On to the Days of Summer, and Family History Time!
by Curt B. Witcher

Though summer doesn’t officially start until the later part of June, for many May seems to be the month when our thoughts turn to summer activities, and our summer plans are likely firmed up. For numerous genealogists, summer is a particularly busy and engaging time of year. Family reunions and other similar gatherings dot the calendar; major genealogical conferences take place at the state and national levels; and there are usually thoughts of some kind of family history road-trip, whether it is to visit a library and archive, or a courthouse and cemetery, or the old hometown. I would urge you to make careful plans now so that the summer does not get away from you.

There are some amazing educational and networking opportunities taking place over the summer of 2016. A list of some of the major ones happening at the Allen County Public Library this year was published in the December “Genealogy Gems.” And there are many more around the state and across the country. With the National Genealogical Society’s annual conference starting in the middle of next week, it’s probably too late to take advantage of that event if you’ve not already made plans. Another national genealogical conference is happening at the end of August in Springfield, Illinois, and it’s the near-perfect time to make plans to attend. Registration just opened this past week for the Federation of Genealogical Society’s annual conference scheduled for August 31 - September 3, 2016. Yes, it bumps right up against our Labor Day celebrations, but why not reward yourself for all your genealogical labors over the past year and plan to attend. Take a look at the numerous offerings over four days (and register, too!) at www.FGS.org.

In our heavily tech-oriented and ever increasingly connected world, some may hear the retort, or even articulate it themselves: Why do I need to spend my hard-earned money physically attending a multiple-day event when I can watch YouTube videos for free and attend webinars for a lot cheaper?! We’ve even had some bloggers indicate that genealogical cruises (still rather popular) are a better economic
value than traditional conferences. I believe both those views do not appreciate the totality of many conference experiences. There is significant value in networking with three important conference groups—fellow attendees, presenters, and exhibitors.

First, fellow attendees can have much to add to one’s knowledge base by the questions they ask in the presentations you will attend. As the old saying goes, we don’t know what we don’t know; hence, hearing others’ questions on the same topic can be both enlightening and instructive. I can’t begin to count the many times over the course of my family history career that I have substantially benefited from hearing the answers to questions others have asked. In addition, meeting fellow attendees during “passing times” between sessions, at meal functions, and enjoying the exhibit hall provides even more opportunities for engagement. Second, being able to ask specific questions of knowledgeable presenters about your particular research challenges before and after presentations, in the exhibit hall, and at social events can be most beneficial. And third, being able to converse with exhibitors and vendors about not only their products and services but also about your research needs has high value.

If it has been a while since you’ve been to a national conference, or if you’ve never attended one, give the Federation of Genealogical Societies’ conference this year a try. This conference is being hosted by the Illinois State Genealogical Society in Springfield, Illinois, a city within easy driving distance of many hundreds of thousands of genealogists. You will be among thousands of like-minded individuals in a safe, friendly Midwestern town. Engaging in such an enjoyable and informative event may truly be the boost your family history research needs.

There are two truly spectacular family history events happening in July if you’d prefer your "genealogical fix" sooner. The Allen County Public Library is hosting the Midwest African American Genealogy Institute (MAAGI) July 12-14, 2016. One might muse about why it is called an institute, and when discovering the cost one might have an eye-popping “Oh my!” experience. But don’t rush to discard it simply based on price. An institute is much different from a conference or seminar. Institutes tend to be much more narrowly focused, as this one is. Institutes tend to have the best of the best presenters, and MAAGI certainly does. There are four tracks coordinated by experts in their respective fields and filled with outstanding presenters. It is definitely a deep-dive into African American family history research.

