

Genealogy Gems: News from the Fort Wayne Library
No. 58, December 31, 2008

In this issue:

- *Fort Wayne Should be a Destination
- *The Michigan Cemetery Source Book and Michigan Cemetery Atlas
- *City Directories of the United States on Microfilm & Microfiche
- *Preservation Tip of the Month--Photo & Scrapbook Albums
- *WinterTech 2008-2009 Continues
- *March Madness, Genealogy Style!
- *Irish & Scots-Irish Genealogy: Part 1--A Two Day Mini-Course
- *Librarians on Parade
- *Area Calendar of Events
- *Driving Directions to the Library
- *Parking at the Library
- *Queries for the Department

Fort Wayne Should be a Destination
by Curt B. Witcher

Noted technologist, online genealogy newsletter publisher, and friend, Dick Eastman recently reported on the Allen County Public Library's success in becoming the repository for textual materials from the Lincoln Museum collection. The great news article, though, ended with a stark statement that "there will be no need to travel to Fort Wayne . . ." While I appreciate that vast amounts of online data have radically, and for the better, changed the face of genealogical research, I still felt compelled to articulate why we are involved in collaborations and further, why it still might be a pretty darn good idea to travel to Fort Wayne. The following is my posting to the Eastman Online Genealogy blog.

"To be sure, the ACPL is extremely pleased to be among the Indiana organizations receiving the Lincoln Museum collection. We strongly believe the virtual presence we will build for the Lincoln collection will far out-pace the walk-in traffic the museum historically received. And that's a very good thing! Further, we believe our success with other collaborations demonstrated our commitment to big projects with significant impact.

"For more than a year ACPL's Genealogy Center has been increasingly involved in digitization collaborations.

**We are partnering with FamilySearch in helping build the Family History Archive <www.lib.byu.edu/fhc/index.php> with other major libraries around the country. We've contributed over two thousand volumes to that project to date. These digitized works are fully searchable and downloadable for free. And we're just getting started.

**Our collaboration with Internet Archive <www.archive.org/index.php> has already placed more than four thousand public domain family and local histories on their website for free use and downloading. We see a bright future for that collaboration as well.

**We have the honor of working with two extremely talented individuals, Dallan and Solveig Quass, in helping present and grow the WeRelate website <www.WeRelate.org>--the largest genealogy wiki on the web with pages for more than two million people and families. It's a great place to post data, search a large database of genealogy related web sites, and make connections with others searching the same families. Exciting new enhancements are constantly being made. And it's all free.

**We are working with Footnote <www.Footnote.com> in providing data to their interesting website--and their new approach to presenting history and to help people interested in history (as they say on their site) "Discover. Discuss. Connect. Share."

**We also continue a fantastic relationship with our friends at ProQuestCSA in expanding the "Periodical Source Index" as an important component of the HeritageQuestOnline suite of database offerings.

"The Genealogy Center in Fort Wayne engages in these collaborations to increase synergy in the genealogical community and to amplify excitement among non-traditional researchers about engaging in family history pursuits by providing online access to more historical records. I am always a bit sensitive, then, about stark statements associated with these collaborations such as "There will be no need to travel to Fort Wayne..." Of course there's not a "need" to travel to Fort Wayne--there's hardly a "need" to travel anywhere! However, it's my strongest aspiration, and indeed my belief, that many will continue to *want* to travel to Fort Wayne. They will *want* to travel to Fort Wayne because doing family history is so much more than just books, real or virtual. It's learning from workshops, lectures, seminars, and brown-bag lunch sessions; it is being able to work one-on-one with trained information professionals who are committed to helping you be successful with your research challenges; it is being able to access the two thirds of our nearly one million item collection not available online because of copyright and other restrictions; and it's being able to learn from fellow researchers in casual conversations across research tables, sharing challenges and successes.

"Besides offering some of the best genealogical consultations one will find anywhere, the Genealogy Center in Fort Wayne is hosting two major conferences in 2009 while offering a genealogy program each month except in October when we will be offering a genealogy program each day. The Palatines to America German Speaking Ancestry Conference will be in Fort Wayne June 18-20, 2009 <palamnationalconference.org/registration/> and the International Black Genealogy Summit: Reconnecting Lost Links <www.blackgenealogysummit.com/> will be here October 29-31, 2009. You might just *want* to check us out! <www.GenealogyCenter.Info>"

Best wishes for a great (and genealogically successful!) New Year!

The Michigan Cemetery Source Book and Michigan Cemetery Atlas
by Cynthia Theusch

The "Michigan Cemetery Source Book" (977.4 L61m) is an excellent key for locating cemeteries and transcriptions of tombstone information for all 83 counties of Michigan.

The book is divided into three sections. The first provides a listing, by county, of published and

unpublished cemetery transcriptions available at the Library of Michigan. For each county, a numbered bibliography of these transcriptions, giving title and call number, is followed by an alphabetical listing of townships and an alphabetical listing of cemeteries in each township. Each cemetery listing indicates the year(s) the cemetery was read and the reference number(s) for the item(s) containing the transcription. Cemetery locations are given next, followed by a listing of cemeteries and locations that had no transcriptions or readings available at the Library of Michigan as of 1994.

The second section is a bibliographic listing, by title, of books, newsletters and manuscripts containing tombstone transcriptions that are available at the Library of Michigan. The third section is an alphabetical index of cemeteries.

