

Genealogy Gems: News from the Fort Wayne Library
No. 54, August 31, 2008

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Military Records, Resources, and the Symposium
by Curt B. Witcher

Many may have heard me utter the expression, "Every generation, the possibility" when talking about the importance military records and resources may play in our genealogical research. If you think of your genealogical data in the context of a timeline, not a generation has passed since before the founding of this country to August 31, 2008 where there haven't been some military activities. Assuredly, some of the activities were mere skirmishes while others, such as the War Between the States, left marks that are still noticeable today. But, as the phrase says, every generation there exists the possibility that one of your ancestors may have been involved in military activities or may have been directly impacted and affected by military engagements. It is that fact that makes knowledge of the types of military records generated, as well as how to find and use these records, so very important. If you'd like to see the range of military data available in repositories around the country, I recommend James C. Neagles' work entitled, "U. S. Military Records: A Guide to Federal and State Sources, Colonial America to the Present."

For nearly one half of one century, the Genealogy Center has been collecting regimental and unit histories as well as general histories, letters and diaries of soldiers from the Revolutionary War through the Korean conflict (both published editions and copies of original works), service and pension records, works of patriotic societies, reports of all types listing service details of particular groups of soldiers, division histories, records of veterans burials, reunion rolls and yearbooks. This collection of materials in Fort Wayne is quite comprehensive and truly a rich resource for researchers.

Earlier this year, we began posting a few of these extraordinary works as well as other "born digital" works online under the banner of "Our Military Heritage" <www.GenealogyCenter.Info/Military>. If you have not visited the site recently (or ever), it is worth a look. Just this month, we added eleven additional works for the Revolutionary War. In the next

couple of months, more eighteenth century materials will be added as well as online videos of Korean War veterans talking about their experiences defending our freedoms. It is certainly a fascinating way of exploring our nation's military heritage.

If military records and their uses are among those things you'd like to learn more about, the Military Symposium on September 26 and 27, 2008 is a must. We have a great featured presenter in Marie Melchiori, a veteran researcher and user of federal military records. This could be a time when you really begin to totally incorporate the use of military records into your many generations of research--or begin to use them for the first time. Being able to speak directly with expert consultants about your particular challenge and learning more about the "Our Military Heritage" website should make this a truly meaningful symposium for advancing your research. Please consider joining us at the end of September.
<www.acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy/Military%20Symposium.pdf>

Adventurers of Purse and Person
by Melissa Shimkus

After "The Lost Colony" disaster at Roanoke, James I authorized a charter to the Virginia Company to create two colonies in the New World. The first colony, Jamestown, was established in modern day Virginia. The second, Popham, was established in modern day Maine, but was vacated within a year. After a second charter was granted for the Jamestown colony in 1609, the Virginia Company was renamed The Treasurer and Company of Adventurers and Planters of the City of London for the First Colony in Virginia. To provide royal control of the growing colony, Jamestown was transferred to the Crown on June 26, 1624. Upon transfer, the Crown requested a muster be completed to determine the condition of the Colony. That muster was taken between January 20 and February 7, 1624/25. The total population at the time was 1,232 individuals. The muster provided the following information: colonist name, home location, names of family members, names of servants, passenger ship and year of arrival, amount of food and livestock, amount of ammunition and guns, and number of houses and boats.

In 1956, "Adventurers of Purse and Person" was released. The book contained a transcription of the 1624/25 muster and information on three generations of descendants. Due to the popularity of the title, other researchers submitted data they had collected on individuals who appeared on the 1624/25 Jamestown muster. Four hundred years after the founding of Jamestown, the fourth edition of "Adventurers of Purse and Person, 1607-1624/25" was released as a three volume set (975.5 J4AA). The new edition provides a transcription of the 1624/25 muster, followed by information on up to six generations of the descendants of those early colonists, arranged alphabetically by surname. More than 10,000 citations lead to sources for the material provided on the descendants, so a researcher can locate verifying documentation.

Between 1607 and 1624, while Jamestown was under the control of The Treasurer and Company of Adventurers and Planters of the City of London for the First Colony in Virginia, more than 7,000 individuals settled in Jamestown. On the census for 1624/25, 1,232 people were left in the Colony. The 4th edition of "Adventurers of Purse and Person, 1607-1624/25" provides a thorough record of some early inhabitants of Jamestown and the six generations they produced, from Jamestown to

the Revolutionary War. It is an excellent starting point for those with very early connections to Jamestown settlers.

