layouts choosing from 25 variations including the date it was acquired, language, Library of Congress subject headings, if you have read the item, your comments about the item, etc. In addition to these standard fields, there is also a "Tag" field that allows you to include words or phrases that are particularly meaningful to you. For example, you could use it to record where the item is stored, books you would like to purchase, books you have loaned, etc.

Once you have populated your catalog, you can export it to a spreadsheet, database, or just print out the pages for your off-line reference.

One other aspect of LibraryThing is very interesting. The information on the website states: "LibraryThing is also an amazing social space, often described as 'MySpace for books'. You can check out other people's libraries, see who has the most similar library to yours, and swap reading suggestions." When I looked to see who had some of the same titles as I did, I learned that the American Irish Heritage Center in Chicago did. This reminded me that I need to visit their library one of these days!

A free account allows you to catalog up to 200 books or other items. A paid account allows you to catalog any number of books or items. A paid personal account cost \$10 for a year or \$25 for a lifetime. After using the site for one day, I think I'll become a Lifetime member.

If you ever wanted to get all your genealogy books organized, or if you are really ambitious and wanted to catalog ALL of your books and media, then LibraryThing is a site that is worth looking into.

Links Around the World

*Frank McGovern, Columnist**

Dan Wertz, Columnist

This month we explore military websites that may be of interest to the genealogist.

Commonwealth War Grave Commission: This site includes burial records from many sources. Established by Royal Charter in 1917, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission pays tribute to 1.7 million men and women who died in the two world wars. It is a non-profit-making organization that was founded by Sir Fabian Ware. After the Second World War, a record of the civilian war dead was also established.

<http://www.cwgc.org>

National Gravesite Locator: This website includes information from many sources.

<http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov>

National German Military Grave Registration Service: (this site is in German)

A database of more than two million names of missing and dead German soldiers from both World Wars.

Notes for searching: Nachname=surname; Vorname=first name; supplying a DOB or DOD is optional. Click on "Suche beginnen" to start your search. On the registration form, the following items are required. Vorname (first name), Nachname (last name), StraBe/Nr. (Street & Number). Land/piz/Ort (Country/Postal or Zip Code/City). hen click on "Zur Ergebniseite" to continue. On the next screen click "Suchanfrage ausfuehren."

http://www.volksbund.de/graebersuche/content_suche.asp

World War 2 Indexes & Records: Records by state, Draft registration cards index and Death index arranged alphabetically by state. (Requires payment)

<http://www.militaryindexes.com/worldwartwo>

World War 1 Indexes & Records: Records by state, Draft registration cards index and Death index arranged alphabetically by state. (Requires payment)

<http://www.militaryindexes.com/worldwarone/index.html>

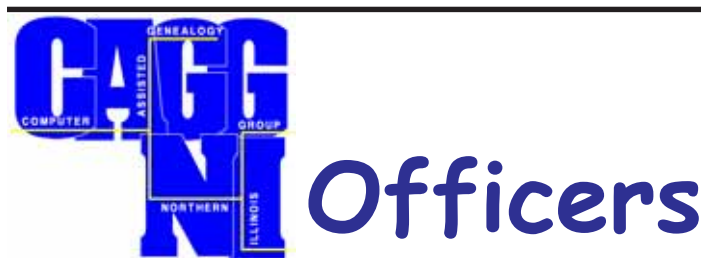
Civil War Indexes, Records & Rosters: Civil War Muster Rolls, Civil War Pension Index-Union, and National Graves Registration Database. SPECIALIZED INDEXES: Jewish-American Veterans. (Union & Confederate), Norwegians in the Civil War Database. (requires payment)

<http://www.militaryindexes.com/civilwar/index.html>

War of 1812 Indexes & Records: War of 1812 Land Bounty Warrants, Muster rolls. Data bases for the following states, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Vermont and Virginia.

