

Jackson County Genealogical Society

NEWSLETTER

Number 2

November - December 2004

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Jackson County Genealogical Society

ESTABLISHED 1977

Mailing address: c/o Jackson District Library 244 W. Michigan Ave. Jackson, MI 49201-2275

President: Steve Shiley Vice-President: Rich Cottrell Secretary: Rosalee G. Griewahn Treasurer: Liz Neef

Delegate MGC: Liz Neef Lexicon Editor: Dianne Jonas Newsletter: H. Elaine England Research: Doris Littebrant Special Projects: Judy Moulton Web Master: Steve Shiley

The Society Web Page: http://www.rootsworld.com/~mijackso/jcgs.htm

DUES: \$15.00 a year per member or per family at a single address \$20.00 International DUE IN SEPTEMBER

The Jackson County Genealogical Society is incorporated and is registered as a non-profit organization in the State of Michigan with tax exempt status under Section 501 (c) (3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code

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MEETING SCHEDULE

NOTE NEW MEETING PLACE

Our meetings will be held at Vista Grande Villa, 2251 Springport Rd, Jackson, MI unless otherwise noted.

We are back on the first Tuesday of the month.

2 November 2004

Remember to vote first

Napoleon Township History, Merrills Maruaders, Civil War

by Wayne Russler

No Cookies, cider and doughnuts supplied by society

Please wear your name tag

7 December 2004

Grey Lady Down, the history of Betty's grandfather and father in WWI and WWII

By Betty Klavieter

A-L bring 1/2 dozen cookies

Please wear your name tag

4 January 2005

Computer Internet Research, Part II, specific case study searches. by Steve Shiley and Dianne Jonas

2 February 2005

Wednesday at 6:30

Tour the Carnegie Library with presentation on available resources by Debby Sears

Also computer lab

by Steve Shiley

Library closes at 8:30

1 March 2005

5 April 2005

3 May 2005

Board Meetings

16 November 2004

21 December 2004

18 January 2005

15 February 2005

15 March 2005

19 April 2005

17 May 2005

The third Tuesday of the month

All our Regular Meetings take place at Vista Grande Villa, 2251 Springport Road, Jackson, MI unless otherwise announced. We meet at 7 P.M. Guests are always welcome.

Board Meetings are held at the societies library in the Blake Building, 180 W. Michigan Ave., Suite 202, Jackson, MI at 6:30 P.M. All members are welcome and are encouraged to attend.

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I am NOT illiterate! My parents WERE SO MARRIED!!

**DUES**

If you have not paid your membership dues for 2004-2005, please do so now. They are past due. If you have paid your dues, please disregard this notice. :-)

**COMPUTER CLASSES**

Learning the internet at the Jackson District Library, main branch. The JAPCUG Internet Special Interest Group meets on the first Wednesday of the month. Winter hours 6:00 to closing. Summer 5:30 to closing.

**JCGS LIBRARY**

Our hours are 1 to 5 on Tuesday and 10 to 4 on Saturday. We need more volunteers if we want to be open other times. If you are interested contact Rosalee Griewahn 517-789-7343.

**VETERAN RECORDS**

Buried veterans records now on Web. Washington (AP) — Sally Naporlee turned to the Department of Veterans Affairs to find out more about her grandfather, who served during World War I. After a few weeks wait for a response, Naporlee learned from VA that Carmelo Castorina is buried at Long Island National Cemetery in Farmingdale, N.Y. Unexpectedly, she also learned from VA that her grandmother is buried with him, a privilege extended to veterans' spouses.

VA has made it easier and faster for the public to get answers about family history, old war buddies or famous war heroes. The agency put on the Web 3.2 million records for veterans buried at 120 national cemeteries since the Civil War.

The VA's Nationwide Gravesite Locator, at <http://www.cem.va.gov> also has records for some state veterans cemeteries and burials in Arlington National Cemetery since 1999,

Joe Nosari, VA's deputy chief information officer for Memorial Affairs, said the records used to be on paper and microfilm. Private companies have put some of the information online and charged for it, but the VA information is free, he said.

Naporlee, of Spokane, Wash., also learned her grandfather served with the Army's 161 DB unit, enlisting June 24, 1918. He was honorably discharged December 17, 1918.

VA's gravesite navigator includes names, dates of birth and death, military service dates, service branch and rank if known, cemetery information and grave location in the cemetery. VA will withhold some information for privacy purposes.

The site will be updated daily. On the Net: VA Nationwide Gravesite Locator: [www.cem.va.gov](http://www.cem.va.gov)

My ancestors did WHAT?!?  
**ALLEN COUNTY LIBRARY**

The Allen County Public Library is still at it's temporary location.

The interim location is at 200 East Berry St., Fort Wayne, Indiana. Locally, it is called: Renaissance Square. It is 5 blocks to the east from the current library. There is limited free parking available; there is also a pay parking garage across the street and more than 150 metered spaces in close proximity.

