

Genealogy Gems: News from the Fort Wayne Library
No. 59, January 31, 2009

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Exciting Program Line-up for 2009

by Curt B. Witcher

As many likely read in Dick Eastman's "Online Genealogy Newsletter" or saw in the NBC press releases, a new genealogy-based television program is debuting on NBC this spring. The first of six episodes of "Who Do You Think You Are?" is set to premiere on April 20, 2009 at 8:00 p.m. Lisa Kudrow, Sarah Jessica Parker and Susan Sarandon will explore their family histories in what NBC is calling a new "U.S. reality series." The former "Friends" star, Lisa Kudrow, is also the executive producer.

From the NBC press release: "In conjunction with Kudrow's production company, Is or Isn't Entertainment, and the U.K.'s Wall to Wall productions, the new show is an adaptation of the hit, award-winning British television documentary series of the same name. A NBC spokesperson said 'Who Do You Think You Are?' is intended to 'lead celebrities on a journey of self-discovery as they unearth their family trees that reveal surprising, inspiring and even tragic stories that often are linked to crucial events in American history.'" The Fox network is also in the planning stages of a similar series.

Now before exclaiming that the last thing you want to do is hear about another celebrity's ancestry, please note it is a very significant event for genealogy-based programming to make it onto mainstream, American network television. I, for one, would like to see much more family and local history based programming along the lines of the U.K.'s "Who Do You Think You Are?" and PBS's two very successful "Ancestors" series, as well as their most recent hit with Henry Louis Gates, Jr., "African American Lives." We should all support the American version of "Who Do You Think You Are?" to ensure we see more of this type of programming. There are so many lessons that can be taught and learned through exploring genealogy. Even Lisa Kudrow said in talking about the show, "This show personalizes history and turns it into a gripping narrative. The most striking thing about

the show is the realization of how connected we all are." The Genealogy Center may have a premiere party on the night of April 20th. Details will be forthcoming in next month's ezine.

While our Genealogy Center programs don't make the television airways, we nonetheless have a fantastic line-up already planned for this year that you simply won't want to miss. Throughout this ezine, you will find many programs described--from the last program of WinterTech and the first program of the Tree Talks 2009 series to mini-courses, seminars and "March Madness." These programs provide you with excellent opportunities to expand your genealogical knowledge, network with others interested in the same areas of research in which you are engaged, and consult with experts on the really tough challenges.

In addition to the abovementioned fare, we are planning some special events. In cooperation with the Allen County Genealogical Society, we will be presenting a program entitled, "Climbing Your DNA: Genetic Genealogy" May 22 & 23, 2009. It will be an exciting one and a half days of up-to-date information on this revolutionary aspect of documenting your family history, making connections with heretofore unknown relatives, and using science to begin solving some of your research brick-walls. Specific details will be available next month. Further on in the year, June 18-20 and October 29-31 to be exact, the Genealogy Center and the Library will be hosting the Palatines to America Conference and the first International Black Roots Conference respectively. You won't regret reserving all these dates on your calendar.

An Aid to Researching Residents of the Southwestern United States
by Delia Cothrun Bourne

Newspapers are a wonderful genealogical source, but researchers often limit their search for relevant publications to a specific town or county. Even broadening the search to surrounding counties may not be enough. A wonderful compilation by the El Paso Genealogical Society perfectly illustrates the point that in wide open spaces, where towns were far apart, the newspapers of the largest city in the area may well have served the functions of a local paper for a very large territory. El Paso was one such city, its papers providing news of people who lived in and moved through the area on their way west. "Births, Deaths & Marriages from El Paso Newspapers ... for Arizona, Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Indian Territory" (call number 979 B539) was the result of a twenty year project and consists of four volumes covering newspapers to 1900.

Each volume is divided into sections by event. Death notices are by far the most numerous and normally include the decedent's name, age, and place, date, and cause or circumstances of death, but can also provide names of survivors, birth place, residence or destination, and occupation. Some entries are brief, such as that for Boatman, a Negro who "dropped dead" in San Antonio in 1884. Others include detailed biographical information. Entries are arranged alphabetically, but there is an index of other names mentioned at the end of each volume. So, if one knows only that Frank Middleton killed someone in Smithville, Texas, in 1895, looking up his name will lead you to the citation for Alexander Jenkins, the victim.