The "Michigan Cemetery Atlas" (977.4 M5852) is a great companion source for locating the cemeteries mentioned in the "Michigan Cemetery Source Book." More than 3,800 Michigan burial sites are listed and marked in red on detailed county road maps. A complete listing of cemeteries, by name and county, rounds out the volume. In addition, two errata pages to the "Michigan Cemetery Atlas" can be found at the end of the "Michigan Cemetery Source Book." Both of these books can be consulted in the Genealogy Center and can help you locate the cemeteries where your ancestors were buried. Many of the cited cemetery transcriptions are held in the Genealogy Center collection. The "Michigan Cemetery Sources" web site at <http://www.hal.state.mi.us/cemeteries/default.aspx> also contains much of the reference material in these two volumes, along with updates and links to some sites containing burial transcriptions.

City Directories of the United States on Microfilm & Microfiche
by Don Litzer

If an ancestor's timeline is viewed as a freeway, city directories can provide important clues at its mileposts. Head of household names, residence addresses, and occupations are usually found in directory listings. Details about churches, schools, fraternal societies, and other record-creating institutions are usually included. Address cross-references may facilitate the retracing of a census enumerator's route. In addition, directories occasionally provide completely unexpected information—for example, the inclusion of mortuary data in several Detroit directories from the 1880s and 1890 created death documentation for a significant number of that city's residents.

The Genealogy Center's city directory collection is extraordinary because it is both broad and deep. Largely because of its status as a depository of R.L. Polk directories, the Genealogy Center has more than 50,000 directories in print format from throughout the U.S. and Canada, mostly dating from 1964 to the present, but often extending back into the 1940s and 1950s, and occasionally even earlier. The Genealogy Center's extensive directory collection on microfilm and microfiche complements its holdings in print. Add county atlases and other rural directories in print and microtext formats, and researchers have the tools at the Genealogy Center to search far, wide, and deep into the past.

The "City Directories of the United States" collection, published by Primary Source Media, includes directories from 1785 through 1960. Directories through 1860 are available on more than 6,300

microfiche, and directories from 1861 through 1960 are on more than 10,000 microfilms, arranged alphabetically by city name, and chronologically within each city.

To determine whether the Genealogy Center's city directory collection may benefit your research, navigate to www.ACPL.Info/Genealogy, and click on the "Microtext Catalog" link. On the resultant page, click the "City & County Directories" button, then select a state to bring up a list of directories in microtext format for that state, sorted alphabetically by place. Pre-1861 directories are also listed in Dorothea N. Spear's "Bibliography of American Directories Through 1860" (O16.9173 Sp3b). Printed guides to the microfilmed "City Directories of the United States, 1902-1935" are also available (973 C498).

We invite you to visit the Genealogy Center to use the city directory collections in person. However, if you can't make it to Fort Wayne, send a completed Quick Search Form (download a copy at <http://www.acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy/QuickSearchRequest.pdf>) with payment to our Research Center.

Preservation Tip of the Month--Photo & Scrapbook Albums
by Becky Schipper

For those of you purchasing photo and scrapbook albums for yourself or others, be certain that you purchase materials that are acid-free or archival-quality. Not all materials are photo safe or acid-free, and this includes paper, adhesives, photo corners, stickers, markers, and pens. Use only products that are labeled as archival-quality or acid-free.

Acid causes paper and photos to disintegrate. The pH for acid-free paper should be 7 or above. There are inexpensive testing pens that allow you to check for acidity. They can be purchased at most art supply stores and online. The one that I use here at the ACPL is an "Abbey pH Pen." They sell for around \$5.00. If you want to include newspaper articles and or announcements in your album, photocopy them on acid-free paper as newspaper is very acidic.

WinterTech 2008-2009 Continues
by Melissa Shimkus and Delia Bourne

The WinterTech series continues on January 14, 2009--Cynthia Theusch will offer a "WeRelate.org Overview." Find out how to use the world's largest genealogy wiki to interact with other researchers online, upload GEDCOM files, annotate scanned documents and photos, and more! And don't forget that Don Litzer will remind you that online genealogical searching is "Not Just Ancestry" on February 11. Keep track of the dates by checking www.acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy/WinterTech.pdf. And remember that these are scheduled on the afternoons of the Allen County Genealogical Society of Indiana's monthly meetings, held at 7 p.m. Please call 260-421-1225 to register for a WinterTech program, or email your registration to Genealogy@ACPL.info.

March Madness, Genealogy Style!

by Melissa Shimkus and Delia Bourne

We will have our third annual "March Madness, Genealogy Style" programs March 1 through 7, 2009. It will be a week of events to rev up your research!

Sunday March 1 at 1:00 p.m. Melissa Shimkus presents, "Southern Lore."
After the Civil War many changes occurred in the Southern States. Determine 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. Don Litzer 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 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 to 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 Patilita 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 Tithes 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>

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. "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."

Donald Litzer

February 28, 2009--DuPage County (IL) Genealogical Society 34th Annual Conference, Hilton Garden Inn, 4070 East Main Street, St. Charles, IL, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Don's topics: "Gems at the Crossroads of America" and "The Mysteries of PERSI."

Melissa Shimkus

January 10, 2009--Detroit Society for Genealogical Research, Christ Church, Cranbrook, 470 Church Street, Bloomfield Hills, MI, 2 p.m. Topic: "Discovering Your Female Ancestors."

Cynthia Theusch

January 14, 2009--Allen County Public Library, 900 Library Plaza, Fort Wayne, IN, Meeting Room A, 2:30 p. m. Topic: "A WeRelate.org Overview."

Area Calendar of Events

Allen County Genealogical Society of Indiana (ACGSI)

January 14, 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, Theater (Lower Level 2). Mark Davis of Stone Saver Cemetery Restoration will present "Hallowed Stones: Cemetery Restoration."

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

January 4, 2009 at 2 p.m. Dr. Patty Martone will present "Fort Wayne Women Who Have Broken the Mold."

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 GenealogyGems 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