<http://www.militaryindexes.com/warof1812/index.html>

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Links Around the World (Continued)

Australian Military Records: Excellent sit for Aussie records form the Bore War, Korean War, Vietnam Involvement, WW1 and WW2. History of the Victoria Cross and the ninety six Australian winners.

www.ballaratgenealogy.org.au

Illinois Civil War Muster and Descriptive Rolls and Database: An index compiled by Fred Delap in cooperation with the Illinois State Archives.

<http://www.ilsos.gov/genealogy>

Revolutionary War Indexes and Records: Hessian soldiers of the Revolutionary War, List of prisoners on the Old Jersey Prison Ship, bounty land grants, Pension Indexes and DAR Lineage Books.

<http://www.militaryindexes.com/revolutionarywar/index.html>

British Military Information: British military records can be found in the PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, KEW, SURREY, UK also check

www.pro.gov.uk

American Battle Monuments Commission: The Commission maintains a listing of those interred at the American military cemeteries overseas and those MIA's from WW1, WW2, Korea and Vietnam.

www.operations@abmc.gov

POW Research Network Japan: A list of Dutch, American and Commonwealth POW's

<http://homepage3.nifty.com/pow-j/e/list>

Military History Institute (MHI) Photograph Civil War Database: This database is a catalog of photographs from the Special Collections Branch of USAMHL. Ultimately this database will reflect the full range of photographs from the Mexican War in the 1840's to the present day.

<http://carlisle-www.army.mil/usamhi/photodb.html>

Request Military Records: Military information for you or next of kin on line from the National Archives

<http://www.archives.gov/veterans/evetrecs/index.html?template=print>

War Times Journal: Historical military eyewitnesses accounts, Orders, Dispatches, Correspondences letters of instructions and commentaries from Napoleon Bonaparte, Admiral Horatio Nelson, The Duke of Wellington and American Civil War Navies.

<http://wtj.com/archives>

Branches of US Military Websites:

U.S. Army:

<http://www.army.mil/cmh-pg>

U.S. Air Force:

<http://www.airforce.com>

U.S. Coast Guard:

<http://www.uscg.mil>

U.S. Marine Corps:

<http://www.usmc.mil>

U.S. Navy

<http://www.navy.mil>

October's column will feature Russia and the former SSR Republics. We encourage members to participate in, "LINKS AROUND the WORLD" by contributing sights that they found informative in their research.

Forward information to Dan Wertz at dan.wertz@comcast.net or Frank McGovern at mcgovern34@hotmail.com



Newspaper Research

By Anne Jacobs

Jerry Kattke, a local genealogy buff, gave a presentation on Researching Newspapers at a local genealogy group last week. He had an interesting approach to finding newspapers which I thought I would pass on.

One of the problems in finding genealogy items in newspapers is finding out what publications are available for the timeframe. There are at least two resources which Jerry mentioned can be helpful. They are the Newspaper Archives web site and FirstSearch, which many of us have used before.

First, although this was not covered in the presentation, I hunted around the Newspaper Archive site and found something interesting for those of you who can read/speak another language. This is a great resource for foreign newspaper websites. Go to the home page of this site: <http://www.newspaperarchive.com/>

The “hidden” resource is found by following this link at the left of the screen “Newspaper Websites”. These are current newspapers, not necessarily for genealogy research unless you currently have relatives overseas. Some of the sites may have archives which extend back to dates of interest to you. However, that is not what I found of interest. I have not been able to trace my line to current day foreign locations. I found these interesting for the “flavor” of the area and a possible source of historical content, such as anniversary issues of newspapers in this country.

From the map page which displays next, you can click on a portion of the map to drill down to the area of the world you are interested in or select an entry from the “Select a Country” list. This may take a couple of clicks



depending on the area of the world. From here, click on the newspaper which interests you and then you are on your own. Every web site will be different as far as what they provide. Some may require a subscription or a logon and others may be fully open and viewed from front to back. Another feature of some newspaper sites is podcasts.