Marriage notices include the names of bride and groom, place and date of marriage, and might include birth places, officiant's name, and the names of other family members. These notices can

also supply unexpected details, as in the 1897 report that Laura E. Flint married Thomas W. Wiggins, after obtaining a divorce from her former husband the same day.

Birth notices normally include parents' names (usually Mr. and Mrs.), birth date and place, or other information about the family, but may not name the child, only note its gender. The birth sections also include announcements for birthdays, baptisms, and adoptions, as well as items such as the 1885 note that Fannie, Adolph, and Helen Schultz were being educated in New York City.

Additional sections, labeled "oddities" or "funnies" appear in some volumes, and volume two includes a UFO section with a sketch of an airship that appeared in El Paso in 1897. So, as with all newspapers of the time, one never knows what treasure one will find.

Race, Slavery, and Free Blacks Series
by Melissa Shimkus

"Race, Slavery, and Free Blacks: Petitions to Southern Legislatures and County Courts, 1775-1867" is an enlightening source for those researching southern ancestors. Upon receiving a grant in 1991, the University of North Carolina collected copies of race and slavery petition records from state archives and county courthouses in fifteen southern states and the District of Columbia. The resulting collection was microfilmed in two series and reproduces approximately 18,500 petitions containing 144,000 pages of documents concerning manumissions, military service, wills, estate inventories, slave contracts, and debt records.

The microfilm is simple to use, thanks to Loren Schweninger's "A Guide to the Microfilm Edition of Race, Slavery, and Free Blacks, Series I, Petitions to Southern Legislatures, 1777-1867" (call number 975 G941) and "Race, Slavery, and Free Blacks, Series II, Petitions to Southern County Courts, 1775-1867" (call number 975 G941A). A name index at the end of each volume directs the researcher to a document abstract in that book. The number provided in the abstract correlates to the petition on microfilm. The UNC Race & Slavery Petitions Project also provides an online index to Series I documents at http://library.uncg.edu/slavery_petitions/about.asp

The records are fascinating, even if an ancestor is not involved. In 1859, the Mississippi Legislature was petitioned by 53 residents of Kemper County concerning Gillam, a free black man. According to a new law, Gillam would not be allowed to live in the area, but the petitioners felt an exception should be made, since Gillam was a man of "good character" and employed as a carpenter.

Samuel Ridout, executor of the estate of Richard Tydings, petitioned the Anne Arundel County (MD) Court in 1783 for help in the disposition of Tydings' property. Rachel Tydings, widow of Richard, argued that her dower rights nullified her husband's willed manumission of their slaves. The petition consists of nine pages explaining the details of the case, as well as seven pages pertaining to the estate records, including the will and inventory. Genealogical information concerning the deceased, his widow, his children and their spouses, and slaves can be found within these records.

The "Race, Slavery, and Free Blacks" series provides access to primary source documents valuable

to anyone investigating southern culture and history from the beginning of our country to the immediate post-Civil War period. Anyone researching ancestors in the South will find these records worth exploring on their next visit to the Genealogy Center.

Preservation Tip of the Month-- Cleaning Soiled Pages
by Becky Schipper

Remove pencil marks and other spots with an eraser. This can be an art gum or plastic eraser. Use a light touch so as not to abrade, thin, or grind down the paper. Crayon, ink, and marker are typically very difficult to remove and in most cases, impossible to remove completely. Using chemicals or other liquids will only wrinkle the paper and/or cause the paper fibers to swell. When the paper fibers are further apart, it is easier to loose parts of the ink.

Document cleaning pads are another good option for removing dirt and soil from paper. They should be held above the page and twisted to release their powder. Then gently move the powder over the page with your fingers or a soft brush to absorb the soil. Finally, brush off any residue. Document cleaning pads can be purchased through art or library supply sources such as Gaylord, Demco, and Metal Edge, Inc.

Gum and other sticky material can sometimes be removed by placing the book in a plastic bag and putting it in the freezer for several days. The hardened substance can then be lifted with a knife or spatula.

