

First Things First...

Genealogy News You Can Use!

Even More Database Updates!

- Origins.net – The Surrey Will Abstracts are now online and are among the most valuable research sources for the county of Surrey, and for family and social history in general. These date from the 15th to 19th centuries and are fully indexed abstracts of all 28,000 wills known to exist and proved in the Archdeaconry and Commissary Courts of Surrey.

- Ancestry.com claims it now has seven *billion* names in more than 25,000 databases. Future databases to be made available include:

- * Cook County, Illinois Birth, Marriage and Death Records (1871-1988).
- * Florida State Census (update) for the years 1867, 1875, 1935 and 1945.
- * Drouin Collection of French-Canadian Vital and Church Records (1621-1967).
- * British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards (1914-20) and Army Service Records (1914-20).
- * German City Directories (1797-1945).
- * Swedish Emigration Records (1783-1951).



- * Paris Vital Records (1798-1902).
- * Inbound UK Passenger Lists (1878-1960).

- FamilySearch has also teamed with Footnote.com to publish historic Civil War era records. They have a records access agreement to publish two significant Civil War Era databases online: the 1860 US Census and Civil War Pensions Index. These two collections will provide

free online access to millions of names from the 1860 to 1865 period in the US.

- Genealogy Bank.com has added 126 newspapers from 23 states, including these titles:

- * CO – *Gazette-*

Telegraph

- * CT – *Norwich Aurora*

- * IL – *Chicago Times*

- * MA – *Springfield Republican*

- * NY – *Irish World*

- FamilySearch Record Search test site, <http://pilot.familysearch.org>. Some of the newer

additions include:

- * 1870, 1880 and 1890 US Census

- * German, Mexican and English baptism and marriage records

- * Michigan, West Virginia and Philadelphia vital records.

A Nation's Chronicle: The Canada Gazette



Library and Archives Canada (LAC) recently announced the launch of A Nation's Chronicle: *The Canada Gazette*, a project funded by the Canadian Culture Online Program of the Department of Canadian Heritage and the Canada Gazette Directorate. By the end of 2008, visitors to this site will be able to access all issues of *The Canada Gazette*, from its beginning in 1841 until 1998. For more information, visit <http://www.collections.canada.gc.ca/canada-gazette/index-e.html>.

Fee-For-Service Program at USCIS to Begin in August

The US Citizenship and Immigration Service (CIS), formerly called the INS, will begin a fee-for-service program on 13 August 2008. The goal is to increase the turn-around time for requests of immigration and naturalization documents. Costs will be \$20 for a copy of a microfilm document and \$35 for a textual record.

The types of historical records available under the new program

include:

- Naturalization certificate files (C-files) from September 27, 1906-April 1, 1956 (from all federal, state, municipal courts and more)

- Microfilmed alien registration forms from 1 August 1940 to 31 March 1944.

- Visa files from 1 July 1924 to 31 March 1944

- Registry files from 2 March

1929 to 31 March 1944.

- Alien files numbered below eight million and dated prior to 1 May 1951.

You may view/download a complete description of the program at <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/E8-10651.htm> though the exact details of where and how you can use the service were not available at press time.



With so many NEHGS members researching New York ancestry, it has established a portal focused solely on New York. Visitors to www.NewYorkAncestors.org can access a wide range of resources, including articles and databases, vital records, probate records, census, tax and voter lists, cemetery records, church records, court records, and published genealogies and biographies; all available to members of the Society.

Ever Wondered About Remote Digital Access to Microfilms?

Hill Memorial Library (Special Collections, L.S.U., in Baton Rouge) has a service where for a \$20/session fee, researchers can access, via the Internet, a microfilm reader in the library and view microfilm in the collection from home. The remote access allows patrons to view, print, scan and e-mail images from microfilm. This remarkable service is available Monday through Thursday and sessions are from 5pm to 9am CST the following day (the machine that is used for this service is thus available to on-site researchers during the day). More information is available at: <http://hill.blogs.lib.lsu.edu/> under the 17 April 2008 post.

People who want a thorough analysis of their biological inheritance can turn to Knome, <http://www.knome.com>, a company that for \$350,000 will spell out all three billion letters of their DNA code — an unparalleled opportunity, the company says, to 'Know thyself'!

Cherokee — Trail of Tears

The importance of some ration books that have been at the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Public Library since the 1940s, has just been realized. These ration books represent, for Chattanooga, the beginning point of the Trail of Tears. About 4,000 Cherokees died on the forced march of about 15,000 Cherokees from their homes in Georgia to reservations in Oklahoma. Recorded by Albert S. Lenoir, a federal Indian com-

missioner during the Cherokee and Creek removal from 1836 to 1838, the papers list names, numbers of people in their family unit and show the rations distributed. The papers were donated by the Zeboim Cartter Patten family, descendants of the soldier who recorded the ration distributions at New Echota. For more information, go to www.timesfreepress.com/news/2008/apr/25/chattanooga-tracing-chokeee-trails/.

Annual British Institute

Every year, the International Society for British Genealogy and Family History (ISBGfH) holds a one week institute in Salt Lake City (October 6-10, 2008). The ISBGfH exists for anyone who is researching British ancestry, be they ancestors who left Ireland for America at the time of the potato famine, ones who were sent with the first fleet to Australia, persons who fled to Canada to escape poor prospects in Scotland, a Welshman traveling to Patagonia or an Englishman settling in the plantations of the West Indies. For more information, go to <http://isbgfh.org/institute.htm>.

Keeping It All in the Family

Writing a personal biography and preserving your legacy has gotten easier, thanks to Familyware.com, www.familyware.com.

