D-OGS Newsletter – July 2014

News & Articles of Interest to Durham-Orange genealogists

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2014 dues – $20
President – Fred Mowry

D-OGS MEETINGS FOR 2 JULY 2014

The 2 July 2014 meeting will be held at 7:00pm at the Chapel Hill Historical Society office on the corner of E. Franklin and Boundary streets. The street address is 523 E. Franklin Street. This building is the former Chapel Hill Public Library and Chapel Hill Museum. We will meet in the lower level. Enter at the lighted doors on the Boundary Street side. There is a handicap ramp to the lower level off the sidewalk on Boundary Street.

There is a parking lot behind the building. There are parking lot entrances on Boundary Street and Franklin Street.

The program topic will be **"DNA Demystified: Using DNA to Break Down Those Brick Walls".** The presenter will be Ginger Smith.

Ginger is a Senior Scientist at North Carolina Central University. She also works part-time as a librarian at West Regional Library in Morrisville and the Olivia Raney History Library

Ginger has been researching her family history for the past 10 years. She started using DNA testing several years ago to learn more about her Godwin family. Now she takes the lessons she's learned and applies them to help others further their genealogical research using DNA testing.

Ginger is active an active member of several DNA online discussion groups including the International Society of Genetic Genealogy (ISOGG) and is a project manager of the Goodwin-Godwin DNA Surname project on FamilyTreeDNA.com. She runs a Facebook group for her DNA cousins to share family history, photos, and DNA match results.

Ginger writes about technology, research advice, tips and techniques, and how to perform genealogical research in North Carolina on her blog, *Genealogy By Ginger* (http://genealogybyginger.blogspot.com). Her latest article, "Online Deed Records – North Carolina" has brought to light the many North Carolina counties who now offer free, unlimited access to their historical deeds right from your own computer.

Her presentation will be on Using DNA Testing to Break Down Your Brick Walls. She will show you how to use your genealogy paper trail side by side with your DNA matching results to verify or disprove family relationships or ancestral connections. Starting with a focused research question will be the key to this discussion.

D-OGS MEETING MINUTES FOR 4 JUNE 2014

Date: 4 Jun 2014
Time: 7-9 pm
Location: Chapel Hill Historical Society

Speaker: Robert C. Allen, UNC
Title: ***From Genealogy to Family History to Social History: Using Ancestry.com in the University Classroom***

Dr. Allen spoke to us this evening about a freshman seminar course he teaches at UNC about the family as a social institution. In implementing this class, he first formed solid relationships between the digital and historical communities of UNC with the business side of Ancestry.com, including their partnerships with Fold3 and Newspapers.com.

Tim Sullivan, CEO of Ancestry.com, is an alumnus of UNC and the parent of a sophomore attending UNC as well. His company, Ancestry.com, currently offers 13 billion records. Newspapers.com which was recently acquired by Ancestry.com, currently offers 65 million pages of records, 1.5 million of which relate to North Carolina. The UNC North Carolina Collection and Newspapers.com currently have a partnership going in which 3700 reels of microfilm containing pre-1923 newspapers from North Carolina are being digitized at 500,000 pages per month. Access to this database is available to students and faculty of UNC and anyone else with an ONYEN ID.

Since 82% of incoming freshman at UNC are from North Carolina, Allen takes them to the North Carolina State Archives and the North Carolina Collection on the UNC campus to do research on their family history. He also encourages them to interview their relatives, especially their grandparents, and to identify the "kin Keeper" of the family. The "Kin Keeper" is the person with the address book, the one with the family connections, photos, and compiled family tree charts. Allen also encourages them to look for the "Bottom drawer of the dresser" – containing the photos, graduation diplomas, etc – those family documents that are not legal documents.

Allen finds teaching this class very rewarding and has encountered two especially noticeable teaching moments – Recognizing students whose relatives are slave owners and students whose relatives were slaves.

He has also recognized that access to online records has provided his students and future researchers the opportunity to see people not only across multiple records, but to see their lives and events they encountered in relation to each other and the records represented by each event. Also, there are more and more records being surfaced of the *average person.*

One thing he stresses about using primary records to his students which should also be heeded by genealogists is the partiality or limitation of the records. For example, census records were created by the census taker standing outside your relatives' door writing down what they thought they heard one of your relatives say. It's not always a complete picture and should be followed up with other documentation. Lastly, Dr. Allen stresses the point of how access to online records has changed how we do research and how the product of our research has changed.