One of the most exciting things about the interim location is that the genealogy collection is a browsing collection. All the materials are out and available for the researcher to retrieve them. Materials do not have to be paged; the shelves are open.

If you have not visited this library in a while, now would be a good time to go.

Visiting the library web site: <http://www.acpl.lib.in.us> or phone the department at 1-260-421-1225 is the best way to get current relocation information.

For further contact, please phone the department or email Curt Witcher, Manager, Historical Genealogy Department-ACPL at [cwitcher@acpl.lib.in.us](mailto:cwitcher@acpl.lib.in.us) or Susan Kaufman Tavenner, Librarian, Historical Genealogy Department-ACPL at [skaufman@acpl.lib.in.us](mailto:skaufman@acpl.lib.in.us)

I only work on Genealogy on days that end in "Y"

**WIE SAGT MAN...?\***

Sites that'll translate anything.

So you want to buy a parachute from a pilot in Paris or send a dispatch to your darling in Darjeeling but face a language barrier? No problems.

One of the best places to start is **babelfish.altavista.com**. Drop your text into the box and translate to/from a dozen languages. Free translations services use machine translation (MT) to render text from one language to another. The translation is immediate, and it's ideal for drafts or chat rooms. But it's pretty rough, and you'd need a human translator for true accuracy.

I tested **freetranslation.com**, which translates from English to more than half a dozen languages, with a letter to my e-mail in Moscow. He responded with a list of text problems, including "translation absolutely senseless" in one section.

The key, I've found, is to keep your text simple. Avoid slang, and use short sentences and correct spelling. (Many of these sites also offer fee-based services once you realize the MT version is too sketchy for an important document.)

At **Talkingpanda.com**, you can download Talking Panda iLingo, designed for the iPod. For \$14.95, it includes 400 words and phrases in French, Spanish, Italian or German. Your iPod plays the proper pronunciation in your ear.

Google chimes in at **google.com/language\_tools**, where you can translate text or search for sites in a foreign language (searching "Bjork" on Icelandic sites turned up 1,180 hits). Halfway down the page is my favorite thing: You can change the language on your Google homepage to anything from Albanian to Yiddish. I switched to Pig Latin. Now I start my searches by clicking "I'may Eelingfay Uckylay."

Melaine D. G. Kaplan  
USA Weekend, Oct, 8-10, 2004

**BIOGRAPHICAL SOURCES**

Biographical sources are often overlooked by amateur genealogists.

One source of information that's often overlooked by amateur genealogists is biographies. While, in themselves, biographies may not hold all the answers, they can fill in facts not available through other sources.

*Who's Who in America* is perhaps the most reliable biographical source, since the subject submits the information. But he many also omit important facts. *Who Was Who in America* doesn't supplant the older *Who's Who* volumes. There are individuals in the regular volumes who aren't included in the permanent *Who Was Who* volumes, which are restricted to leaders in government, education, religion, business, and the professions. Many other notable or popular

persons such as entertainers, sports figures and writers, aren't included.

While the *Dictionary of American Biography* is also highly restrictive in its criteria for inclusion, the *National Encyclopedia of American Biography* includes many individuals, with more complete biographical sketches. The information in these volumes is mainly provided by the individual biographees or their relatives and being uncritical, contain many valuable clues.

A similar series entitled the *Encyclopedia of American Biography* also includes noncritical information. It features full page, steel plate engravings of the entrants, plus significant clues to careers, offices and events in the life of the individual. If an ancestor served as a director of a corporation or an officer of a society, the best place to look would be the records of the organization.

State biographical volumes issued by various publishers may also be useful. Since these volumes contain only information about the people in a single state, they're able to include a greater number of individuals from the state. It was quite popular at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century to issue state histories in multi-volumed sets, of which one or more volumes were devoted to biographies.

Though these biographies aren't uniformly accurate, they still provide valuable information and clues for further research. Quite often the state archivist or leader in the state historical organization lends his name, if not his services, to these publications.

County histories vary in their coverage, historical accuracy, inclusiveness, and format and printing quality. While they should be consulted, their content is dependent upon information supplies by individual biographees. If an individual paid \$50 for his book and his biography, it's likely that a flattering biography was written about him. Check the county history with the primary sources, particularly those at the courthouse.

If an ancestor was involved in a business, profession or a religious organization, a genealogist needs to locate the biographical compendium which relates to that particular business, profession or religion. Though doctors can be traced through county and state histories, the transactions of the medical society of the state in which he or she resided are a better source for biographies.

If an ancestor was a minister, there's a good possibility that he may have been listed in biographical or historical volumes related to his denomination. And don't forget to examine the histories and records of the local Baptist

Association, Methodist Conference, Presbyterian Synod and Episcopal Diocese.

