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Saturday, 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.

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.

Proposed By-Law Changes

Proposed Changes to Bylaws to be voted on in November

Changes to the CAGG-NI Bylaws are being proposed by the Executive Committee. These changes require a vote of the majority of the members present at a regular or special meeting. The Annual Business meeting, to be held on Saturday, November 18, 2006 at Schaumburg Township District Library at 10:30 A.M., is when this vote will be taken.

The newsletter is sent to all members, and fulfills the required official notification to the membership.

Change No. 1

Background:

The Schaumburg Township District Library does not open until 10:00 A.M. on Saturday mornings and it is not practical to hold Executive Committee meetings prior to the General Monthly Meeting. This change allows greater flexibility in the scheduling of Executive Committee meeting while preserving the notification and transparency of these meetings.

Current Bylaws:

ARTICLE IV. MEETINGS

SECTION I. The Executive Committee Meetings shall be held as often as required but no less than once per year. The meetings, if held during any given month, will be open to general membership. The place and time of the meeting(s) will generally be one (1) hour prior to the regularly scheduled General Monthly Meeting. Meetings may be held at other locations and times at the discretion of the presiding president. Notice of these meetings is available upon request.

ARTICLE IV. MEETINGS

SECTION I. The Executive Committee Meetings shall be held as often as required but no less than once per year. The purpose, place and time of the Executive Committee Meetings will be included in the required notice sent to every Executive Committee Member at least 14 days prior to the proposed meeting. Meetings shall be held at a convenient time and location for the majority of the Executive Committee. Notice of all Executive Committee Meetings shall be available to the general membership by publication in the newsletter and/or the web site. The meetings will be open to the general membership.

Change No. 2

Background:

The Executive Committee and the General Membership voted at its August 2005 General Meeting to introduce a prorated dues structure for the 2006 membership year with the expectation that membership would increase in the later quarters of the year. The experience in 2006 has demonstrated that the prorated rate

structure has had little or no effect on the recruitment of new members. Therefore, the Executive Committee recommends a return to the former policy that includes a proration for the last quarter.

The revision to the former policy was never published. The former policy is as follows:

Article II. Membership

Section B, 1. New members shall pay full annual dues regardless of when they join, receiving all current year newsletters as a membership benefit, except as stated below.

Section B, 2. A new member joining during the last quarter of the year, may pay prorated dues for the remaining portion of the year as well as the next year's dues and immediately receive all the benefits of membership.

Section B, 3. A new member paying dues during the last quarter of the year may state that it will apply to the coming year's membership. Membership benefits and privileges will commence when the paid period begins.

Newberry Receives Valuable Polish-American Records

The news release from August 23rd may be read in full here: <http://www.newberry.org/media/PWAA2006.html>.

The Polish Women's Alliance of America (PWAA) donated its early insurance files to the Newberry Library. These are sure to be a rich source for family history information. The PWAA insurance files typically contain the insured's place of birth and her parents' names.

The library will have to spend some time cataloging, organizing and indexing these records. They expect to make them available in the winter of 2006. Call ahead to see whether, when, and how you may utilize this collection at (312) 255-3512 or genealogy@newberry.org.

Proposed Change:

by *Beverly Levine Smallwood*

WeRelate is a web search engine that focuses on genealogy web pages and a wiki for genealogy. They are sponsored by the Foundation for On-Line Genealogy, Inc. (FOLG), a non-profit (501c3) organization – funded solely by tax deductible donations.

A visit to the FOLG's website lays out their mission statement, activities and values. They are a non-profit Utah corporation working to make family history research easier, faster, and more rewarding. They are working to provide a comprehensive index to genealogical information, on and off line, free to the public. They also want to provide a community environment where people can share their knowledge and data. They want to help archives and genealogical organizations put data online.

These are lofty ideals and echo closely with those spoken at the NGS conference by representatives of the LDS. I don't know how, or if, these organizations are related, though they seem to have the same mission.

WeRelate is built as a wiki which allows anyone to create and edit pages – without having to learn HTML. They have two types of pages you may edit. First, you and others may add and edit articles about how to do genealogy. This collaborative approach has worked very well for Wikipedia. Dick Eastman began a wiki Encyclopedia of Genealogy at <http://www.eogen.com/> some time ago.