Dr. Allen encourages you to take a look at his website to see some of the projects his students have completed both on their own families and the families in and around North Carolina.

His website is http://amst53sp14.web.unc.edu

Submitted by D-OGS Secretary, Ginger R Smith

Business Minutes:

1) Fred showed the new website (www.dogsnc.org) and the "How to Log In" page
2) Fred gave the Treasurer's report:

Income:	$60 dues
Expenses:	$81.70 handouts for meeting presentation
Net:	$(21.70)

3) See the June newsletter for Richard's announcements

THE REGISTER OF DEEDS OFFICE - A FREE ALTERNATIVE

By Ginger R. Smith, author of the *Genealogy by Ginger Blog* (http://www.genealogybyginger.blogspot.com)

Many Register of Deeds Offices are digitizing their historical deeds and land grants and putting them online. Several North Carolina counties have already been digitized. Here is a list of counties who currently have their deeds digitized and available to download from the web FOR FREE. Check my blog for new additions to the list.

Alamance County - still in the process of being digitized, goes back to 1849 (as of June 2014)
Alexander County - Digitized deeds going back to 1847
Alleghany County - Digitized deeds going back to 1859
Anson County - digitized deeds going back to 1749
Chatham County - digitized deeds going back to 1771
Cumberland County - digitized deeds going back to 1754
Duplin County - digitized deeds going back to 1749
Forsyth County - digitized deeds going back to 1849
Guilford County - digitized deeds going back to 1771. Click "real estate index & image", Accept the disclaimer, then click the "Old Index books" button
Iredell County - Digitized deeds going back to 1788. Select "Search Online Records" in center of page, Sign in as a Guest, and click on Indexes Prior to 1964 tab
Johnston County - digitized deeds going back to 1789, land division records, plats
Martin County - digitized deeds going back to 1771
Mecklenburg County - digitized deeds going back to 1763
Sampson County – digitized deeds going back to county inception 1784
Stokes County - digitized deeds going back to 1787
Wake County - digitized deeds going back to 1785

For Additional Information on using Land Grants and Deeds in YOUR research, check out these helpful posts:

Why Use Deeds and Land Grants in YOUR research
Reading land grants in North Carolina using Metes and Bounds
Finding Land Grants using the North Carolina State Archives' Online Catalog (MARS)
North Carolina Land and Property from the FamilySearch.org Wiki

NEW SEASON OF WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE? BEGINS JULY 23

Cynthia Nixon and Rachel McAdams are among those featured on the new season of *Who Do You Think You Are?* The 48-year-old Sex & the City actress and 35-year-old The Notebook star will have their heritage explored in the new season of the popular television show.

The series will return to TLC for a second season next month. The upcoming episodes also feature Valerie Bertinelli (One Day at a Time), Jesse Tyler Ferguson (Modern Family), Lauren Graham (Gilmore Girls), Kelsey Grammer (Cheers, Frasier) and Rachel's sister Kayleen McAdams. Past stars include Sarah Jessica Parker, Brooke Shields, Tim McGraw and Vanessa Williams.

The new season of *Who Do You Think You Are?* premieres July 23 on TLC.

THE HIGH COST OF SEARCHING FOR YOUR ANCESTORS

Are you willing to spend up to spend up to $18,000 a year to discover your roots? An "authoritative" report from Global Industry Analysts, Inc. claims that such expenses are not unusual.

The report, entitled *Genealogy Products and Services: A Global Outlook*, claims to contain "a collection of statistical anecdotes, marked briefs, and concise summaries of research findings. The report offers an overview of the global genealogy products and services market, identifies emerging trends and growth drivers, traces the history of genealogy, provides a list of the most popular genealogy websites, and refers to all recent activity in the industry." The report sells for $1,450 US.

Insert my disclaimer here: I question the claim of "up to $18,000" but cannot say for sure as I haven't seen the report. Then again, I don't think I'll pay $1,450 in order to read it. I think I'll keep the money in my own pocket.