Another difference between an institute and a conference is what happens afterward. A shortcoming of most conferences and seminars, large and small, is that typically there isn’t much follow-through. We learn strategies we are going to implement, and we hear about records and resources that we are going to check and use in our research. But the event ends, we go back to our homes and busy lives, and our every-day activities push all of our new learning and best practices right off our radar. A focused institute like MAAGI provides one with opportunities to actually do some of the research, follow some of the leads, and implement some of the advice one is given. One is given assignments and work product is expected by the end of the institute. One doesn’t just sit and take notes; rather, one engages, learns, and does research in better ways and engages more new sources. If you’re engaged in African American research, you deserve a premium experience, and this is it. <www.MaagiInstitute.org>

Also on July 15th and 16th, the Indiana Historical Society is presenting the 2016 Midwestern Roots Family History and Genealogy Conference at the Marriott East in Indianapolis, Indiana. This conference features some excellent national speakers including CeCe Moore from "Finding Your Roots with Henry Louis Gates, Jr." and "Genealogy Roadshow" as well as a perennial crowd favorite Lisa Louise Cooke. The entire program is filled with engaging and worthwhile session presented by individuals who know their subject matter. The preconference day on July 14th has programs for librarians and archivists, a writing
Amish Homesteads of 1798
by Melissa C. Tennant

John M. Byler’s "Amish Homesteads of 1798" (974.8 B99Am) explores the families that resided in Pennsylvania’s pre-1800 Amish settlements. He begins with chapters that offer a brief overview of Amish life, including information about building materials, utensils, animals, books, clothing, candles, and soap, all of which Amish settlers used around the 1798 time period.

Byler’s next set of chapters examine the Amish settlements in Pennsylvania from 1790 to 1800. Using the “1798 Federal Direct Tax List,” (available on Ancestry.com as the “Pennsylvania, U.S. Direct Tax Lists, 1798”), he divides the tax lists first by county and then by township. Then he chronicles the Amish names from these settlements. Details gleaned from the lists include the occupant and owner of the property, the amount of acreage, the names of adjoining neighbors, the types of buildings (barn, kitchen, mill, cabin, etc.) on the land, materials used, and their value. He then correlates these settlements and individuals to the 1790 and 1800 federal censuses, which are also available on Ancestry.com.

As the book continues, the next section merges what Byler discovered in the census and tax lists with information about Amish congregational members in 1798 that are detailed in Hugh Gingerich and Rachel Kreider’s “Amish and Amish Mennonite Genealogies” (929.102 AM5Y). This volume contains more than 90,000 names and includes records of Amish immigrants and their descendants through 1850. Byler provides an accounting of the families in Pennsylvania while cross-referencing them with the more descriptive detail found in Gingerich’s compilation. In the final chapters of the "Amish Homesteads," Byler offers transcriptions of wills and estate records and includes an index.

To show how the Byler and Gingerich volumes can be used in tandem, consider the example of Yost Yoder, who was a member of the Big Valley Congregation. Yoder's parentage, birth and marriage details, children, migration within the Pennsylvania Amish communities, and property purchases are provided. The book also includes a description of his stone house in Mifflin County, detailing the number of windows and panes of glass, information about other buildings, and the acreage of the property, since he was taxed on all of these. A reference to the Gingerich volume yields more information about Yoder's parents, siblings, and descendants. Further information can be found about the Yoder family by consulting the cited sources in the Gingerich book.
For a researcher seeking Amish ancestors in Pennsylvania in the late 18th century, this resource should be considered a starting point for learning more about their settlements and extended families.

Historic Inscriptions on Western Emigrant Trails
by Delia Bourne

The idea of actually carving my name into a tree, wall or even a rock has never occurred to me. If I think about it, I hear my long-deceased grandmother tsk-tsking in the back of my mind. But it is fascinating that many of our west-bound ancestors did scratch their names into the rocks that rose from the landscape through which they passed. The Oregon-California Trails Association has published Randy Brown's "Historic Inscriptions on Western Emigrant Trails" (978 B614H) to document these inscriptions left by thousands of travelers.

Brown spent twenty-five years chronicling the names, dates, and artwork etched into stone outcroppings, carved into trees and stumps, and even written on buffalo skulls, all left by travelers to mark their paths and often to relay information to friends and relatives following behind them. Besides actually visiting the sites, he also researched diaries and travelogues to find mention of inscriptions that have since faded or disappeared entirely. Often included in the inscriptions are notes about the emigrants' health and outlook, prayers of thanksgiving, destinations, political messages, births, and deaths.