Note, there is a statement at the top of the article which states that your local library can obtain this resource FREE. I called a local library immediately and have heard that they are exploring this resource. They have filled out the paperwork and submitted it. They are waiting to see if there is a catch or if it is actually free. You might want to do the same with your library. Free certainly would be the right price.

Now back to my first reason for writing this article which was finding newspapers using FirstSearch. Programs and articles have been written in the past about this resource which can be found on the CAGG-NI web site. More detailed articles abound on the Internet including on the OCLC (Online Computer Library Center) site: <http://www.oclc.org/firstsearch/>

When Jerry discovered this facility, he decided to learn how to use it effectively. There are many other ways to use it but the one we focused on was newspapers in an area of the country. He discovered that he could get a list of local newspapers by using the “Publisher’s Location” keyword search. This is accomplished by signing into FirstSearch which you can do by getting your local library’s authorization code and password. After logging in, click on “WorldCat”, click on “Advanced Search” and you are ready to enter your search criteria. Because we want to search only for newspapers, click on the selection “Serial Publications” limiting the search further. Now enter your state of interest in the first criteria slot and select “Publisher Location” from the Keyword list, enter the town of interest in the second criteria slot and select “Publisher Location” from the Keyword list. Now, click on “Search”. My search criterion was “Pennsylvania” and “York” which resulted in 404 publications with 314 of them in English. By adding a time frame to the search (1800-1850), this result was reduced to 98 with 73 of them in English.

The returned page also tells you how many libraries own the item. From this you can print out the page and take it to your librarian requesting that they order it via Inter Library Loan (ILL).

Click on one of the selections. This page gives you detailed information about the publication. One section I found interesting was the Other Titles, Preceding Title and Succeeding Title entries. This shows you what other titles you should look for.

You still have to order the film and crank that microfilm but at least now you know what is available. I hope you find this as interesting and helpful as I did.

Other Group Events *compiled by Beverly Levine Smallwood*

14 SEP 2006 - NAPERVILLE
Deanna Spignola - How to Cite Sources
Fox Valley Genealogical Society
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~ilfvgs/index.htm>

19 SEP 2006 - ARLINGTON HEIGHTS
MARIAN RICHTER SCHUETZ
Immigration - It Wasn't a Cruise Ship
Northwest Suburban Council of Genealogists
<http://www.mtprospect.org/nsgs/>

20 SEP 2006 - WHEATON
KATHRYN BARRETT
WPA Records and History
DuPage County Genealogical Society
<http://www.dcg.org/>

24 SEP 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>

28 SEP 2006 - DARIEN
DR. GARY HARGIS
Illinois State Genealogical Society
Indian Prairie Public Library - Genealogy Group
http://www.indianprairie.lib.il.us/genealogy_group.htm

28 SEP 2006 - GENEVA
PEGGY TUCK SINKO
**Atlas of Historical County
Boundaries Project**
Kane County Genealogical Society
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~ilkcgs/>

7 OCT 2006 - CHICAGO
Christinal Reyman - Belgians in Chicago
Chicago Genealogical Society
<http://www.chgogs.org/>

9 OCT 2006 - MUNDELEIN
SARAH KIRBY
Genealogist's Introduction to WorldCat
Lake County Genealogical Society
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~illcgs/meetings.htm>

10 OCT 2006 - SCHAUMBURG
Beverly Levine Smallwood
**Using Bygones to Organize Your Family
History Research**
Contact Tony Kierna at 847-923-3400
<http://www.stdl.org/>

14 OCT 2006 - SCHAUMBURG
The Master Genealogist (TMG) User Group
CAGG-NI TMG Special Interest Group
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~ilcaggni/>

14 OCT 2006 - GLENVIEW
CRAIG PFANNKUCHE
Dealing with Skeletons in One's Family Tree
North Suburban Genealogical Society
<http://www.wpld.alibrary.com/nsgs.asp>

