D-OGS Newsletter – June 2023

News & Articles of Interest to Durham-Orange genealogists

info@dogsnc.org
PO Box 4703, Chapel Hill, NC 27515-4703
2023 dues – $20
President – David McCorkle

D-OGS MEETING FOR 7 JUNE

We are happy to announce that the presentation originally scheduled for May will be given at the June meeting! Also note our field trip to the Carolina Room at the new Durham County Public Library will be on Saturday July 15 at 10AM.

Are missing records or other issues causing dead ends and "brick walls" in your research? Cluster Genealogy is a method that can help. Please join us on Wednesday, **June 7** at **7:00 PM** at the **OWASA Community Center**, 400 Jones Ferry Rd, Carrboro, OR **ONLINE via Zoom,** to hear ***Morgan Jackson*** present **"*Dead Ends and Brick Walls: Utilizing Cluster Genealogy and Land Records to Uncover Hidden Ancestors*".** Cluster Genealogy is a tool where you expand your search beyond your ancestors by researching anyone you know who was associated with them since their records can mention people they knew or encountered. The genealogist Elizabeth Shown Mills called this type of research **F**riends **A**ssociates and **N**eighbors, or the **F.A.N Club**. Morgan will show examples of how he has used these techniques to solve specific problems.

Speaker Biography
Morgan Jackson is a historian, author and researcher with a focus on the Moore County region of North Carolina. He won the 2019 NC Genealogical Society award for Excellence in Web Presence for his comprehensive website *Moore County Wallace's* http://moorecountywallaces.com .

Directions:
The OWASA Community Center is on the right side of Jones Ferry Road heading west out of town. Park in the lower lot on the west side of the facility - the center is the door closest to the street on the lower level.

Recording
This lecture will be recorded and made available on the member-only section of the D-OGS website.

Online Access
We will be using the popular Zoom software which runs on PCs and Macs, as well as mobile devices like phones and tablets. It will be free for you to use. You do not need a microphone or video camera - just speakers and a screen, but it will be easier to ask questions if you have a microphone. There is an option to call in via telephone but note in most cases the presentation assumes you can see the slides or demo.

Online information will be emailed to members on the day of the program.

FREE RECORDED NCGS WEBINAR THIS WEEKEND

Watch "**Proving Parentage with Probate Records: North Carolina Inheritance Laws and Customs**" on-demand from Friday, June 4 - Sunday, June 6.

About the Webinar:
Helen Leary's series of webinars provide a solid background on the history of North Carolina and the available records. We recognize, in the abstract, that half our ancestors were female. Property law may have masked their identities, but, if we understand those laws, we can direct our research to the records and analyses that help us unmask them.

Register for the Webinar

MONTHLY BACKUP REMINDER

It is the first of a new month. Don't forget to back up your data files.

NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS AWARDS HONORING EXCELLENCE IN VOLUNTEERISM AND SERVICE TO NGS

The following is a press release written by the National Genealogical Society:

RICHMOND, VA, 1 JUNE 2023—The National Genealogical Society (NGS) began its Family History Conference in Richmond, Virginia, on 31 May 2023 at the Greater Richmond Convention Center. Following the 1 June Opening Session's keynote address, entitled "Diverse from the Beginning" by Christy S. Coleman,

executive director, Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, NGS Awards Chair Judy Nimer Muhn presented awards to honor the conference's local volunteer leadership. Also presented were awards to honor the winners of the President's Citation, Rabbi Malcolm H. Stern Lifetime Achievement Award, Lou D. Szucs Distinguished Service Award, Shirley Langdon Wilcox Award for Exemplary Volunteerism, Award of Merit, and Genealogy Tourism Award.

