



Kansas Council of Genealogical Societies

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Newsletter

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Hello everyone. I almost missed January this time. Not really. I wanted to send you the latest on our conference plans. (See the ad) and anything that came up at board meeting so waited 'til now.

been thinking about maybe doing this, now is a very good time.

Rosetta says her Wichita society is planning a bus trip to Ft Wayne next fall. It would be a great time to hop aboard if you would like to do some researching in their new facility. (see their ad also)

Kansas Council of Genealogical Societies, Inc.

2015 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Featured Speaker

Kathleen Brandt

Kathleen is an international genealogy consultant, speaker and writer with more than 10 years of experience as a Professional Genealogist and is a licensed Private Investigator. Her clients include NBC **Who Do You Think You Are?**, and PBS, **Finding Your Roots**, with Henry Louis Gates, and she appeared on the History Channel, **How the States Got Their Shapes**. She has extensive experience in international and nationwide documentation retrieval, free-colored research, military record reconstructions, and tracing slaves, as well as Italian, Irish, Swedish, and German records.

Plan Now To Attend!
Saturday, June 20, 2015
Wichita, Kansas



www.KCGS.us
Kansas Council Of Genealogical Societies
PO Box 3858 Topeka KS 66604
Co-Sponsored by the **Wichita Genealogical Society**
www.wichitagensoc.org

The Wichita Genealogical Society Announces The 2015 Research Trip to Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, Indiana
September 26 – October 4, 2015
This is the only trip that WGS will be sponsoring in 2015

Arrangements can be made to pick up travelers in Emporia and Kansas City area!!!
➤ Single occupancy - \$1,045
➤ Double occupancy - \$825
➤ This includes: Transportation, hotel in St. Louis (2 nights) and Ft. Wayne (6 nights), all breakfasts (8 days), Kick-back evening buffet in St. Louis (2 nights) luggage handling in Ft. Wayne, bus driver tip, shuttle to/from library.

For complete information check our web site: www.wichitagensoc.org

Or contact: Linda King – wgs.lking@cox.net 316-788-1336

I think there are some exciting things in store for us this summer and fall.

Here is what I have been reading:

We will be sending out the brochures for registration very soon.

We are enjoying some pretty days, but watch out for that flu. It isn't pretty at all.

Emma still needs applications for vol 29 of the Forgotten Settlers. She would really like to get it ready to publish. If you have

I Have My Family Tree Back to Adam and Eve

Frm Eastman

In January, Nathan W. Murphy, Senior Research Consultant, of the LDS Church's Genealogical Department, wrote an article in the FamilySearch blog at <http://goo.gl/twYxq> to clarify the misconceptions that many novice genealogists believe to be true. Murphy write, "...it is not even possible to verify historically a connected European pedigree earlier than the time of the Merovingian Kings (c. a.d. 450–a.d. 752)."

In the blog posting, Murphy also refers to a longer article written by Robert C. Gunderson, Senior Royalty Research Specialist, of the Church Genealogical Department, about the same subject in the LDS Gospel Library Magazines at <http://goo.gl/Ulp0N> (scroll down the page a bit to find Gunderson's article).

I would suggest these articles be required reading for all new Family History researchers.

How Census Data Collection Changed Race in America

Lisa Wade has published an interesting article in the [Pacific Standard](#) magazine's web site about census data collected over the years. From 1790 through 1960, census enumerators visited households and recorded a lot of information about the residents, including race. However, in 1970, the Census Bureau switched to mail-in surveys where the individual self-identified their own race. The results were dramatic. The racial percentages in America changed overnight.

You can read the article and view some pictures of past enumerators at work at <http://goo.gl/0D0G7>.

Proceedings of The Old Bailey, central criminal court, London. online

On 14 October 1772 25-year-old John Creamer was executed for "returning from transportation before the expiration of his time," while praying that God forgive "those who have taken away my life for returning back to my own country." John's sad story is just one of 197,745 criminal trials re-

counted among the The Proceedings of the Old Bailey, a publication focused on trials that took place at the Old Bailey, London's central criminal court, between 1674 and 1913. John Creamer, an Irish-born young man who came to England with his parents at a young age, was originally convicted in May session 1769 for stealing eight guineas, an half guinea, and a quarter guinea, from John Lothian in the dwelling-house of a William Figg. For this crime he was capitally convicted, but afterward "received his Majesty's mercy upon condition of transportation for fourteen years."

According to the corresponding [Ordinary's Account](#) dated 14th October 1772, John Creamer committed that original robbery to support his young family during a time when he was out of work. When reminded that he wouldn't be before the court again if he had just finished out his time abroad, he answered "that he had heard that his wife and children were in the parish work house, and he thought that if he came over, he could work in the country, and send for his wife and children, and nobody would find him out." Details of John's behavior, the fact that he was Catholic, and his dying words are also included in the account of the ordinary of Newgate, along with those of the five other men executed at Tyburn that day.

[The Proceedings of the Old Bailey online](#) is a free, fully-searchable edition of the transcribed original records of the publication, which while "aimed at a popular rather than legal audience," has been found to be [fairly accurate in its reporting](#). The website also features the sister publication [Ordinary of Newgate's Accounts: Biographies of Executed Criminals, 1676-1772](#), which records biographical history, confessions, and dying behavior of executed convicts tried at regular sessions, published under the name of the Ordinary of Newgate. In many cases a digitized copy of the original court record is linked to the original transcription.

[Search features](#) on the free website are extensive for people looking not only for individuals, but also for background social and historical information . You can combine full-text keyword searches of the 127 million words with searches for tagged information such as gender, age, and occupation, as well as surname, to locate items in both the Proceedings and the Ordinary of Newgate's Accounts.