Here is the announcement from Global Industry Analysts, Inc.:
Genealogical enthusiasts are spending between US$1000 to US$18000 a year to discover his or her roots. The growth of the genealogy research market is being spurred by the spending of over 84 million genealogists. Emerging trends, such as male adoptees using consumer DNA tests to discover their surname, are expected to further promote growth of this industry. In January 2009, the number of individuals undergoing genetic genealogy testing to ascertain their lineage reached almost 765,000, displaying a considerable increase from nearly 650,000 individuals taking the test as of November 2007.

DNA tests cost anywhere between US$100 to US$400 for both YDNA and mtDNA tests. With estimates indicating up to 95,000 new tests being performed annually, this market is a lucrative key growth area in the genealogy services and products sector. Constant innovations in technology are equipping consumers with the most up-to-date genealogical research tools, and the spread of genealogical services to social media, such as the Facebook site, is expected to further

promote interest in this industry. Currently, however, the interest in genealogical research is more prevalent in Western nations, and its spread to other regions is expected to occur more gradually.

The emerging interest in genealogical research has resulted in genealogy products and services industry exhibiting promising growth. The trend is expected to continue as a growing number of individuals become more aware of the ease and convenience of tracing their lineage through online sites. Enthusiasts are increasingly being able to access several advanced tools online that enable them to undertake more comprehensive family history research and capture their findings in attractive and easy-to-reference layouts.

The research report titled “Genealogy Products and Services: A Global Outlook” announced by Global Industry Analysts, Inc., provides a collection of statistical anecdotes, market briefs, and concise summaries of research findings. The report offers an overview of the global genealogy products and services market, identifies emerging trends and growth drivers, traces the history of genealogy, provides a list of the most popular genealogy websites, and refers to all recent activity in the industry. Also included is an indexed, easy-to-refer, fact-finder directory listing the addresses, and contact details of companies worldwide.

For more details about this comprehensive industry report, please visit – http://www.strategyr.com/Genealogy_Products_and_Services_Industry_Market_Report.asp.

(Reprinted from Dick Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter)

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE? LIVE IS MOVING TO A NEW DATE AND TO A NEW VENUE IN BIRMINGHAM

National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham

What I believe is the largest family history live event in the world will have many changes in 2015. The *Who Do You Think You Are? Live* event has always been held in London although a second event is being held this summer in Glasgow, Scotland. However, the 2015 edition of *Who Do You Think You Are? Live* will be held 16-18 April at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham. The organisers, Immediate Media Co., are forecasting 14,000 visitors over three days.

Who Do You Think You Are? Live will give visitors the opportunity to share the passion and expertise of family historians and engage with key exhibitors and sponsors such as Ancestry.co.uk, part of the world's largest online family history resource and the show's centerpiece attraction.

The Society of Genealogists' workshop programme, a dedicated 'Ask the Experts' area and the opportunity to meet celebrities from the hit TV series all add to the visitor experience.

You can read more at the *Who Do You Think You Are? Live* web site at http://www.whodoyouthinkyouarelive.com/news/new-venue-2015.

(Reprinted from Dick Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter)

GENEALOGY TIPS OF THE MONTH FROM MICHAEL JOHN NEILL

Are Any Missing?

If you are searching digital versions of newspapers, you my want to browse the images for the time period of interest. If the paper was a weekly, do they have an issue for every week? If it was daily, do they have an issue for every day? Missing issues may not be clearly indicated on the website, but that is something you need to know. That's especially true if your relative died on 18 May 1902 and there are no issues from the last half of May of that year.

It may be that there are issues in libraries or other facilities.

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Do They Have a Month to Month Option?

Many fee-based genealogy websites have annual and monthly subscription plans. While usually an annual plan is most economical in the long run, it may be that if you do your research in "fits" and "starts" that a monthly plan, activated when you know you will use it, may be the best bargain for you.

No matter which plan you choose, know when your renewal is up and when your card is going to be automatically charged. Set a reminder for yourself ***at least three days before*** that date so you can decide if you are renewing or not. That should give you time to contact customer service if you wish to change your plan.

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Was the Original Typed?