President's Citation

The President's Citation is given in recognition of outstanding, continuing, or unusual contributions to genealogy or to NGS. **Janet A. Alpert, FNGS**, was awarded the 2023 President's Citation, honoring her many years of service to NGS. She served on the NGS Board from 2004–2012 as secretary (2004–2006) and president (2006–2010). In 2014, she was named a Fellow of NGS. She has served in a leadership role for every conference since 2009 and has been Conference Committee chair for the last five years. She returned to the board for a second term from 2019–2022. The President's Citation also recognized Alpert for her ten years of service for the Records Access and Preservation Coalition (RPAC), which she has chaired since 2013.

Rabbi Malcolm H. Stern Lifetime Achievement Award

The Rabbi Malcolm H. Stern Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes an individual whose positive influence and leadership have fostered unity and helped make family history a vital force in the community. This year's award recipient is **Angela Walton-Raji**. Walton-Raji is a founding member of MAAGI, the Midwest African-American Genealogy Institute, and is known nationally for her genealogical and historical research and work with Oklahoma Native American records. She is a leader in the genealogy arena who encourages family history research regarding the freedmen of the five civilized tribes and much more.

Lou D. Szucs Distinguished Service Award

The Lou D. Szucs Distinguished Service Award recognizes exemplary contributions to the mission of NGS. This year **Diane MacLean Boumenot** received the award for her outstanding service to NGS. Boumenot worked for more than two years to coordinate the work of a team that reviewed content for the new NGS Advanced Skills in Genealogy course in support of the NGS Education Director Angela McGhie, CG.

Shirley Langdon Wilcox Award for Exemplary Volunteerism

The Shirley Langdon Wilcox Award for Exemplary Volunteerism recognizes a volunteer whose generosity of spirit and time has greatly benefited NGS and the genealogical community in general. This year the Society is honoring two awardees.

Deborah Lebo Hoskins, CPA, was elected treasurer to the NGS board of directors in May 2018 and began her first two-year term on 1 October 2018. She served a second term as treasurer from 1 October 2020–30 September 2022. Hoskins significantly provided hours of support and expertise when NGS and the Federation of Genealogical Societies merged.

Darcie Hind Posz, CG, served as an awards committee judge for seven years, during which time she devoted many hours reviewing award nominations. She also served NGS as editor of *NGS Magazine* (January 2015–September 2016), and as a member of the Nominating Committee for positions on the NGS Board in 2020.

Award of Merit

The Award of Merit is presented to an individual or non-profit genealogical or historical organization to recognize exceptional contributions to the field of genealogy over a period of five or more years. Their work must have significantly aided research or increased interest in genealogy. This year the NGS board of directors presented the award to the following distinguished leaders in our sector:

Jill Morelli, CG. Morelli has been a speaker, society leader, and networker for years in the genealogy community. She was recognized for the significant time, energy, and expertise she dedicated to the establishment and support of the Certification Discussion Group. The Group helps genealogists understand and progress through the Board for Certification of Genealogists' certification process to become Certified Genealogists.

Dr. Shelley Viola Murphy. For the past ten years, Murphy has dedicated her life to educating others about African American research and genealogy in general. She has served as president, course coordinator, and instructor at MAAGI, as coordinator of genealogy education for the Center of Family History at the new International African American Museum, and more.

*** **David M. McCorkle** ***. (Our very own President!) McCorkle was nominated for this award by a group of genealogists for his work in digitizing and providing easy and free access to records of critical importance to North Carolina researchers. Those efforts included the creation of a free website, North Carolina Land Grants Images and Data, to make North Carolina's land entry and grant records accessible and the creation of a nonprofit for the North Carolina Historical Records Online.

Patricia M. Gailes. Gailes was recognized for her many roles in Southeastern Massachusetts, including as the former vice president of Bristol Chapter, Massachusetts Society of Genealogists, Inc. (MSOG, INC.), for the creation of a genealogy research room at the local library, and for obtaining grant funding through the Massachusetts Cultural Council to cover speaker fees for the Chapter. Patricia has served as vice president of Dighton Historical Society, Inc., and chairman of the Dighton Historical Commission for the town.