The volume begins with a map of the western states that denotes each of the eight general inscription regions. Each of these regions has its own section which opens with a detailed map showing the locations of specific sites. A physical description these sites and related diary extracts is followed by transcriptions as well as photographs of selected inscriptions. Brown adds other notes, such as when dates are carved clearly but the names are illegible, annotations on locations mentioned in the inscription, and remarks about the locations of inscriptions in relation to other markings. Many are referenced in Appendix A, “Source Lists of Historical Inscriptions,” located in the back of the book.

Other appendices include an alphabetical listing of the sites and a section titled "Inscriptions, Rocks, Weathering and Time," which discusses how the various types of stone and the variety of materials may affect the weathering of the inscription. Brown also added a very fine bibliography and a name index to round off the usefulness to researchers.

Whether you are actually looking for a specific person or just browsing through history, Brown's "Historic Inscriptions on Western Emigrant Trails" is riveting volume.

Technology Tip of the Month--Microsoft Access, Table Design Mode
by Kay Spears

In the last article we were getting ready to create a simple address database called Kays Address
Database. In this database we will have eleven fields: ID, LName, FName, Street Address, City, State, Zip, Phone, Email, Remarks, and Merge. Once we get this database created, we can build on it. So, let’s start. The instructions I’m giving are based on the formatting in Microsoft 2013, but the other versions should have the same verbiage; they just might be in different locations. For those of you who don’t have this version, you want to start with a “blank database.” Open Microsoft Access 2013. Because Microsoft is always trying to help us, when you open their 2013 version the first thing you will see is their template page. The only thing we are interested in on this page is the template that says “blank desktop database.” Click on it. When this opens, a dialog box appears, asking for a file name. Type in whatever name you’re giving this database. There is also a little folder icon that allows you to select where on your computer you want to park this database. Then click on “create.”

When it opens, you should see that a “table” has already been created for you. In that table should be the words “ID” and “click to add”. We are going to do a little bit of tweaking to what Microsoft has given us. Since we have 2013, we have the delightful Microsoft ribbon with which to work. Located at the top, the tabs you should see are: File, Home, Create, External Data, and Database Tools. And because I am in the table view, I also have the “Table Tools” options highlighted. Those options are fields and table. This highlighted feature changes depending on what I am doing in my database. We are going to add some fields to our database. Make sure you have selected your “Home” tab. In the left hand corner of our ribbon is the “View” option; you should see an icon which appears to be a pencil, ruler and triangle. This is our “Design” tool. Click on it. When you do that, a drop down box opens, giving you a choice: Database view (which you are already in) and a Design View – click on the Design View. A Table Name dialog box opens, give it a name, in my case it will be Kays Address. I try not to add punctuation marks, such as periods, commas, dashes, etc. in my titles – sometimes this can cause odd things to happen in computer paths.

Now that you have named it, you should be in the Design View of your Access database. You should see a Pane to the left, a Field Name, Data Type, Description to the right and underneath that are two tabs: General and Lookup. Already created for you will be an ID field. If you look at the Data Type for the ID field, you will see that AutoNumber as automatically been put in. This is an Access default, but that doesn’t mean that you have to use it, and there are some databases where you may not want an ID field. But for this one, you want an ID field with the automatic number. Also look at the beginning of the ID Field, and you should see a little tiny Key icon. This Key icon indicates that the ID field is the Primary Key field. A primary key means that each data entry will be unique. There are databases for which you will not want a primary key. However, for this one you will, so leave it alone. Each table can have only one Primary Key field. (For future reference, there may be more than one table in a database.)

Now we are ready to enter more fields. Go to the next line in Field Name (underneath the ID field). Type in LName. With your tab key, tab over to Data Type. You should see the words Short Text, but you should also notice a drop down box. If you look at the drop down box, you will see all of the other options available to you. This is where you can set up exactly what you want this field to do. However, for this database we just want Short Text. Short Text allows you to type in 255 characters, which for most names shouldn’t be a problem. There is another feature called Long Text, which can store an enormous amount of text – up to a gigabyte of text – even though controls on forms and reports can only display the first 64,000 characters. Use this option sparingly. Back
**Next Article: Microsoft Data Entry Form**

********** Quick-Tip of the Month for Preservation--Preservation Websites  
by Delia Bourne  
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Along with collecting the names of people with their dates, places and stories, family historians also collect other memorabilia: letters, military discharge papers, photographs, and a variety of heirlooms, such as silver spoons, antique sewing machines, quilts, and samplers. Owning these items is a privilege, but ownership also entails the responsibility to care for family treasures and pass them along to the generations that follow.