Although it sounds simple, writing a life story is a daunting task. It requires capturing a flood of memories, organizing lots of material, cross-referencing related stories, allowing friends and family to contribute and controlling who can see each part of the story. Familyware.com is an online biography software program that helps you get it done, helping to prevent writer's block and keeping your story moving forward.

Volume XVI of North Carolina Troops, 1861-1865: A Roster

Thomas's Legion is the subject of this new volume of the award-winning North Carolina Troops Roster series.

Created by William Holland Thomas in 1862, the unit is unusual because it included several companies of Cherokee Indians. Thomas's Legion

fought in the mountains of western North Carolina, eastern Tennessee and southwestern Virginia and in the Shenandoah Valley. The vol-



ume begins with an authoritative, and quite fascinating, 246-page history of Thomas's Legion. The history is followed by a complete roster and service records of all who served in the legion. A thorough index completes the volume.

To learn more about this incredible genealogical resource and to order a copy, visit: <http://nc-historical-publications.stores.yahoo.net/3369.html>.

Worth a Closer Look...

• Millennia Corporation has now released Legacy Family Tree version 7.0, the latest version of a popular genealogy program for Microsoft Windows that now offers wall charts, automated mapping and SourceWriter.

• If researching in Illinois, check out Illinois Harvest, <http://illinois.harvest.grainger.uiuc.edu/index.asp>, a free public gateway to digitized resources

about Illinois, created by Illinois scholars and included among the digital collections of The University of Illinois Library.

• The Times (of London) Archive, <http://archive.timesonline.co.uk/tollarchive>, has been launched and allows subscribers access to issues published between 1785-1985.

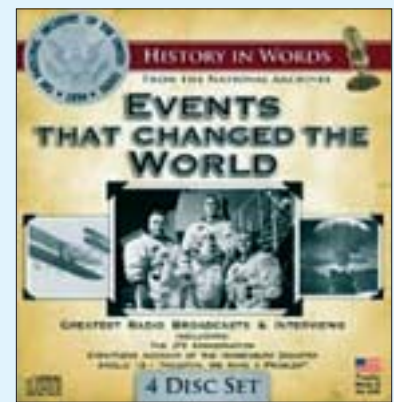
• The Akron-Summit Public Library has made its 1940-2007 Akron Beacon-Journal obituary index available online, <http://www.akronlibrary.org/internetresources/scl/Obits/obits.html>.



• If you are looking for a cool mapping program, check out Do-It-Yourself State Maps, <http://monarch.tamu.edu/~maps2/>, where you can create customized maps with color

coding and labels. This is great for tracking ancestors' locations within a state, especially if they moved between counties!

• Durham Records Online, <http://www.durhamrecordsonline.com>, has over 130,000 burials from the historic shipping port of Sunderland in northeast England.



The National Archives launches a series of boxed sets featuring some of the most memorable, and historically significant archival recordings of the 20th century selected from its vast audio holdings: **Events that Changed the World, Presidential Moments, War and Conflict and Civil Rights.** Containing four CDs each, they reproduce speeches and remarks by US Presidents, inventors, scientists, civic leaders and explorers, as well as thrilling first-person accounts of dramatic events and periods of the past 85 years.

Chicago Vital Records Online!

Many genealogists have patiently been waiting for this website to go live and now it has. The Cook County Clerk's Office — Genealogy Online website, <http://www.cookcountygenealogy.com>, contains a virtual treasure trove of genealogical resources including:

- Birth certificates that are 75 years or older (before today's date in 1933);
- Marriage certificates that are 50 years or older (before today's date in 1958);
- Death certificates that are 20 years or

older (before today's date in 1988).

Most, though not yet all, of these records are fully searchable. Keep in mind, however, that the Chicago Fire of 8 October 1871 destroyed all Cook County vital records prior to that date.

After some rebuild-

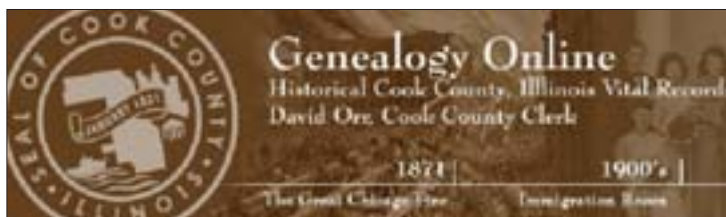
Once you pay for the record(s) you want, you will be able to view the original records (not transcriptions) on your computer screen. The images also may be saved to a hard drive or printed on a local printer.

Any genealogist

ing, record keeping resumed in 1872.

The records are not free, however; each record costs \$15 plus a credit card fee of \$1.75 will be charged for your total order.

or family historian who has waited to receive a vital record from Chicago will appreciate the ease of using this new service!



Two New Books

The Northwest Indiana Genealogical Society has published two new books: *Crown Point Justices of the Peace Marriages*. Crown Point is the county seat of Lake County and NWIGS volunteers were surprised to find that they indexed more marriages of people from Illinois than from Indiana between 1935 and 1946. All couples needed was a marriage license from wherever they lived, and until 1940, Lake County required no waiting period. Cost for this fully-indexed, 1,100-page, two volume, hard-bound set is \$166.25 us.

An Index of Land Transfer Records for Crown Point, Lake Co., Indiana, for the Years 1928-1940 includes the key numbers you'll need at the Recorder's office for 1936-40 deeds, if you find something promising. This book is 375 pages, hardbound, fully indexed, and costs \$63.75 us.

Visit <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~innwigs/> for more details.