It's possible that information about an ancestor may be in a biographical work on the graduates of the college he attended. Historical journals should be consulted for possible information, especially if they're indexed.

County directories may contain biographical information and are available for some locations. City directories have been mentioned. In some areas, city directories have existed for many years; in other areas they have been in existence only a short time. Directories of major cities have been microfilmed and are more widely available than they used to be. A search of these directories may tell a genealogist approximately when an ancestor arrived in the area and approximately when he left it or died. Kinship can often be discerned by residence, even though the individuals don't have the same last names. Occupations are often indicated, and even employers may be named.

Though information in telephone directories is now fairly accurate, they don't contain the data found in city directories. Voter lists — found in court records, newspapers or poll tax records — may also be helpful. And school records are sometimes available.

One of the main distinctions between professional and novices in genealogical research is the extent to which the professionals utilize these periodicals. The novice usually confines his or her search to ancestor surnames.

The professional searches for information about a certain locale as well as surnames. The information discovered often leads to other information.

Another distinction is the extent to which the professional knows or searches for the manuscript materials in the libraries, historical societies and archives. The volumes of the National Union Catalog of Manuscripts are the major tools for finding these sources.

They're found in most large libraries. Local newspaper archives are also invaluable sources.

Bob Brooke  
for *AntiqueWeek*  
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#### **LIBRARY OF MICHIGAN**

*City Directories of the United States, 1902-1935.*  
Woodbridge, CT: Research Publications, Inc., 1985-  
Microfilm E 154.5.C582  
Includes many Michigan communities as well as a number of cities from other states.

**FAMILY TREE RECIPE**

3 TBSP of curiosity  
2 TBSP of helpful contacts  
3 tsp. of education guesses  
1/4 cup of persistence  
1/4 cup of good communication skills  
A pinch of luck and a heaping cup of patience.

Combine with plenty of legwork, question asking, headstone tracing, microfiche viewing, letter writing, conference attending, genealogy and historical society joining, family newsletter reading, website searching, GEDCOM loading, document double checking, old photo safekeeping and a large measure of common sense. Add sense of humor to taste. Allow to rise over a lifetime. Plenty of servings for future generations.

— author unknown

**ON THE LIGHTER SIDE**

I'm My Own Grandpa  
by Lonzo & Oscar

It sounds funny, I know,  
But it really is so,  
Oh, I'm my own grandpa.

Now many, many years ago,  
when I was twenty-three,  
I was married to a widow who was pretty as could be.

This widow had a grown-up daughter who had hair of red.  
My father fell in love with her, and soon they, too, were wed.

This made my dad my son-in-law and changed my very life,  
My daughter was my mother, cause she was my father' wife.

To complicate the matter, even though it brought me joy,  
I soon became the father of a bouncing baby boy.

My little baby then became a brother-in-law to Dad,  
And so became my uncle, though it made me very sad.  
For if he was my uncle, then that also made him brother  
Of the widow's grown-up daughter, who, of course, was my stepmother.

Father's wife then had a son who kept him on the run,  
And he became my grandchild for he was my daughter's son.  
My wife is now my mother's mother, and it makes me blue,  
Because, although she is my wife, she's my grandmother, too.  
Now if my wife is my grandmother, then I'm her grandchild,  
And every time I think of it, it nearly drives me wild,  
For now I have become the strangest case you ever saw  
As husband of my grandmother, I am my own grandpa!

I'm my own grandpa.  
I'm my own grandpa.  
It sounds funny, I know, but it really is so,  
Oh, I'm my own grandpa.

**IF YOU SEE THIS**

What it means

*Femme sole*: unmarried woman, can own property, can dispose of property, can sue and be sued in court.

*Femme covert*: married woman, does not legally exist, cannot own or dispose of property, right to dower, not responsible for debts.

If you see this in court records, you will know if the female you are looking for is married or not.  
— Diane VanSkiver Gagel, M.A.

**DIOT COKE**

Naming your child after a soft drink could be seen as a little bit faddish, but the parents of young Diot Coke might be forgiven — they gave their baby daughter the name way back in 1379. Researchers at Britain's National Archives believe that the little girl, born in West Riding in Yorkshire, was the unfortunate victim of the corruption of the name Dionisia. One of the diminutives derived from that name on its path to modern day Denise was Diot. The girl's surname is believed to be a variation on the name Cook. Archivists George Redmonds, writing in the organization's Ancestors magazine, also discovered in his scrutiny of the birth archives that names now considered to be masculine, such as Philip and Thomas, were once used for girls in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Another revelation: Girl names such as Godelena, Helwise, Idony, Avice and Dionisia were as popular as Mary in their day.

**BUSH AND KERRY**

Bush and Kerry are distant cousins. They say if you want your family tree done for you, run for office!  
<http://msn.ancestry.com/landing/strange/bush4/tree.htm>

My family coat of Arms ties at the back... Is that normal?