Midwest African American Genealogy Institute (MAAGI). The Institute has grown over the last ten years and has taken its place as a trusted educational and training institute for the beginner, the intermediate researcher, and the professional. Today MAAGI welcomes a record number of participants from multiple states.

Genealogy Tourism Award

The Genealogy Tourism Award is awarded to the following leaders in the promotion of local genealogy research:

Miriam Weiner. Weiner was nominated for this award because of her significant and long-term focus on the Jewish records and archives of Eastern Europe, notably Poland, Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, and more. Building relationships with archivists and government officials, Weiner has opened doors for researchers from across the world. She has augmented this work by leading tour groups at these repositories. Weiner's development of relationships fostered good will and key records access and preservation in areas and countries with frequent conflicts and lack of resources and staffing that would have resulted in record loss.

Homestead National Historical Park. Homestead National Historical Park actively works to educate and share the enormous impact of the Homestead Act of 1862. In 2019, it received digital assets from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln-Center of Great Plains Study about six black homesteading communities. The park's job is to share those stories on their website as the Black Homesteaders Project. This Project grew to an innovative collaborative effort between the Homestead National Historic Park and descendants of homesteaders, researchers, genealogists, and volunteers.

The Library of Virginia (LVA). LVA is the premier destination for Virginia family history researchers through its in-person and online programs. It also utilizes social media platforms such as Facebook, YouTube, and the Virginia state tourism site to reach thousands of people to spread the word about the exciting historic sites and repositories found throughout Virginia.

New York Genealogical & Biographical Society (NYG&B). For more than a decade, the NYG&B has organized research trips every year to New York City and Albany, New York. The research trips to New York City and Albany offer guided tours and lectures by the NYG&B and consulting NYC experts for researchers seeking to learn about the most important collections in local libraries and archives.

The NGS 2023 Family History Conference continues through Saturday, 3 June.

THE BEST WAY TO SAFELY LABEL PHOTOS

By Maureen A. Taylor

We tend to assume that future generations will always know who people are in photos, but (as you may have learned) that's not always the case. So it's important to understand how to safely label photos to preserve the information in them.

This is a common problem for our readers. One wrote that, "Before I knew any better, all my family photos are marked on the back in ballpoint pen. Will this damage them? Will the ink eventually seep through? I now have an archival marker for pictures going forward." Another wrote: **"**It seems that all the articles about photo restoration say not to write on the back of photos with anything other than a soft-lead pencil. Several years ago, I wrote names, etc. on the back of some of my photos using a waterproof and permanent ink marker that I purchased at a photography store. The pictures are still in perfect condition today. Is there any reason I shouldn't be using this marking pen?"

Both of these questions address a similar issue: How do you safely label photos to identify information in them for future generations? Photo-safe products on the market can help you—as can these three tips for marking photos.

Is your collection of family photos less than picture-perfect? Turn your piles of pictures into a model of photo organization in eight steps.

1. Write on back of photo using a soft lead pencil

If you can, use a soft lead pencil to write information—including who's in a photo, the date it was taken, the occasion, and where it was taken—on the back of a photograph (where the information will never become separated from the image). Soft lead is important because hard lead pencils will leave an indentation. Place the photo face down on a clean, dry surface and write with light pressure.

Consider writing some of the following details on the back of the photo:

- name(s) of the individual(s) pictured, as well as their birth or death dates
- when and where the photo was taken
- where you found the original image, or who has/had custody of the image

2. Use soft-tip markers for photos with coating

Unfortunately, pencils won't work on the coated papers used for today's photographs. Instead, purchase an odorless (when dry), waterproof, soft-tip marker. Just be careful to let the ink dry completely before you stack or store the image, because it is permanent.

Ballpoint pens and regular felt-tip markers are *not* good choices for labeling photos: Ballpoint pens smudge and leave indentations in the photograph and felt tip markers can bleed through the image. The good news is there are lots of choices for safe labeling tools in art supply stores and craft shops.