If the "version" of a document or record you are looking at is typed, ask yourself if the original was probably typed as well. If it was, then you are not looking at the original record and what you are looking at could contain errors. If you don't know if it was typed or handwritten, then learning more about the records will help you in your analysis.

And even if the original was typed, you could still be looking at a transcription that could contain errors.

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Read a Totally Unrelated Genealogy

If you are stuck on your own family, read a genealogical study of a family in a similar time period and location as yours--even if they are not related to you. The *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* and other national and state publications contain well-written articles explaining how records were searched, used and analyzed to solve a problem. Reading through someone else's process may give you insight into your own problem.

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Those Artifacts Could Be A Distance Away

It's possible that a family bible, set of letters, or other artifact from your family is housed a significant distance from where your ancestors actually lived. An aunt of mine lived her life in western Illinois. A quilt she made in the late 19th century is in a museum in Michigan. The reference came up on a Google search and I almost ignored it because the location "wasn't right."

It is hard to tell where ephemera from your ancestors ended up.

Tombstones are usually in the "right place." Other items can be up for grabs.

WEBSITES OF POSSIBLE INTEREST

UNITED STATES DIGITAL MAP LIBRARY - The United States Digital Map Library is a USGenWeb Archives project. It has been available since 1999. Their collection contains:

US Maps - This section includes maps of national interest. Maps that show our westward expansion, our land survey systems, and more will be included here.
State and County Maps - Representing the bulk of our collection, the State and County section includes maps from all 50 US states and oftentimes maps of individual counties in a state.
Indian Land Cessions - This collection provides maps of the land cessions made by American Indian Nations during the interval between the formal establishment of the United States and 1894.

http://usgwarchives.net/maps/

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FREE FAMILY RECORD FORMS FROM THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS WEB SITE - Long before the invention of home computers that could generate forms, many families recorded their important family events within their Bibles. Whether printed as part of the Bible or printed on separate paper forms that could be stored alongside the family Bible, these forms often were

ornate with beautiful artwork. The Library of Congress has collected many of these forms and made them available online. Some are simple "fill in the blank" forms while others have space to manually paste in pictures. All of the forms are available free of charge.

You can download any of these old Family Records and Family Register forms and even print them on your own printer, then use them as you wish. Many of them are "oversized." If so, they cannot be printed on a normal computer printer that only handles 8½ by 11 inch paper. However, you can always save them to a flash drive and then have them printed on an oversized printer or plotter at FedEx Office (formerly called Kinko) or other service that has such hardware available. You can even send the print image to online to http://www.fedex.com/us/office/ and either pick up the finished printout in person or have it shipped to you. You will have to pay a few dollars for the printing and shipping, of course.

You can find many Family Records and Family Register forms by starting at: http://www.loc.gov/search/?q=Family+Records+and+Registers.

Some of these forms are huge! Downloading them may take a minute or two on a slow to medium speed Internet connection. However, I will suggest the results are worth the wait.

(Reprinted from Dick Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter)

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

STATE CAPITOL - July **4:** ***Independence Day Celebration*** **-** Friday, 11 am - 3 pm - Help us celebrate our annual tribute to American independence. This family-friendly event features music, a kid's parade, and more. Admission is free, and open to the public.

JOEL LANE MUSEUM HOUSE - Independence Day Celebration - 11 am to 4 pm - The Joel Lane Museum House, "The Birthplace of Raleigh," will sponsor its 23nd annual Independence Day Open House on Friday, July 4, 2014 from 11:00 am to 4 p.m. Admission is free, and donations are requested.

The museum will be open and staffed by costumed docents who will be available to answer questions. Live music will include the Triangle Folk Ensemble performing from 11 to 1:30. On the grounds, re-enactors will demonstrate various aspects of colonial life, and visitors will be able to participate in hands-on activities such as writing with a quill pen or making rag dolls. There will be old-fashioned crafts and games for the children and free lemonade for all. The garden in its full summer glory will be on view, and herbs and trees from the gardens will be for sale.

In addition to outdoor activities, the 1769 plantation manor house, the 1790 "kitchen" building, and the Visitors Center and Museum Store will be open. Please plan to stop by.