Second, you may create a home page or a personal research page that only you may edit. This is where you can put your research interests and surnames. These will make their way into the search results within a day. A sample page can be viewed here: <http://www.werelate.org/wiki/User:Gendo>. On the home page the user give a brief introduction to his/her research experience. To the side are links to personal research pages created by this user containing research data. This data looks like a formatted query. The user has a paragraph listing the ancestors of interest and their migration pattern. On the right side are tables with the related surnames, places, and range of years.

On WeRelates's main page, http://www.werelate.org/wiki/Main_Page, you may conduct a search of some six million web pages. I did a search for "cedarleaf", a somewhat rare surname. It came back with 6 hits. Four were collections listings from three universities, one was an entry on a rootsweb index of newspaper obits, and one was from a page on a historical society website. Should a researcher create personal pages with this surname that would also show in the search results. A search for this name on google brings back many false hits because cedarleaf oil is an ingredient in many concoctions.

You may refine your search at the bottom of the results page. My search for "Baldwin" brought 35,000 hits.

Adding "Gettysburg" to this brought the results down to 793. Adding "Monfort", an allied family, brings the total hits down to a manageable dozen, including the sample WeRelate personal research page referenced above.

Clicking on "Search Help" brings up a very detailed tutorial on how to find just what you want. Clicking on "Advanced Search" allows you to do more detailed searches from the start.

Searching for a place name brought results of genealogies containing that place, the entries in the Family History Library Catalog, and websites with research volunteers for that place.

I'll be keeping an eye on this site for future developments.



President	Harve Mankopf waterlooboogaloo@yahoo.com
Vice President	Everett Butler butler.el@gmail.com
Treasurer	Christine Clark cclark60646@yahoo.com
Secretary	Gerry Czadowski GerryCzadowski@Covad.net
Membership Database	Ralph Beaudoin beaudoin1913@aol.com
Promotion	Dan Wertz Wertz.mail@comcast.net
Publicity	Frank McGovern mcgovern342003@yahoo.com
Fund Raising Coordinator	Anne Jacobs
Newsletter Editor	Jim Cottrell Jim@JCottrell.com
Webmaster	Beverly Levine Smallwood caggni_bev@yahoo.com
Newsletter Circulation	Barbara Coughlin sherlock2000@prodigy.net
Archivist	Elaine Beaudoin watson5855@aol.com
Refreshments	Chris Herrmann ucherm@yahoo.com

September Meeting Notes

Building Your Book

Presented by Larry Olson

By Gerard Czadowski

Larry's professional career as a forensic document examiner led him to develop an interest in the Leopold and Loeb case — the 1920s "crime of the century" — in which document comparisons between the ransom note and notes from Leopold's law school study group were tied to the same typewriter. His fascination with the role of document examination in this case spurred him to present a talk on the subject at a professional symposia and ultimately left him with a desire to write a book. (More information on this case can be found at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law web site.)

In support of pursuing the book project he attended a seminar offered through the Discovery Center titled "Everything You Need to Know About Writing, Producing & Promoting Your Book" by Dan Poynter, and accomplished author of many books. Although the methodology presented in this seminar was targeted to authors of commercially-viable fiction and non-fiction which needs to appeal to a broad audience, Larry could see the benefits of using the approach in writing projects which are geared toward a much smaller and more select audience such as a genealogy book or article.

1. Book Idea

- o Exciting
- o Keeps you interested
- o Not a chore

2. Does It Qualify?

- o Interesting to you
- o Personal expertise/experiences
- o Interesting to others
- o Focused subject
- o Market easy to reach (market size)

3. Research

- o Check for other books on subject
- o Check availability of the

potential title

- o Get a model book (design/layout/price)

4. Working Title

- o Keyword(s) - 3-5 words (specific, familiar, short)
- o Be more descriptive in subtitle
- o Test possible titles
- o Select "work in progress" title

5. Cover Copy (back cover copy sells the book)

- o Category of subject
- o Unique title
- o Descriptor paragraph
- o Why you should buy (read) it
- o Testimonials
- o Author's bio

6. Binder Set Up

- o Binder is your book writing template
- o Best to use a 3 ring view style (view binders have clear slip pockets for inserting front and back covers and spine) - Inside cover pockets are also useful
- o Use index dividers to separate sections (forward, chapters, etc) of book

7. Divide Materials (determine what you have 8-10 "term papers", magazine articles or a book?)

- o Rough outline
- o Divide into chapters/piles
- o Gather more content

8. Decisions

- o Sole or collaborative authorship?
- o Keyboard or dictate?
- o Genealogy software or word processor?