Last Chance for WinterTech 2008-2009
by Melissa Shimkus and Delia Bourne

The WinterTech series concludes with Don Litzer presenting "Not Just Ancestry: Using the Entire Internet for Genealogy" on February 11, at 2:30 PM in Meeting Room A. The Internet's potential for family history research is much more than trolling Ancestry.com for names. This session will offer strategy for successful Internet research, recommend a short list of must-see websites, and provide examples. And remember that this is the same day as the Allen County Genealogical Society of Indiana's monthly meeting, held at 7 p.m. To register, please call 260-421-1225 to register, or email Genealogy@ACPL.info.

March Madness, Genealogy Style!
by Melissa Shimkus and Delia Bourne

Our third annual "March Madness, Genealogy Style" is March 1st through 7th, 2009, and we hope you take a bit of time away from watching basketball to attend! The schedule is listed below. All programs will be held at the Main Library, and all programs except "Tech Time" on March 6th will be held in Meeting Room A. "Tech Time" will be held in the Genealogy Center.

Sunday, March 1 at 1:00 p.m. Melissa Shimkus presents, "Southern Lore." After the Civil War, many

changes occurred in the Southern States. Learn about historical events that affect your research in the South. Discover your Southern ancestors through records from the reconstruction era. Bring your ancestors to life by learning about their history.

Monday, March 2 at 2:00 p.m. Cynthia Theusch presents, "Family Search Labs." Learn about LDS's beta website, featuring family history technologies not yet ready for prime time. Test innovations in using the Internet to find, research, organize, and share information--for free!

Tuesday, March 3 at 10:00 a.m. Cynthia Theusch presents, "Civilian Conservation Corps, 1933-1942." This presentation will provide background and historical information on the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), which was part of Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal. Learn more about how the CCC helped the nation and about the men who joined and became known as Roosevelt's Tree Army. Learn where and how you can obtain their enlistment papers.

Wednesday, March 4 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Daughters of the American Revolution provide Research Assistance for Membership. DAR members provide assistance to anyone interested in research to join the Society.

Thursday, March 5 at 2:00 p.m. John Beatty presents, "Evaluating Published Family Histories." The Genealogy Center owns more than 57,000 volumes of published family histories. How do you, as a researcher, evaluate them effectively in your research? This class will look at techniques for assessing the quality of published family histories, from format and style to footnotes and evidence. It will present examples of some of the most outstanding genealogies in the collection and discuss what makes them great.

Friday, March 6 at 10:00 a.m. Delia Cothrun Bourne presents, "Tech Time." Copiers, printers, scanners... Lost amid the Genealogy Center's machinery? Take a brief tour among the gears and microchips for tips on using these valuable resources. *Space is limited.* Please register.

Saturday, March 7 at 10:00 a.m. Sara Patalita presents, "Using Flickr to Document Your Genealogy." Sharing photos and scanned documents has never been easier, thanks to new online software. Sara Patalita will discuss the ins and outs of Flickr, one of the most popular programs for storing and documenting your historic photographs.

Please call 260-421-1225 or email Genealogy@ACPL.info to register for any or all of our programs. Keep an eye on our Special Programs website www.acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy/programs.html for class descriptions and registration information.

Irish & Scots-Irish Genealogy: Part 1--A Two Day Mini-Course
by Melissa Shimkus and Delia Bourne

The first of our 2009 two-day mini-courses will be presented March 13 & 14, 2009. Steve Myers, Genealogy Center Assistant Manager and well-known lecturer on Irish research, will provide a thorough grounding in the sources and techniques that lead to success. The mini-course schedule is below.