CHARLOTTE HAWKINS BROWN MUSEUM - July 12: ***African American Arts Festival*** **-** Saturday, 1 - 6 pm - The newest in our signature series events, the African American Arts Festival will feature performances and artists from throughout the area. Advance tickets must be purchased, and will be available June 16th. Please call 336-449-4846 or email chb@ncdcr.gov for details. Note: Inclement weather date for Arts Fest: July 19th.

DUKE HOMESTEAD - **July 12:** ***Pork, Pickles, and Peanuts: Tastes of North Carolina -*** Saturday 10 am - 4 pm - North Carolina's food history and heritage take center stage for the day! This festival includes a barbecue cook-off and juried pie competition. Throughout the day, visitors can enjoy historic cooking demonstrations, and browse our local arts and crafts vendors. Admission is free, and open to the public. Donations are always welcomed and appreciated.

ALAMANCE BATTLEGROUND - **July 12:** ***The Homefront and Backcountry Militia -*** Saturday, 10 am - 4 pm - Learn the role of the militia at the Battle of Alamance in 1771 and how it affected home and family in the backcountry. There will be musket demonstrations, and living history in the historic John Allen log home. Free and open to the public.

POMMERN SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP - The next quarterly meeting of the Pommern Special Interest Group (PSIG) will the second Sunday in July. Linda Serna, well known for her genealogy presentations throughout California, will present "Genealogy as Detective Work." She enjoys seeing how individual family stories fit in and make up the fabric of history, something she did as one of the researchers for the PBS Genealogy Roadshow program.

Our program will start at 2pm at the Immigrant Genealogical Society Library that is located at 1310 West Magnolia in Burbank. Following her talk, there will be refreshments and a chance for you to explore our book shelves and holdings. Meanwhile, please check out our group's website at pomeranianews.com for information . There you will find out about our quarterly publication, Die Pommerschen Leute, as well as our face book page and blog. To reach the blog, put Pommern Special Interest Group/blog in your search engine for Google.

HISTORIC STAGVILLE - Jubilee Music Festival - Saturday, July 19, 2014 12 PM-4:30 PM - Head to Stagville Saturday, July 19th for the Jubilee Music Festival! Bring your blankets and chairs and celebrate the African American influences on music with blues, gospel, and jazz artists. The line-up includes:

12PM-1:15PM The Branchettes - The Branchettes of Johnston County, North Carolina (Ethel Eliot and Lena Mae Perry) have been performing hymns and gospel songs together for well over twenty years. Their style and repertory have their roots in the older African-American musical traditions of congregational hymn singing

1:30PM-2:45PM *Lakota John and Kin* - John Lakota Locklear, one of Music Maker's Next Generation Artists, was born in 1997 in Pembroke, North Carolina. A Native American (Lumbee), Lakota John was 7 years old when he started playing harmonica and 9 years old when he picked up his first guitar. He was intrigued by the sound of the slide guitar and wanted to learn to play. About a year and a half later, he bought himself a glass slide, placed it on his pinky finger and has been sliding ever since.

3:00PM-4:15PM *Boo Hanks* - Boo Hanks, a descendant of Abraham Lincoln on his mother's side, sings and plays guitar in the style of the legendary Blind Boy Fuller. At the age of 79, he made his first recording, and at 82 he has enjoyed performances around home as well as Lincoln Center and Belgium.

Admission is free. In case of rain, the performances will take place in the Stagville visitor center.

PITTSBURGH SEMINARS - Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh has six week-long courses it will be offering July 20-25. Registration for those courses opens Wednesday, February 12 at noon Eastern. Competition to reserve a seat in the most popular courses causes them to fill within minutes. Please read through the entire Registration page to see how to quickly and efficiently go through the registration process. The courses are listed under the courses tab: DNA, Genealogy and the Law, Finding African-American Families, Determining Kinship with the GPS, Intermediate Genealogy, and Mastering the Internet. Please see www.GRIPitt.org where you can also sign up for email notifications of any new content.

GENEALOGICAL INSTITUTE OF PITTSBURGH WORKSHOPS - "Summer camp for genealogists" has never been more fun! The next offerings of the week-long institute are July 20-25, 2014 in Pittsburgh and August 3-8, 2014 in Orchard Lake, Michigan (suburban Detroit). Pick a course and enjoy the progressive, hands-on learning offered in a classroom setting in either Pittsburgh, PA, or Orchard Lake, MI. Each of the unique courses has something to offer various interests. Check out the links for "Courses" on www.GRIPitt.org to learn exactly what will be presented each of the eighteen sessions during the week for each course.