14 OCT 2006 - HAZEL CREST
Grace Dumelle - Chicago 101
South Suburban Genealogical & Historical Society
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~ssgsh/>

17 OCT 2006 - ARLINGTON HEIGHTS
LINDA HERRICK
Old German Script Can Be Read
Northwest Suburban Council of Genealogists
<http://www.mtprospect.org/nsgs/>

18 OCT 2006 - WHEATON
KATHY PARK
**Finding Your Ancestors
When They Are Hiding**
DuPage County Genealogical Society
<http://www.dcg.org/>

19 OCT 2006 - ELGIN
**Craig Pfannkuche - Outlaws and In-Laws:
How to deal with family lore and legend**
Elgin Genealogical Society
<http://www.elginarea.org/egs/>

21 OCT 2006 - SCHAUMBURG
Gerry Czadowski
The 3 G's: GIS, GPS, and Genealogy
CAGG-NI
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~ilcaggni/>

22 OCT 2006 - SKOKIE
Jeffrey N. Bassett - Genetic Genealogy
Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois
<http://www.jewishgen.org/jgsi/index.htm>

Other Group Events

compiled by Beverly Levine Smallwood

26 OCT 2006 - DARIEN

Newsletters on the Web

Indian Prairie Public Library - Genealogy Group
http://www.indianprairie.lib.il.us/genealogy_group.htm

26 OCT 2006 - GENEVA

Becky Higgins - Organizing Your Genealogy

Kane County Genealogical Society
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~ilkcgs/>

29 OCT 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>

4 NOV 2006 - GRAYSLAKE

Annual Workshop

Records from Far and Near
Lake County Genealogical Society
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~illcgs/meetings.htm>

16 DEC 2006 - CHICAGO

GEORGE RYSKAMP

Finding Your Hispanic Roots

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

24 FEB 2007 - ST. CHARLES

Annual Conference

DuPage County Genealogical Society
<http://www.dcps.org/>

16-17 MAR 2007 - BYU CONFERENCE CENTER

Computerized Genealogy Conference

BYU Conferences and Workshops
<http://ce.byu.edu/cw/cwgeneral/>

13-14 APR 2007 - OCONOMOWOC

MEGAN SMOLENYAK SMOLENYAK

Gene-A-Rama 2007

Wisconsin State Genealogical Society
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~wsgs/>

21 APR 2007

PAULA STUART WARREN

33rd Annual Conference

Rock Island County Genealogical Society
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~ilbgsrim/>

28 APR 2007 - FT. WAYNE

Annual Meeting & Conference

Allen County Public Library
Indiana Genealogical Society
<http://www.indgensoc.org/conference.html>

16-19 MAY 2007 - RICHMOND, VA

29th NGS Conference in the States

National Genealogical Society
<http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/>

15-18 AUG 2007 - FT. WAYNE

FGS and

Allen County Public Library Conference

Federation of Genealogical Societies
<http://www.fgs.org/2007conf/FGS-2007.htm>

Special Events

30 SEP 2006 - NAPERVILLE

SANDRA HARGREAVES LUEBKING

Journey Into Genealogy

Fox Valley Genealogical Society
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~ilfvgs/index.htm>

6-7 OCT 2006 - MARSHALLTOWN, IA

Research in the Old Northwest Territory

DAVID McDONALD & JANA SLOAN BROGLIN
Iowa Genealogical Society
<http://www.iowagenealogy.org>

14 OCT 2006 - ITASCA

ISGS Fall Conference

Footsteps to the Past: Making Tracks Through Research

Illinois State Genealogical Society
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~ilsgs/fallconf/2006falconf.html>

14 OCT 2006 - FOND DU LAC

PAULA STUART-WARREN

A Workshop for Beginning Genealogists

Wisconsin State Genealogical Society
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~wsgs/>