Some general preservation tips are applicable to all objects, such as washing your hands and wearing gloves to eliminate dirt, oils and acids; and watching the environment, since high and low temperatures, dust, fumes, moisture and even excessive sunlight are detrimental to almost everything. When dealing with heirlooms and personal valuables, seeking more knowledge is always advisable. With online sources, it's never been easier to discover how to best preserve and care for these valuables. Here are a couple of the best general preservation websites:

• The American Library Association's "Save Your Stuff" (http://www.ala.org/alcts/preservationweek/howto) contains information on the care and storage of audiovisual and film items, photographs and slides, books and documents, textiles, wood, metal, glass and digital files.

• The Antiques Roadshow's "Tips of the Trade" (http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/roadshow/tips/) includes information on preserving a vast array of collectibles such as dolls, military arms, clocks, musical instruments, folk art, glass, paintings, metal work, jewelry, fabrics, pottery, art and other collectibles.

• The Henry Ford Museum's "Caring for Your Artifacts"...
(https://www.thehenryford.org/collections-and-research/digital-resources/caring-for-artifacts/) provides detailed articles on the conservation of textiles, clocks, oil paintings, silver, furniture, glass, ceramics, iron, brass, bronze, paper, photographs and motorized vehicles.

Collectors will also find one more useful website when researching the care, conservation, and repair of personal memorabilia, and that is Google (https://www.google.com/). While the above websites are all informative, Google allows you to search for a website that might cater to your specific need. Some websites include those of vendors, which are trying to sell a product or service, but many also include information on preserving or repairing items, best practices for storage, cleaning tips and more. Search by name if a specific website or vendor is known. If not, use a description of the item plus a preservation search term, such as “vinyl album preservation,” “scrapbook conservation,” “wood furniture repair,” or “china care cleaning,” and other variations. Learn as much as possible from these websites, but use common sense as well.

Grandmother’s silver candy dish, Mom’s table china and Great-Uncle Joseph’s war medals are just some of the personal items that family historians want to preserve, and there are many online tools to aid in that endeavor.

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PERSI Gems
by Adam Barrone and Mike Hudson
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Are you looking for a springtime topic of conversation other than politics or the weather? If so, the Craighead County (AR) Historical Quarterly, v.49n.1, Jan. 2011, has just the ticket:

Crowd of dudes on street corners discuss baseball more than damsels, news note, 1885

The Periodical Source Index (PERSI) cites thousands of articles to help you brush up on baseball history. Try a baseball search at:

http://search.findmypast.com/search/periodical-source-index

Baseball as civil endeavor, 1880s
Baseball history, drowning by numbers
Baseball umpire-baiting stories
Baseball, see Wanton bribery
Bloomer girls baseball, 1890-1930
Candidates for sheriff baseball game, 1932
Gene Smith, cow pasture baseball, 1936, IN
Great Black Swamp frogs, Civil War-era baseball
Houma Indians and 1946 baseball scandals
It was real baseball, Tokyo team, 1935
Jazz age baseball battle, history, 1920s
Limits of baseball integration, 1956, Shreveport
Lithuanian-Americans in baseball
Minneapolis: city of protests in baseball
When going through boxes of your family member’s memorabilia, it is possible that you will stumble upon a recipe book or two. These recipes are a great glimpse into how your family members or their ancestors lived and ate.

Many of these recipe books or cards use measurements that are no longer in use. For example, a bottle is 2 quarts, a wine glass is $\frac{1}{4}$ cup, and a saucer is one heaping cup. The oven temperatures also have changed based on our modern conveniences. You can learn more about these measurements on the Family Tree Magazine website. [1]

One of my favorite things to do is to go through recipes from different time periods. Looking at recipes from the 1800s, it is easy to see how every part of the animal was used in cooking. There are multiple recipes for cooked heads, feet, and entrails. While this might be unappetizing by today’s standards, there were not always stores nearby to purchase certain cuts of meat.