Up to this point registrants for both GRIP in Pittsburgh and GRIP on the Road in Orchard Lake, Michigan, have been able to take advantage of the early bird tuition which ends on Thursday, May 15 at midnight Pacific Time. Anyone who has been thinking about registering would save money by doing so sooner than later at www.GRIPitt.org <http://www.GRIPitt.org> .

Seats are still available in Pittsburgh in:

* " <http://www.gripitt.org/?page_id=1201> Becoming an Online Expert: Mastering Search Engines and Digital Archives" with D. Joshua Taylor

* " <http://www.gripitt.org/?page_id=1195> Intermediate Genealogy: Tools for Digging Deeper" with Paula Stuart-Warren, CG

* " <http://www.gripitt.org/?page_id=1153> Finding and Documenting African-American Families" with Deborah Abbott, Ph.D. and J. Mark Lowe, CG

In Orchard Lake, Michigan, (suburb of Detroit on a beautiful lake) there are seats in:

* " <http://www.gripitt.org/?page_id=1141> Determining Kinship Reliably with the Genealogical Proof Standard" with Thomas W. Jones, Ph.D., CG, CGL

* " <http://www.gripitt.org/?page_id=1233> Advancing Your Polish Genealogy: 300 Years of Records including Prussian, Russian, and Austrian Poland" with
Ceil Wendt Jensen and Dr. Hal Learman

* " <http://www.gripitt.org/?page_id=1195> Intermediate Genealogy: Tools for Digging Deeper" with Paula Stuart-Warren, CG

* " <http://www.gripitt.org/?page_id=1218> Bridging the 1780-1840 Gap: New England to the Midwest" with D. Joshua Taylor

Come and join genealogists from all over in the common goal of learning how to do your genealogical research better and more efficiently. In Michigan you can join students from 20 different states and in Pittsburgh there are students from 40 different states and 3 countries. This interesting mix is bound to make classroom discussions and hallway conversations interesting. You just never know when you will bump into a cousin!

NORTH CAROLINA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY WORKSHOP - 26 July 2014 - 9:00am to 4:00pm - Calvary Episcopal Church, 2840 Hendersonville Road, Fletcher, NC 28732

The North Carolina Genealogical Society (NCGS) and the Old Buncombe County Genealogical Society (OBCGS) present *Tools for Successful Research*, a workshop featuring Rev. David McDonald, CG. There will be four lectures:

- Irish & Scots-Irish in America
- The Churches in North Carolina
- Brick Wall or Black Hole? Knowing When to Stop
- Thinking Genealogically: From North Carolina to the Midwest and Beyond

We hope you will join us for the full-day workshop (online registration | PDF registration form) featuring Rev. David McDonald, CG. It will be held at the Calvary Episcopal Church located at 2840 Hendersonville Road in Fletcher, North Carolina, just south of Asheville.

HOUSE IN THE HORSESHOE - **August 2, 3: *Annual Battle Reenactment* -**Saturday 9 am - 5 pm - Sunday 11 am - 3 pm - Reenactments of the Revolutionary War skirmish between Col. Alston's Patriot militia and the Loyalists of Col. David Fanning will take place at 4:00pm on Saturday and 2:00pm on Sunday. Wander through Colonial militia encampments, watch various demonstrations and crafts from the colonial period, and military drills will be held throughout the day complete with musket firing.

ALLEN COUNTY INDIANA LIBRARY RESEARCH TRIP - We are bringing back our group research trips to the Allen County Public Library in Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

From 3-6 August 2014, we'll be at the Allen County Library in Ft. Wayne. Each day will start off with a presentation on a research topic (to be determined based upon participant interests), with onite research coupled with individual consultations and assistance to follow for the duration of the day.

For more details about the trip, point your browser to:
http://rootdig.blogspot.com/p/acpl.html

Questions can be sent to trip leader, Michael John Neill, at mjnrootdig@gmail.com.

GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF PITTSBURGH -"GRIP on the Road" sponsored by the Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh will be held in Orchard Lake, Michigan, (suburb of Detroit), August 3-8, 2014. Registration for the four week-long courses begins on Tuesday, Feb. 25 at noon Eastern. The popular instructors are bound to draw interest in their topics:

"Advancing Your Polish Genealogy: 300 Years of Records including Prussian, Russian, and Austrian Poland" - a very unique opportunity held in the Polish Mission with Ceil Wendt Jensen, MA, CG, Dr. Hal Learman, and others including a visiting archivist from Poland.

"Bridging the 1780-1840 Gap: New England to the Midwest" with D. Joshua Taylor, MA, MLS.

"Determining Kinship Reliably with the Genealogical Proof Standard" (also offered in Pittsburgh July 20-25 with two seats left) with Thomas W. Jones, Ph. D., CG, CGL

"Intermediate Genealogy: Tools for Digging Deeper" (also offered in Pittsburgh July 20-25) with Paula Stuart-Warren, CG

For a detailed course schedule for each one, please visit www.GRIPitt.org under "Courses."

There is also still room in the following two July Pittsburgh courses as well as the two above:

- "Finding and Documenting African-American Families" with J. Mark Lowe, CG, and Debbie Abbott, Ph.D.
- "Becoming an Online Expert: Mastering Search Engines and Digital Archives" with D. Joshua Taylor, MA, MLS

This is the first year that GRIP has taken its institute "on the Road" in order to service a wider number of genealogists.

ARKANSAS-LOUISIANA-TEXAS SEMINAR - The Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association will host an all-day seminar on Saturday August 9, 2014 in Shreveport, Louisiana. Featured speaker will be Kelvin Meyers, professional genealogist and historian. His lectures will include:

(1) Plowing Through the Land Records to Find Your Ancestor
(2) Tax Records or Why did Scarlett Make A Dress of Her Mother's Drapes?
(3) Probate: More Than A Will
(4) How Great Thou Art! How Great They Are! Church Records

Book venders will be on site with a selection of genealogy and history books. Location for the seminar will be the Broadmoor United Methodist Church (Pearce Hall) at 3715 Youree Drive, Shreveport. Advance registration recommended due to limited seating. For more details and a printable registration form, please go to our website: http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~laaltga/seminar.htm Contact Jim Johnson at jjohnson747@suddenlink.net for more information.

NC ARCHIVES AND HISTORY - August 23, 2014, 10-11a.m.: ***Finding Your Female Ancestors*** - This program will explore resources and practices in finding the women in your family tree using research tools and materials in the Government and Heritage Library and State Archives. Cultural Resources Building, 109 E. Jones Street, Raleigh, North Carolina

HUMOR

An old country preacher had a teenage son, and it was getting time the boy should give some thought to choosing a profession.

Like many young men his age, the boy didn't really know what he wanted to do, and he didn't seem too concerned about it.
One day, while the boy was away at school, his father decided to try an experiment. He went into the boy's room and placed on his study table four objects:

1. A Bible.
2. A silver dollar.
3. A bottle of whiskey.
4. A Playboy magazine.

“I'll just hide behind the door," the old preacher said to himself. "When he comes home from school today, I'll see which object he picks up."

"If it's the Bible, he's going to be a preacher like me, and what a blessing that would be!

"If he picks up the dollar, he's going to be a business man, and that would be okay, too.

"But if he picks up the bottle, he's going to be a no-good drunken bum, and Lord, what a shame that would be.

"And worst of all if he picks up that magazine he's going to be a skirt-chasing womanizer."

The old man waited anxiously, and soon heard his son's foot-steps as he entered the house whistling and heading for his room.

The boy tossed his books on the bed, and as he turned to leave the room he spotted the objects on the table.

With curiosity in his eye, he walked over to inspect them.

Finally, he picked up the Bible and placed it under his arm.

He picked up the silver dollar and dropped it into his pocket.

He then uncorked the bottle and took a big drink, while he admired the magazine's centerfold.

"Lord have mercy," the old preacher disgustedly whispered. "He's gonna run for Congress."

PARTING THOUGHT

It is hereditary in my family not to have children.

If you have any items of interest that you would like to submit for future publication, please contact Richard Ellington at mailto:richard_ellington@unc.edu or 919.967.4168