K. G. Saur's Biographical Archives
by Steven W. Myers

The German publisher K.G. Saur's "Biographical Archives" series presents a massive compilation of biographical sketches drawn from more than 8,600 reference works published in 44 languages between 1559 and the end of the 20th century. Approximately 10 million entries cover the lives of more than 5 million people from all classes and professions, from the 4th century BC to the present. The worldwide coverage of the series is apparent from the titles of its individual parts, with sketches featuring African, American, Arabic Islamic, Australasian, Baltic, Benelux, British, Canadian, Chinese, Classical, Czech and Slovak, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Indian, Italian, Japanese, Jewish, Korean, Polish, Russian, Scandinavian, South East Asian, South European, Soviet, Spanish, Portuguese & Iberoamerican, and Turkish subjects.

Each microfiche set reproduces exact copies of original printed articles from the source reference works and arranges them by the name of the person who is the subject of the sketch. Many of the sets also have multi-volume printed indexes available in the Genealogy Center to facilitate their use. A typical entry from the 2nd edition of the "British Biographical Index" (920.041 B77, 1998) reads: "Dainty, Thomas <d. 1652>, Bookseller - Plomer - I 298, 206." This entry provides a reference to a sketch on Thomas Dainty, bookseller, who died in 1652. "Plomer" refers to the source - H.R. Plomer's 1907 publication "A Dictionary of the Booksellers and Printers...at Work in England, Scotland and Ireland from 1641 to 1667." The numerals following the source indicate that the sketch is reproduced in the "British Biographical Archive" series I, on microfiche number 298, page 206. The sketch itself provides biographical details citing a London parish register, Stationer's Registers, his will proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, and a lawsuit against his estate brought in the Court of Chancery.

Although most of us do not have pedigree charts and group sheets full of the rich and famous, most of us will have at least some members of our extended family who were noteworthy enough to merit inclusion in one of the many biographical reference works cumulated in this splendid source. It is certainly worth exploring. Those with access to university library collections may be able to access a partial digital version of this dataset via Saur's "World Biographical Information System" (WBIS), slated to be complete by 2010. In the meantime, visit the Genealogy Center for full access to the microfiche version.

Preservation Tip of the Month--Repairing Tears
by Becky Schipper

There are two types of tears, clean cut and bevel. Clean cut tears require tape to hold the two sides of the tear together. Beveled tears have overlapping surfaces that can be bonded together with adhesive.

Mending with Transparent Tape (Clean Cut Tears):

Use Document Repair Tape, Filmoplast Tape, or Scotch #811 Magic Removable Tape. These tapes are **not recommended** for rare books or valuable documents, which should be repaired by a conservator. Cut tape 1/4 in. longer than the tear. Center it over the tear. Rub with a bone folder working toward the outer edge of the item. If the tear goes to the edge of a page fold a minute amount of tape over the edge.

Mending with Adhesive (Bevel Tears):

Always use a pH neutral adhesive. Place a piece of wax paper under the document or page being mended. Lift one side of the tear and brush a thin coat of adhesive onto the exposed edge. Align the edges of the tear. Wipe away any excess adhesive. Place a second sheet of wax paper on top, weight it and let it dry.

October Is Family History Month

By Melissa Shimkus and Delia Bourne

The Genealogy Center's annual Family History Month celebration is almost here, bringing with it a couple of really special opportunities for researchers.

The first is "Irish and Scots-Irish Family History Research: An Ulster Historical Foundation Workshop." In a day-long event on Saturday, October 4th, presenters William Roulston and Brian Trainor of the Ulster Historical Foundation will introduce attendees to Irish and Scots-Irish Family History Research, discuss records of the different churches in Ireland, emigration from Ireland to America, researching farming communities, and the sources for 17th Century Ulster Plantation research. As a companion to the Workshop, the Genealogy Center's own Steve Myers will present "Resources for Irish Research in the Genealogy Center" on Friday, October 3rd from 11am to 12 noon. Friday afternoon, the experts from Ulster will offer personal consultations for your Irish challenges. Call 260-421-1225 for registration information, or email us at Genealogy@ACPL.info, or go to <http://www.acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy/UHF%20Irish%20Workshop%20Brochure.pdf>. The Saturday workshop is \$25, personal consultations are \$20, and Steve's Friday morning lecture is free. Space and consultation times are limited, so register soon!

The other marquee Family History Month event is "Family History: Beyond the Basics, A Two Day Mini-Course" presented by Margery Graham and Steve Myers on Friday and Saturday October 24th and 25th. Sessions cover problem solving, probate and land research, tax lists, military and church records, and naturalization, immigration, and passenger lists. Assisted research and individual consultations will be available. See <http://www.acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy/Beyond%20the%20Basics%20Mini-Course.pdf> for more information and registration information. And for a refresher, Margery Graham and the Allen County Genealogical Society of Indiana are offering *Beginning Genealogy* on Saturday morning, October 11th. Call 260-672-2585 for registration information. Space is limited in both "Beyond the Basics" and "Beginning Genealogy," and these sessions will fill quickly.