3. Scan photos that have damage

Time can take a toll on old photographs. From humidity to water damage, here are our tips for how to fix your damaged family photos.

If you have photographs marked with ballpoint pens, any damage is already done. Previous generations didn't have access to the photo-safe tools we have today. Don't worry too much about it. You can scan the photos to preserve the image and digitally repair ink smudges, and make sure that you use appropriate products when identifying your photographs.

ARE YOUR OLD FLOPPY DISKS STILL READABLE?

Do you have old floppy disks lying around that contain information you would hate to lose? They might contain genealogy data or old backup copies of income tax records or most anything else you cannot afford to lose. How long will the data last?

(Here's a hint: it won't last forever.)

Sydney Butler has written an article that may answer some of your questions. You can read it in the H*ow-To Geek* web site at: https://tinyurl.com/3xckev5e.

UNTANGLING OUR ROOTS: EXPERIENCES WITH AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGY

Genealogy research requires hard work, persistence, creativity, and often courage - no two stories are exactly alike!

The State Library and State Archives of North Carolina, in partnership with the Capital City Juneteenth Celebration Committee, present a Lunch and Learn panel of veteran family history researchers. The panelists

will offer research strategies and share their own experiences untangling the intersected knots of history, memory, and surviving records to reveal their ancestral roots. A question-and-answer session with panelists and staff of the SLNC and SANC will follow. Speakers: Cheryl Williams, Emerson Foster, and Lisa Withers.

Join us in Room 208 at the SLNC Government and Heritage Library or view the livestream event on YouTube.

Program Details:

This is a hybrid program; join us in room 208 at the SLNC Government & Heritage Library or tune in to the livestream on the State Library of North Carolina's YouTube page.

Date/Time: June 15, 2023, 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

Address: SLNC Government & Heritage Library, Room 208, 109 East Jones St., Raleigh, NC 27601

CONTACT INFO

GHL.info@ncdcr.gov

HUMAN DNA CAN NOW BE PULLED FROM THIN AIR OR A FOOTPRINT ON THE BEACH

Footprints left on a beach. Air breathed in a busy room. Ocean water.

Scientists have been able to collect and analyze detailed genetic data from human DNA from all these places, raising thorny ethical questions about consent, privacy and security when it comes to our biological information.

The researchers from the University of Florida, who were using environmental DNA found in sand to study endangered sea turtles, said the DNA was of such high quality that the scientists could identify mutations associated with disease and determine the genetic ancestry of populations living nearby.

They could also match genetic information to individual participants who had volunteered to have their DNA recovered as part of the research that was published in the scientific journal Nature Ecology & Evolution on Monday.

“All this very personal, ancestral and health related data is freely available in the environment and is simply floating around in the air right now,” said David Duffy, a professor of wildlife disease genomics at the University of Florida.

Environmental DNA has been obtained from air, soil, sediment, water, permafrost, snow and ice cores and the techniques are primarily being used to help track and protect endangered animals.

Human DNA that has seeped into the environment through our spit, skin, sweat and blood could be used to help find missing persons, aid in forensic investigations to solve crimes, locate sites of archaeological importance, and for health monitoring through DNA found in waste water, the study noted.

However, the ability to capture human DNA from the environment could have a range of unintended consequences — both inadvertent and malicious, they added. These included privacy breaches, location tracking, data harvesting, and genetic surveillance of individuals or groups. It could lead to ethical hurdles for the approval of wildlife studies.

You can read more in an article by Katie Hunt published in the *CNN Health* web site at: https://www.cnn.com/2023/05/15/health/human-dna-captured-from-air-scn/index.html.

(Reprinted from Dick Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter)

10 TOOLS FOR DIGITALLY SAVING FAMILY PHOTOS

By Melina Papadopoulos

Over the years, photos pile up. First, it's the major events: weddings, graduations, prom dates. Then, it's the small, intimate moments that might have otherwise been forgotten: a trip to the zoo, lazy Sunday afternoon, or summer slumber party.