It is also interesting to see that remedies for common illnesses were included in the recipe books. These recipes serve as a clear reminder that doctors and hospitals were not common in many of our ancestors’ lives. [2] The recipes from the 1940s and 50s are interesting because they are geared towards housewives with appliances that were just coming out at the time. [3]

The next time you see them, take a closer look at your family recipe books and ask yourself why certain recipes would be included. We are lucky to live in an age where you can research the time period certain foods became popular. You can learn a little more about your ancestors by learning about what they ate.


Are Your Beginning . . . or Beginning Again?
We’ve recently encountered a number of folks who tell us they have been “out” of family history research for a while (a few years... a few decades), and want to get back into the swing of it. Getting you back in the swing is what our summer series, “Beginning, or Beginning Again” is all about.

We are offering four opportunities to learn about important research sources on the last Saturday of each month, June through September, in The Genealogy Center’s Discovery Center. Classes are:

June 25, 2016, 10:00am, Discovery Center: Beginning or Beginning Again, Court Records
“Discover the Treasure Trove of Records Found at the County Courthouse” - Sara Allen
Learn about the types of records typically found in a county courthouse and how those records can further your genealogical research. The class includes discussions of vital records, probate records, civil and criminal court case records, and more.

July 30, 2016, 10:00am, Discovery Center: Beginning or Beginning Again, Land Records
“Land Records: An Integral Tool in Your Family History” - Cynthia Theusch
Property records can provide much more to your research than just locations. Learn how to locate and utilize these great resource documents.

August 27, 2016, 10:00am, Discovery Center: Beginning or Beginning Again, Newspapers
“Finding & Using Newspapers” - Delia Bourne
“All the news that’s fit to print” is what you will find about your ancestors in local and regional newspapers. Learn what can be discovered and how to locate these terrific historical records.

September 24, 2016, 10:00am, Discovery Center: Beginning or Beginning Again, Software
“Genealogical Data Management Program Exposé” - Technology Interest Group of the Allen County Genealogical Society of Indiana
Join us for an overview of genealogical software and bring your experiences and questions on your favorite content management program to share with your fellow family historians.

So join us this summer to restart the fires of your research engine! To register for any of these free events, call 260-421-1225 or email Genealogy@ACPL.Info.

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Staying Informed about Genealogy Center Programming
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Do you want to know what we’ve got planned? Are you interested in one of our events, but forget? We are now offering email updates for The Genealogy Center’s programming schedule. Don’t miss out! Sign up at http://goo.gl/forms/THcV0wAabB.

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Out and About
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Melissa Tennant
May 3, 2016
National Genealogical Society 2016 Annual Conference, Greater Ft. Lauderdale / Broward County Convention Center, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, Librarians’ Day, 11:00 am. Presentation: “Genealogy with a
Area Calendar of Events

ACGSI Meeting
May 11, 2016 - Allen County Public Library, 900 Library Plaza, 7 p.m. Sara Allen will present, "Finding your Ancestral Homestead."

ACGSI Genealogy Technology Group
May 18, 2016 - Allen County Public Library, 900 Library Plaza, Fort Wayne, Indiana, 7 p.m.

George R. Mather Lecture
May 1, 2016 - History Center, 302 East Berry St., Fort Wayne, IN, 2 p.m. Karen Richards will present, "Sin in the Summit City."

Muster on the St. Mary's
May 14-15, 2016 - Historic Old Fort, 1201 Spy Run Ave Fort Wayne, IN, Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. & Sunday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

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.

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Parking at the Library
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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.

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Genealogy Center Queries
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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.

To subscribe to "Genealogy Gems," simply use your browser to go to the website: www.GenealogyCenter.org. Scroll to the bottom, click on E-zine, and fill out the form. You will be notified with a confirmation email.

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.

Curt B. Witcher and John D. Beatty, CG, co-editors