9. First Draft (rough draft)

- o Begin writing - Start with the shortest, easiest and most fun chapters
- o Draft all chapters before going back to edit - Set some deadlines
- o Get what you have into the binder
- o Begin to consider page layout (pictures, hyperlinks and

colors)

10. Second Draft (content edit)

- o Additional research and fill in the gaps
- o Gather quotations and stories
- o Draft question list and start getting answers
- o Draft an illustration list: locate and collect photos, drawings, maps and documents and begin scanning them

11. Third Draft (peer review)

- o Send out chapters for feedback
- o Use at least 4 experts (family members, genealogists, local genealogy societies)
- o Payment for review (acknowledgment in book and autographed copy of finished publication)

12. Testimonials (for the back cover, page one, forward, etc.)

- o Source of feedback with corrections and possible additional materials

13. Fourth Draft (copy edit)

- o Clean up punctuation, grammar and style
- o For review choose a professional writer or English expert

14. Fact Checking (When to stop writing? 95% complete/100% accurate; there's always a market for a supplement)

- o Confirm stories and facts
- o Confirm addresses and figures

15. Another Decision

- o Sell to publisher or self publish?
- o Journal publication?
- o Print and photocopy or professional printing?
- o Helps to have a selected layout at the start

16. Success! (You are published)

- o Celebrate
- o Start next book

17. Promotion/Distribution (see Dan Poynter's The Self-Publishing Manual)

Continued on page 5

Notes

- o Send out review copies (Family History Library, Library of Congress, local genealogical and historical societies, local libraries)
- o host autograph parties
- o give radio/TV interviews
- o Speak on subject at genealogical societies
- o Advertise in genealogical magazines/newsletters

Additional useful information and resources to help you produce and distribute your book can be found at Dan Poynter's web site at <http://www.parapublishing.com/>. Dan provides several free downloadable guides to assist you in your book project, these can be found at <http://www.parapublishing.com/sites/para/resources/freedocs.cfm>.

Movies to DVD

Two posts by Steve Bass in his Tips & Tweaks column for PCWorld Magazine may be of interest to those wishing to digitize their movies.

Easy Transfer From VHS to DVD
<http://blogs.pcworld.com/tipsandtweaks/archives/002641.html>

A Better Way: VHS to DVD <http://blogs.pcworld.com/tipsandtweaks/archives/002688.html>

Both articles contain links to more information and don't overlook the comments section. Many times that nugget of gold is contributed by a reader.

Also at PCWorld, Richard Baguley wrote "Making Movies: From VHS to DVD" http://www.pcworld.com/article/id,125517/article.html?tk=nl_sbxcol and Dave Johnson gives us "Digital Focus: Convert VHS Tapes to DVDs" http://www.pcworld.com/article/id,97624/article.html?tk=nl_sbxcol

Google News Archive

Google is at it again. They added a news archive search to provide an easy way to search and explore historical archives. It can even create timelines to show selected results from relevant time periods.

It brings up results in both subscription and free sites – though in this category, they are mostly by subscription. My search for "Huntington" brought results from ProQuest Washington Post articles, the U.S. Supreme Court (via Fastcase), the New York Times, the Boston Globe (via NewsBank), and the Cincinnati Enquirer. Others have reported results that included Civil War Service Records and World War I Draft Cards (via Ancestry.com).

One of the more intriguing sites they've indexed is NewspaperArchive.com <http://www.newspaperarchive.com>, which claims to have over 47 million newspaper pages online. Their subscription rates seem reasonable. Clicking on "Browse Available Papers" will give you an idea about their coverage. Some papers they seem to have a page here and there. Other papers have fairly full coverage for a wide range of years.

Google may be a good starting point for newspaper and periodical searches, though common names or names that have other meanings like "Carpenter" will present their usual problems. NewspaperArchive.com may warrant a future article/review. Volunteers?