In any case, all of these photos hold meaning, and you want to preserve them. But after a while, they may simply be adding to the clutter, whether that's in boxes in the attic or in unnamed albums on your phone.

You might have heard people say they have important files "on the cloud." Of course, this does not literally mean that their most-precious digital resources are drifting in the sky. Rather, to put it simply, "the cloud" is a collection of remote servers capable of holding your most-treasured documents, photos and other materials—no matter where you are.

Here are 10 tools (many of which tap into "the cloud") that can make saving your family photos seamless and secure.

1. Dropbox

Dropbox allows you to store your photos on the cloud with ease. That way, you don't have to worry about them cluttering up your workspace or accidentally getting thrown out whenever you do a little spring cleaning. You can also connect your account with up to three devices, convenient if you use more than one device to work on genealogy projects. With DropBox, you also never have to worry about losing access to photos, as Dropbox Backup can automatically back up all files and even allow you to recover old ones.

A Basic Individual account is free and grants you 2GB of space. An Individual Plus account costs $9.99 per month, offers 2,000 GB of space, and allows you to connect as many devices as you desire to the account. You can also review and work on your files when you are offline, handy if you are working somewhere with no or unreliable internet connection.

If you chip away at photo projects with your entire family, you might consider investing in a Dropbox Family Plan for $16.99 per month. Like the Individual Plus Plan, the Family Plan allows you to connect with unlimited devices, which makes collaborating on extensive genealogy projects much more seamless.

2. Amazon Photos

Yes, you can use Amazon for more than just ordering countless treasures to be shipped directly to your home, thanks to Amazon Photos.

Amazon Photos is included with an Amazon Prime membership. Storage is unlimited, and you can view your photos from all of your devices. Your photos will also be backed up automatically, so you don't have to worry about losing what's most important. You can also share your photos in private groups, which is perfect if you are working with others to collect photos of a specific ancestor.

Need to find a specific photo? You can tailor your search to zero in on specific words and weed out any irrelevant items.

What is perhaps most unique about Amazon Photos is that you get free shipping on prints. So if you decide you want a physical copy of your grandparents' wedding photo to hang up in the living room, you can order without having to worry about extra fees or having to leave home.

NOTE: Amazon will be discontinuing its service Amazon Drive; however, its photo storing service will remain.

3. Flickr

If you are looking for a platform that keeps all of your favorite photos in one secure location while also allowing you to show them off to whomever you desire, Flickr may be the ideal platform for you.

Using Flickr, you get to choose who sees your photos: sharable only by you and specific family members, or available for the entire world to see. This makes Flickr a perfect platform if you are looking to tell an ancestor's story through old photos and documents.

Creating a Flickr account is completely free, and you can upload up to 1,000 photos and videos at no charge. If you need more storage space, you can opt for Flickr Pro, which offers unlimited storage and the ability to use the desktop Auto-Uploadr to back up photos. The two-year plan costs $5.54 per month and is billed every two years. You can also choose a monthly plan for $8.25 per month or an annual plan for $6 per month.

4. Microsoft OneDrive

You may already be used to using popular tools like Microsoft Word to write gripping stories about ancestors or Microsoft PowerPoint to give presentations about your family history. You can also use Microsoft to save, manage and edit your photos with Microsoft OneDrive.

Like similar tools, Microsoft OneDrive allows you to access your photos from any location. You can also edit, organize and share your photos even when you are not presently connected to the internet.

Beyond this, however, Microsoft OneDrive lets you scan photos right from your device. This could be especially convenient if you have old photos or documents that you don't like to handle too much.

If you already have Microsoft 365 (even Microsoft 365 Basic), you should already have access to OneDrive. Microsoft 365 Basic costs $19.99 per year and grants you access to OneDrive and Outlook, as well as 100 GB of cloud storage.