Friday, March 13, 2009:

9:00 a.m.: Library Opens
9:15 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.: Course Introduction
9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.: Doing Your Homework in North American Sources
10:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.: Break
10:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.: Getting the Lay of the Land: Irish Place-names, Maps & Gazetteers
11:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.: Lunch on Your Own (A map of local restaurants will be provided.)
12:45 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.: Griffith's Valuation and the Tithe Applotment Books
1:45 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.: Break
2:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.: Tour of Genealogy Center
2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.: Assisted Research / Consultations
6:00 p.m.: Library Closes

Saturday, March 14, 2009

9:00 a.m.: Library Opens
9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.: Church Records & Heritage Centres
10:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.: Break
10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.: Civil Registration & Other Vital Records Sources
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.: Lunch on Your Own (A map of local restaurants will be provided.)
12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.: Censuses & Census Substitutes
1:30 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.: Break
1:45 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.: Assisted Research / Consultations
6:00 p.m.: Library Closes

The complementary Part 2 mini-course, tentatively scheduled for March of 2010, will cover additional topics such as using Irish manuscript collections and local history publications. Steve says you'll learn lots and have fun too! Class descriptions and registration information will be posted soon on our Web site at <http://www.ACPL.Info/Genealogy/programs.html>

Beginning Genealogy Class

On Saturday March 28, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon, Margery Graham will present a program on "Beginning Genealogy." This event is sponsored by the Allen County Genealogical Society of Indiana, and will be held in the Orientation Room on the west end of the Main Library's first floor. The program will cover how to begin your search into your family history, gathering and organizing your information for best results, application of basic and proven research methods to keep your research on track, and a tour of the Genealogy Center. Pre-registration along with a \$10 fee are required. Call 260-672-2585 for more information, or find a registration form at <http://www.acgsi.org/>. This is the first of the Tree Talks series for 2009. Future subjects include Kentucky research at ACPL, preservation, and much more! Watch our Special Programs site <http://www.acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy/programs.html> for more information!

Librarians on Parade

Curt Witcher

February 11, 2009--Allen County Genealogical Society Meeting, Allen County Public Library, 900 Library Plaza, Fort Wayne, IN, Meeting Room C, 7 p.m. Topic: "Electronic Publishing."

February 28, 2009--Whittier Area Genealogical Society Seminar, Greenleaf Masonic Temple, 7604 Greenleaf Avenue, Whittier, CA, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. "Doing Effective Genealogical Research in Libraries," "Using Periodical Literature for Genealogical Research," "Pain in the Access: Getting More from the Internet for Your Genealogy," and "All That Other Stuff!: Other Census Records Beyond Federal Population Schedules."

March 3, 2009--Indiana State Historic Records Advisory Board Conference, Allen County Public Library, 900 Library Plaza, Fort Wayne, IN, Meeting Room C, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. A seminar format to begin a conversation about some pressing issues in the archival community in Indiana.

March 18, 2009--Grace A. Dow Memorial Library, 1710 West St. Andrews, Midland, MI, Library Lounge, 7 p.m. Topic: "Preserving Military History"

John Beatty

March 5, 2009--Allen County Public Library, 900 Library Plaza, Fort Wayne, IN, Meeting Room A, 2:00 p.m. Topic: "Evaluating Published Family Histories."

Delia Bourne

March 6, 2009-- Allen County Public Library, 900 Library Plaza, Fort Wayne, IN, Meeting Room A, 10:00 a.m. Topic: "Tech Time."

Cynthia Theusch

March 2, 2009--Allen County Public Library, 900 Library Plaza, Fort Wayne, IN, Meeting Room A, 2:00 p. m. Topic: "Family Search Labs."

March 3, 2009--Allen County Public Library, 900 Library Plaza, Fort Wayne, IN, Meeting Room A, 10:00 a.m. Topic: "Civilian Conservation Corps, 1933-1942."

Melissa Shimkus

March 1, 2009--Allen County Public Library, 900 Library Plaza, Fort Wayne, IN, Meeting Room A, 1:00 p.m. Topic: "Southern Lore."

Area Calendar of Events

Allen County Genealogical Society of Indiana (ACGSI)

February 11, 2009 at 7 p.m. (social time begins at 6:30 p.m.) at the Allen County Public Library's Main Library, 900 Library Plaza, Meeting Room A. Curt Witcher will present "Electronic Publishing."

Allen County-Fort Wayne Historical Society, 302 East Berry, Ft. Wayne, IN

February 1, 2009 at 2 p.m. Dr. Curtis J. Jones will present "They, Too, Came as Pioneers: Early African-American Settlers in Northwest Indiana."