Massachusetts Death Index Online 1841-1910

Discovered via Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2006/09/massachusetts_d.html the Massachusetts Archives created an online index of deaths 1841-1910. The index is free, but you must send to the Archives to purchase a copy of the original record.

Please read Eastman's brief description of the index and its uses then head over to <http://www.sec.state.ma.us/vitalrecordssearch/VitalRecordsSearch.aspx> to begin searching.

Vital Records Databases

Online vital records indexes are cropping up all over the internet. The Newberry Library has some of them listed here: <http://www.newberry.org/genealogy/databases.html>

Guide to Chicago Church and Synagogue Records

Another helpful guide posted by the Newberry is their guide to Chicago Church and Synagogue Records <http://www.newberry.org/genealogy/churchcontents.html>. The intent is to help researchers location records, histories, and repositories. In some cases you'll find the church or synagogue referenced specifically. In other cases, you'll learn where to direct your search for records. They've included call numbers and descriptions for items in the Newberry collections as well as film number for records filmed by the Family History Library, which can be ordered from Salt Lake City.

Articles on this page
were submitted by
Beverly Levine Smallwood

Other Group Events *compiled by Beverly Levine Smallwood*

10/22/2006 - SKOKIE

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

10/26/2006 - DARIEN

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

10/26/2006 - GENEVA

Becky Higgins - Organizing Your Genealogy
Kane County Genealogical Society
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~ilkcgs/>

10/29/2006 - 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>

11/4/2006 - CHICAGO

GRACE HORNER
Preparing to do Library Research
Chicago Genealogical Society
<http://www.chgogs.org/>

11/4/2006 - GRAYSLAKE

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

11/9/2006 - NAPERVILLE

MARGE RICE
Faces From the Past - Old Family Photos
Fox Valley Genealogical Society
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~ilfvgs>

11/11/2006 - SCHAUMBURG

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

11/11/2006 - SCHAUMBURG

LINDA FORTUNATO-DAVENPORT
POINTers in Person (PIP)
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~itappcnc/>

11/11/2006 - HAZEL CREST

Paul Valasek - Polish Ancestry WWI
South Suburban Genealogical & Historical Society
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~ssghs/>

11/14/2006 - ARLINGTON HEIGHTS

George Valko - Beginning Genetic Genealogy
Northwest Suburban Council of Genealogists
<http://www.mtprospect.org/nsgs/>

11/14/2006 - SCHAUMBURG

GRACE DUMELLE
**Finding Your Chicago Ancestors:
A Beginners Guide to Family History in the
City of Chicago**
STDL Genealogy Group
Contact Tony Kierna at 847-923-3401
<http://www.stdl.org/>

11/15/2006 - WHEATON

MARIAN RICHTER SCHUETZ
"A Day in the Park": Cemeteries
DuPage County Genealogical Society
<http://www.dcgsg.org/>

11/16/2006 - DARIEN

Helping Each Other Solve Our Problems
Indian Prairie Public Library - Genealogy Group
http://www.indianprairie.lib.il.us/genealogy_group.htm

11/18/2006 - RICHMOND, IL

Paul Milner - Quarter Sessions
BIGWILL - British Interest Group of Wisconsin and Illinois
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~wiilbig/meet.htm>

11/19/2006 - SKOKIE

ROB PACKER
The Forgotten Synagogues of Chicago
Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois
<http://www.jewishgen.org/jgsi/index.htm>

11/26/2006 - 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>

Special Events

2/24/2007 - ST. CHARLES
Annual Conference

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

3/16-17/2007 - BYU CONFERENCE CENTER
Computerized Genealogy Conference
BYU Conferences and Workshops
<http://ce.byu.edu/cw/cwgeneal/>

4/13-14/2007 - OCONOMOWOC
MEGAN SMOLENYAK SMOLENYAK
Gene-A-Rama 2007

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

4/21/2007 - MOLINE
PAULA STUART WARREN

33rd Annual Conference
Rock Island County Genealogical Society
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~ilbgsrim/>

4/28/2007 - FT. WAYNE
Annual Meeting & Conference
Allen County Public Library
Indiana Genealogical Society
<http://www.indgensoc.org/conference.html>