With a paid plan, you can also make use of the web and mobile versions of popular Microsoft tools like Word, PowerPoint and Excel. These are valuable if you are hoping to tell stories about your ancestors that you can share with others, not just preserve photos.

Microsoft 365 Personal offers more storage space (1 TB/1000 GB) and premium versions of Word, PowerPoint, Excel and other products. It costs $69.99 per year. A separate Microsoft 365 Family plan permits up to six users, each of whom will have 1 TB of storage space.

5. Adobe Lightroom

Adobe Lightroom is the perfect photo-saving software for the meticulous organizer. Not only does Lightroom let you manage your photos from any device, it also provides you with some practical options for organizing your photos. You can create albums, then store them in an easy-to-find folder. For example, you can ensure that this year's family reunion photos don't get mixed up with last year's. You can also invite others to edit photos.

Adobe Lightroom also boasts an intelligent image-search function called Sensei. Adobe's Sensei learns how to recognize the contents of your photo files, then use that information to help you find what you are looking for. For example, if you have a lot of pictures of Great-grandma and are searching for more photos, Sensei could recognize Great-grandma's face and help you locate those other photos with just one click.

Adobe Lightroom costs $9.99 per month or $119.88 annually. The subscription cost overs 1 TB of cloud-storage space, plus access to exclusive Adobe fonts, creative cloud libraries and other features.

6. Apple Photos

If you are a devout Apple user who already has an iPhone, iPad or similar device, you are probably already familiar with that colorful Photos logo and all that it represents. But Apple Photos offers many different features that you could be overlooking.

For example, if you and your project partners share photos back and forth often via Messages, Photos can ensure that those photos end up in your library. You can also easily save with a quick right tap. That way, you don't have to worry about scrolling countless texts for that specific photo weeks later. Apple Photos can even suggest what to share with others based on your conversations and with whom you are talking.

Of course, we can't overlook iCloud for storing all of your most cherished photos. Creating an iCloud account is free and comes with 5GB of storage free. If you need more space, Apple also offers a premium service called iCloud+. The cheapest option comes with 50GB of storage and costs only $.99. You can also choose upgrades of 200GB and 2TB, which cost $2.99 and $9.99 and respectively.

7. FOREVER

For many, photos represent more than just a brief snapshot of a specific point in time, they represent memories worth reliving again and again—and worth allowing future generations experience as well. FOREVER is a platform devoted to preserving such memories and ensuring that they stay safe for years to come.

FOREVER offers many different services. The one most similar to the others mentioned on this list is FOREVER Storage, which gives you the chance to organize your photos anywhere.

FOREVER makes a promise that not many other brands can: Your account lasts forever (well, your lifetime plus 100 years), even if you become inactive for large periods of time. No matter how long a break you take, your memories will always be waiting for you.

FOREVER offers several different packages depending on the amount of storage you want. The maximum number of photos can range from 3,750 to 500,000. The cheapest package is presently a one-time payment of $164.99 and offers 10GB of storage, and the most-expensive package is $5,774.99 for 1 TB of storage. The site also offers two-year monthly payment plans.

8. BackBlaze

So far throughout this article, we have spoken extensively about cloud storage and how it makes accessing your photos from anywhere easier than ever.

To understand why BackBlaze is a valuable tool, it may help to understand the difference between two similar terms you may come across as you research photo saving tools: cloud storage and cloud backup. Cloud storage allows you to sync up all of your devices so that you can access important files from any one of them, from anywhere. Cloud storage is particularly important if you use many different devices for genealogy projects. Cloud backup, on the other hand, ensures that there is another copy of all your files

always available. This is a must if you don't want to risk ever losing all of your hard work should one your devices fail.

BackBlaze takes care of the latter issue for you. Whether you use a Mac or a PC, BackBlaze allows you to backup as many files as you need to, regardless of the number of your files or their size.