Of course, Family History Month still has daily events, including lectures, computer classes, sessions on Adobe PhotoShop and Microsoft Word, WeRelate, German research, Allen County

history, the DAR, and finally the ever popular Midnight Madness extended research hours on Friday October 31st. A calendar and list of events is available at the Genealogy Center's Special Programs page at <http://www.acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy/programs.html> . Some sessions have limited space, so register soon!

WinterTech 2008-2009

By Melissa Shimkus and Delia Bourne

To usher in the winter months, learn new technologies while staying indoors with WinterTech! WinterTech continues our Family History Lecture Series, with a focus on online genealogy materials. WinterTech kicks off on November 12 with Delia Bourne presenting "Newspaper Searching with Ancestry's Historical Newspapers and Newspaper Archive." Melissa Shimkus will discuss "Searching Ancestry.com" on December 10 and Cynthia Theusch will provide a "WeRelate.org Overview" on January 14, 2009. WinterTech concludes with Don Litzer's "Not Just Ancestry: Using the Entire Internet for Genealogy" on February 11. These hour-long classes are on the second Wednesday of each month at 2:30 pm. We've selected the dates and times to lead into the Allen County Genealogical Society of Indiana monthly meetings, held at 7 p.m. on the same dates. Come on down and keep warm by the glow of the computer monitor!

The Final Tree Talks Program of '08--The Military Symposium

Our 2008 series of Tree Talks programs will conclude next month with the Military Symposium. The symposium will span two days, Friday and Saturday, September 26 & 27, 2008. Marie Melchiori, CG, CGL, a nationally acclaimed military records specialist, will discuss National Archives military records as well as research sources for Confederate and Union soldiers of the Civil War. At Friday evening's meal, Curt Witcher will highlight the "Our Military Heritage" website and the increasing number of sources available for research there. Saturday afternoon will provide opportunities for individual consultations on your research challenges. Click on <http://www.acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy/Military%20Symposium.pdf> for program and registration information. The registration cost of \$50 (payable to the Allen County Public Library) includes the Friday evening meal. You can simply send a check for \$50 with your name, postal address and email address to: Military Symposium 2008, Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center, P.O. Box 2270, Fort Wayne, IN 46801-2270. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at 260-421-1225 or Genealogy@ACPL.Info

Librarians on Parade

Curt Witcher

September 3, 2008 at 10:15 a.m. Federation of Genealogical Societies 2008 Annual Conference at the Philadelphia Convention Center. "Past Perfect: The Best of Times for Serving Genealogists."
September 5, 2008 at 3:30 p.m. Federation of Genealogical Societies 2008 Annual Conference at the Philadelphia Convention Center. "All that Other Stuff: Enumerations Beyond the Federal Census Records."

September 6, 2008 at 3:30 p.m. Federation of Genealogical Societies 2008 Annual Conference at the Philadelphia Convention Center. "Looking for the Whites of Their Eyes: Online Sites for Revolutionary War Data and Research."

September 10, 2008 at 6:30 p.m., Allen County Genealogical Society Meeting, Allen County Public Library, 1st Floor Meeting Rooms, 900 Library Plaza, Fort Wayne. "What's New at the Genealogy Center."

September 12, 2008 at 1:00 p.m., Fort Wayne Lutheran Home, 6701 South Anthony Blvd., Fort Wayne, Concord Village Heritage Room. "Preserving Your Family Memories, Stories & Treasures."

September 20, 2008, Permian Basin Genealogical Society Fall Workshop, Odessa, TX. "Historical Research Methodology: Engaging the Process to Find All the Answers," "An Ancestor's Death: A Time for Reaping," "Using Military Records for Genealogical Research," and "More Than Surname Surfing: Best Practices for Using the Internet for Genealogy."

Cynthia Theusch

September 17, 2008 at 7:00 p.m., Eaton County Genealogical Society, 100 W. Lawrence Avenue, Charlotte MI. "The Genealogy Center of the Allen County Public Library."

Area Calendar of Events

Allen County Genealogical Society of Indiana (ACGSI)

September 10, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. at the Allen County Public Library's Main Library, 900 Library Plaza., Theater, Lower Level 2. Curt Witcher will present "What's New at the Genealogy Center."

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

September 14, 2008, 2 p.m., Russell A. Working presents "Growing Up in Indiana During the Great Depression Years"

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