Driving Directions to the Library

Wondering how to get to the library? Our location is 900 Library Plaza, Fort Wayne, Indiana, in the block bordered on the south by Washington Boulevard, the west by Ewing Street, the north by Wayne Street, and the east by the Library Plaza, formerly Webster Street. We would enjoy having you visit the *Genealogy Center*.

To get directions from your exact location to 900 Library Plaza, Fort Wayne, Indiana, visit this link at MapQuest:

<http://www.mapquest.com/maps/map.adp?formtype=address&addtohistory=&address=900%20Webster%20St&city=Fort%20Wayne&state=IN&zipcode=46802%2d3602&country=US&geodiff=1>

>From the South

Exit Interstate 69 at exit 102. Drive east on Jefferson Boulevard into downtown. Turn left on Ewing Street. The Library is one block north, at Ewing Street and Washington Boulevard.

Using US 27:

US 27 turns into Lafayette Street. Drive north into downtown. Turn left at Washington Boulevard and go five blocks. The Library will be on the right.

>From the North

Exit Interstate 69 at exit 112. Drive south on Coldwater Road, which merges into Clinton Street. Continue south on Clinton to Washington Boulevard. Turn right on Washington and go three blocks. The Library will be on the right.

>From the West

Using US 30:

Drive into town on US 30. US 30 turns into Goshen Ave. which dead-ends at West State Blvd. Make an angled left turn onto West State Blvd. Turn right on Wells Street. Go south on Wells to Wayne Street. Turn left on Wayne Street. The Library will be in the second block on the right.

Using US 24:

After crossing under Interstate 69, follow the same directions as from the South.

>From the East

Follow US 30/then 930 into and through New Haven, under an overpass into downtown Fort Wayne. You will be on Washington Blvd. when you get into downtown. Library Plaza will be on the right.

Parking at the Library

At the Library, underground parking can be accessed from Wayne Street. Other library parking lots are at Washington and Webster, and Wayne and Webster. Hourly parking is \$1 per hour with a \$7 maximum. ACPL library card holders may use their cards to validate the parking ticket at the west end of the *Great Hall of the Library*. Out of county residents may purchase a subscription

card with proof of identification and residence. The current fee for an Individual Subscription Card is \$70.

Public lots are located at the corner of Ewing and Wayne Streets (\$1 each for the first two half-hours, \$1 per hour after, with a \$4 per day maximum) and the corner of Jefferson Boulevard and Harrison Street (\$3 per day).

Street (metered) parking on Ewing and Wayne Streets. On the street you plug the meters 8am - 5pm, weekdays only. It is free to park on the street after 5pm and on the weekends.

Visitor center/Grand Wayne Center garage at Washington and Clinton Streets. This is the Hilton Hotel parking lot that also serves as a day parking garage. For hourly parking, 7am - 11 pm, charges are .50 for the first 45 minutes, then \$1.00 per hour. There is a flat \$2.00 fee between 5pm and 11pm.

Genealogy Center Queries

The Genealogy Center hopes you find this newsletter interesting. Thank you for subscribing. We cannot, however, answer personal research emails written to the e-zine address. The department houses a Research Center that makes photocopies and conducts research for a fee.

If you have a general question about our collection, or are interested in the Research Center, please telephone the library and speak to a librarian who will be glad to answer your general questions or send you a research center form. Our telephone number is 260-421-1225. If you'd like to email a general information question about the department, please email: Genealogy@ACPL.Info.

Publishing Note:

This electronic newsletter is published by the Allen County Public Library's Genealogy Center, and is intended to enlighten readers about genealogical research methods as well as inform them about the vast resources of the Allen County Public Library. We welcome the wide distribution of this newsletter and encourage readers to forward it to their friends and societies. All precautions have been made to avoid errors. However, the publisher does not assume any liability to any party for any loss or damage caused by errors or omissions, no matter the cause.

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If you do not want to receive this e-zine, please follow the link at the very bottom of the issue of Genealogy Gems you just received or send an email to kspears@acpl.lib.in.us with "unsubscribe e-zine" in the subject line.

Steve Myers & Curt Witcher, co-editors