Once you open your account, the backup process will be automatic—you do not have go through great lengths just to ensure that your files are safe. You can also back up any external drives associated with your device. BackBlaze costs $7 per month or $70 annually.

9. Mylio

Mylio prides itself in allowing you to manage your own extensive library of memories, no matter how expansive that library may be. Best of all, you don't have to worry about combing endlessly through your library to ensure that every photo is in chronological order. Mylio Photos can automatically organize your library by date and folder.

One feature that makes Mylio stand out is its ability to seamlessly import your photos from your social media accounts to your devices. As a result, you don't have to manually save every family vacation photo you posted on Instagram to ensure that you have it forever even if you wish to take it down from public view. If you do wish to share photos, Mylio makes that painless as well. You can simply click the photo you want to share and then find the platform through which you want to share it.

Downloading the Mylio app is completely free, and you can enjoy many of Mylio's key features without paying. However, you have the choice of upgrading to Mylio Photos+ for $9.99 per month or $99.99 per year. Mylio Photos+ is unique from many other photo saving tools in that it does not require the cloud to save your photos across many different devices. Instead, your devices recognize each other over the internet. You can also enjoy SpaceSaver, which optimizes your photos so that you can fit more on your mobile devices (up to 15 times as many!) Mylio Vault Protection ensures that you never lose your favorite photos, even if one your devices is lost or broken. Mylio backs up your photos automatically!

10. FamilySearch

Most people may associate FamilySearch with family tree-building or collections of old records spanning many decades and many places. Believe it or not, however, FamilySearch can also be an excellent tool for saving and sharing photos. Best of all, creating an account and sharing photos is free.

Uploading photos on FamilySearch is easy. Simply find Memories on the top of the page and click "Share Your Memories." From there, click on the green button with a white + in the center to "Add Memories." You will then be prompted to upload a file. Though you can allow anyone to search for and see your photo, you can also mark it private so that it is visible only to you.

You can go a step forward by adding a story with your photo by clicking the "Create a story" button on the upload page. You will then be directed to a page with an option to upload photos (up to 10) and two text boxes (one for a title and the other for text of your story). This option allows you to bring your photos to life with fascinating historical facts about the places and people featured in your photos.

WEBSITES OF POSSIBLE INTEREST

HAVE YOU USED THE FAMILYSEARCH DIGITAL LIBRARY?

Here is a quote from https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/:

"Over 500,000 free genealogy books, family histories, maps, yearbooks, and more are available on the FamilySearch Digital Library.

"The Digital Library can connect you to the stories of your ancestors and lead you to new discoveries.

"Search this collection to find books about your family members. Discover the history of the places they lived. Read more about the events that may have changed the course of your great-great grandmother's life. Learn more about annual traditions of your grandfather's local church. New content is regularly added, so if you don't find what you're looking for, it may be there next week. The possibilities of what you might find are endless.

"The Digital Library can connect you to the stories of your ancestors and lead you to new discoveries."

Indeed, I have used the FamilySearch Digital Library a number of times and have been pleased with the results. Of course, I probably could have achieved the same results had a I purchased airline tickets to Salt Lake City, spent money on taxis or Uber, spent money in hotels and restaurants for a few days, and paid whatever other miscellaneous expenses are incurred on a multi-day trip. Besides that, such a trip also involves an "investment" of several days of my time.

The FamilySearch Digital Library is available free of charge. That's great, but the real "bottom line" financial benefit is even more impressive. Remotely accessing the Digital Library actually **SAVED** me hundreds, perhaps a thousand, dollars or so when compared to the traditional method of using my hard-earned money to pay for a trip to Salt Lake City to use a library there.

To paraphrase Benjamin Franklin's Poor Richard's Almanac, a penny saved is worth **MORE** than a penny earned because you don't have to pay income taxes on money that is saved. If you earn money, in most cases your earnings are taxable, leaving you with less money in your pocket or purse. (Unlike traditional sources of income, money saved does not require the payment of income taxes! A penny saved is therefore worth more than a penny earned (after taxes).