5/16-19/2007 - RICHMOND, VA
29th NGS Conference in the States
National Genealogical Society
<http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/>

8/15-18/2007 - FT. WAYNE
**FGS and Allen County
Public Library Conference**
Federation of Genealogical Societies
<http://www.fgs.org/2007conf/FGS-2007.htm>

Genealogy On-Line Conference and Open House

In honor of Family History Month, GenealogyForum.org is hosting an online conference from October 1st through 31st between the hours of 8 and 11 p.m. EST. Information may be found here:
<http://www.genealogyforum.org/OH2006/index.php>

The conference appears to be taking place in chat rooms and a schedule is posted, though subject to change.

This website is apparently a spin off of a genealogy forum that was on AOL. If anyone has experience with this site or attends some of this conference, please let us know more about it.

Genealogy Programs

Arlington Heights Memorial Library
Saturday, November 4, 2006

Genealogy Sources you may not have tried...

In genealogy research, you can't always find the exact record you want. What do you do? These programs will show you how to look at other sources that may contain the exact information you need.

9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Jeffrey A. Bockman, local genealogy lecturer and writer, will present "No Birth Certificate? No Problem!" He will show the wide variety of primary and secondary sources to determine when a person was born and who the parents were if a birth certificate is not available or can't be found.

10:45 – 11:45 a.m.

Maureen Brady will talk about the **Family History Library** and will demonstrate how to use its computer catalog to determine if any records have been microfilmed in the area of research. The Arlington Heights Memorial Library is a designated branch of the Family History Library and patrons can order microfilm from its vast collection to help with their family history research.

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Michael Mulholland Local History/Genealogy Librarian will discuss the variety of sources he used in his own genealogy research.

Question and Answer session will follow all programs. Please register by calling 847 392-0100

TMG Focus Groups Revisited

By Anne Jacobs

In May of this year the topic for The Master Genealogist (TMG) special interest group was Focus Groups. This TMG feature allows you to filter your entire database. Focus Groups can assist you in keeping track of various projects you have engaged in and, instead of having to “remember” where you were or setting a flag to keep track of your database refinement/cleanup, you can use the filtering concept of Focus Groups to keep track. (Please refer to the July article to review the use of this tool.) After the presentation and article, a couple of additional points have been realized.

The first item is after you have updated your focus group by removing individuals you have worked on, it is necessary to resave (Export) your focus group by overwriting the new list to the old focus group name. If you rarely use or never change from the current focus group, this step is not necessary. However, as you become familiar with this tool and use it more often, this is a crucial step. Once you change from one focus group to another and later

return to the first, the last exported list is reloaded. If you did not resave the list after removing names, you will be working with the “old” list and you end up retracing your steps. You will find you are redoing work already completed, wondering why these people are still in the list.

The second realization is that you should decide if you want all names for an individual included in the focus group or only the primary name. The difference can be dramatic. One of my focus groups contains 499 names when including all names for the individuals. By requesting only primary names, this list is reduced to 172 names. This represents the same amount of work,

however, 172 certainly seems like a more workable project!

Limiting the list of names to primary only is available at the bottom of the filter screens. Choices include: Primary only, Non-primary and Both. There are some projects which you would want the non-primary names also. However, I use the details section of the screen instead of the focus group list to view the non-primary names.

If you haven't tried Focus Groups before, this is a very powerful tool available in The Master Genealogist software and I recommend that you try it out.



Changing Screen Font Size on the Fly

by Anne Jacobs

I was reminded by one of our hardest workers, Frank McGovern, of a simple method to adjust the size of Internet web sites and document type. It is so simple, it bears repeating.

To change the display size, all you need is the CTRL key and a wheel on your mouse. Hold down the CTRL key and move the wheel. Is the font getting smaller? Wrong way, for most of us. Move it the other way. Is the font getting bigger? Great! How simple

and yet how useful!

It does not always work. For instance, PDFs are “cast in concrete” and do not respond to this trick. (There is a % tool available to change the side of PDF displays in the PDF window.) What is happening is the size of the display is changing and not the actual document. You will see that the actual font size stays the same, just the magnification percent changes. At any rate, when you can't read something, it is worth a try.