Note: "A penny saved is a penny earned" is a quote often attributed to Benjamin Franklin, but it appears that he never wrote those exact words. Instead, he originally wrote, "A penny saved is two pence clear." Later, he wrote a version closer to the saying we know: "A penny saved is a penny got." He never used the word "earned." However, a number of other authors have written the familiar version, "A penny saved is a penny earned."

The digital library at https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/ is a powerful resource for finding family history books and learning about families and places all over the world. Not only are the books and microfilms stored in Salt lake City, but digitization is also taking place at other major genealogy libraries, including:

Allen County Public Library

Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records

Birmingham, Alabama Public Library

BYU Family History Library

Columbus Metropolitan Library

Dallas Public Library

Family History Library

George A. Smathers Libraries at University of Florida

Historical Society of Pennsylvania

Houston Public Library

Midwest Genealogy Center

Onondaga County Public Library (with a Local History/Genealogy research department specializing in the history of Syracuse, Onondaga County, New York State, the New England States, Pennsylvania and New Jersey)

Ontario Ancestors (The largest family history society in Canada)

St. Louis County Library

The Miriam Weiner Routes to Roots Collection

The Southern California Genealogical Society and Library

Provo Daughters of Utah Pioneers Museum

Searching the FamilySearch Digital Library also includes searches of all the above libraries, resulting in saving even more money: I don't have to travel to all those libraries!

There is one major downside, however: the digitization of the genealogical works at all of these libraries is still a work-in-progress effort. That is, none of the libraries have yet had all of their collections digitized. Digitizing crews are presently active in many of these libraries, and more digital documents are being added weekly to the FamilySearch Digital Library's web site. If you don't find what you seek today, come back again every month or two and search again. The information you seek may have been added since your last search.

You can find the FamilySearch Digital Library at https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/

To access the library, follow the instructions at: https://www.familysearch.org/blog/en/family-history-books/

Have fun at the (digital) library!

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Black Heritage Day: An Afro-Classical Celebration

Sat, Jun 10 2023, 11am - 3pm
Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum 6136 Burlington Rd. Gibsonville NC 27249
Music was an important part of life for Dr. Charlotte Hawkins Brown. To honor her birthday, we're partnering with the Greensboro Opera to host Black Heritage Day! Join us to listen to local musicians and a very special performance by Chrystal E. Williams and Felipe Hostins, enjoy food from local Black owned food trucks, and take a stroll through our Black owned vendor market. There will be activity stations for kids and art! Our MC for the event will be DJ VC Qrush & Mrs. B, and we'll have performances by the Otesha Creative Arts Ensemble and the All American Jazz Collective.

Juneteenth at Stagville

Sat, Jun 17 2023, 10am - 1pm
Historic Stagville 5828 Old Oxford Road Durham NC 27712

Join us for Stagville's 17th annual Juneteenth program!

Commemorate Juneteenth by visiting Historic Stagville, a site where hundreds of enslaved people were emancipated in 1865. June 17, 2023 will be Stagville's annual Juneteenth event, honoring the local history of emancipation. Visit on Saturday, June 17th, to learn from talks and guided tours about emancipation; explore a pop-up display about freedom seekers at Stagville; and explore prompts for reflection and remembrance at

Horton Grove. Stories of love, loss, freedom, family, and resistance will illuminate the complex history of the transition to freedom in 1865.

Stagville was once part of a vast plantation with over 900 people enslaved. Today, Stagville is a state historic site dedicating to sharing the stories of the enslaved people of African descent who lived, labored and resisted here.

HUMOR

“The trouble wit the world is not that people know too little; it’s that they know so many things that just aren’t so.” – Mark Twain

PARTING THOUGHT

"Courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the judgement that something else is more important than fear." - Ambrose Redmoon

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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 919.932.0516 (voice/text)