Last Wills and Testaments of British Soldiers Now Available.

The last wills and testaments of 278,000 British soldiers who died on the battlefields at Ypres in Belgium have been digitised for the first time.

It means that members of the public can search for a document by name, rather than having to trace the original to one of several archives across the country.

British servicemen who died in the First World War tended to carry informal wills with them on the battlefield in slim pocket books. In some cases, these documents are the only physical traces of a soldier that were found.

The project has brought to together thousands of the mud-stained, battle-scarred wills from government archives around the country. They are now being housed in a state-of-the-art facility in Birmingham

<https://www.gov.uk/probate-search>

CDs Are Not Forever

by Dick Eastman.

CD discs (often called "optical discs) have been commercially available since the 1980s. Sadly, many computer users have inserted their older CDs into a computer and found that the discs no longer work.

Sometimes it is a software problem: the old software for the CD might not work on a newer version of Windows or Macintosh. However, the most common problem seems to be physical: the CDs themselves have microscopic mold or "rot" that ruins the surface and prevents the data from being read. Even worse, there is no cure. If the data is bad now, it will only get worse. There is no reliable way to restore data from a defective CD.

Some experts claim that CDs will last up to 200 years. However, practical experience shows that hasn't happened in the first thirty years. To be sure, not all CDs have gone bad. Only a per-

centage of them have failed so far. Perhaps the MAJORITY will last 200 years or the AVERAGE will be 200 years, but we know it will not be true of 100% of the discs. However, nobody knows how to predict which disc will fail next. The CD that is most valuable to you might last another 170 years, or it may fail tomorrow.

We do know that CDs created one at a time in a PC do not last as long as CDs created in a factory, where hundreds of them are made at once. Those backups you made or that family genealogy book you wrote may not last very long on a CD you "burned" at home.

94-year-old Can't File Tax Return because IRS Says He's Dead

[Dick Eastman](#)

Apparently not every bit of information in the Social Security Death Index (SSDI) is accurate. There is a 94-year-old World War II vet in Ohio who just wants to pay his taxes but can't because the IRS says he's dead.

Siegfried Meinstein has been unable to convince the IRS he is alive, living in an assisted living facility near Columbus, Ohio. The IRS has told the nonagenarian it can't process his tax return because their records indicate he is deceased. You can read more in an article in the Columbus (Ohio) Dispatch at http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2015/01/23/IRS_snafu.html.

Apparently, the IRS is now checking Social Security numbers in tax returns to see if those numbers are also listed in the SSDI, a list of deceased persons and their Social Security numbers. Fraudulent tax returns claiming refunds have been a huge problem for the IRS in the past. Luckily, the SSDI is a great tool for reducing fraudulent tax returns and for other purposes as well.

Maybe the IRS can get this cleared up before Mr. Meinstein does pass away.

When you are out of ideas for sources to research, take a look at Genealogy Bank.com. This website has added over 23 million records in the last 3 months. They offer a free trial period and a nominal membership fee if you like what you see.

You might like to subscribe to the GenealogyInTime Magazine Newsletter It is free and lists everything it can find on sources to search. Some of these are free and some require fees. There are many new additions every issue.

Aunt Mary Joins the Greek Gods and Changes Genealogy

Michael J. Leclerc

Daniel Ruth, a columnist for the Tampa Bay Times, wrote an interesting piece last month. A few years ago, his wife's Aunt Mary asked her, when the time came, to travel to Mount Olympus in Greece to spread her ashes. When the time came, Ruth and his wife faced an intense challenge.

First they needed to deal with all of the paperwork involved in carrying cremated remains out of our country and into another. Mountains of bureaucratic red tape needed to be climbed and processed in order to obtain the appropriate permission from both governments.

Then there was the tiny detail of climbing the mountain, an activity not exactly in their daily exercise regime. Getting to the top of the mountain is no mean feat for anyone. It is frequently dangerous. In fact, just days after they made the trek, another climber died in a 600-foot fall. And, upon their arrival at Litochoro, a final surprising challenge met them. The weather changed their plans. There would be no rest. If they wanted to hike the mountain, it would need to be immediately. Ultimately, they were able to scale the mountain and spread Mary's ashes over a ridge. In Ruth's words: "A gentle breeze carried Aunt Mary into eternity, into the embrace of the Greek gods." You can read more of their adventure in [Aunt Mary Joins the Greek Gods for Eternity](#).

Stories like Aunt Mary's are becoming more and more common. For a variety of reasons, people are no longer going the traditional route for their post mortem plans. And it will change the way genealogists in the future research.

Cremation has been common for a century. It is what happens to those cremains that has changed. In days past, cremains would be buried in cemeteries. Sometimes they are buried in family graves alongside coffins. Many cemeteries have a special area for cremated remains called a columbarium, or they might have an urn garden.

But today, many people are opting to have their ashes spread elsewhere, in places that have some sort of significance to them. The remains of John F. Kennedy, Jr., for example, were spread at sea. The ashes of comedian Robin Williams who died this summer were scattered in San Francisco Bay.

Many eco-conscious people are now opting to have a "green burial" or "natural burial." The remains are not embalmed, and buried in biodegradable containers. Usually the graves are unmarked.

How is this changing genealogy? One of our major resources for research are grave markers. Many cemeteries have seen their inscriptions transcribed and published over the years. And website like FindAGrave and BillionGraves have made it even easier to view grave markers and transcriptions of the inscriptions. Often these inscriptions are the only records of death that we have.

These new forms of burial leave no markers. Not only will there be inscription to transcribe, but genealogists will be robbed of another wonderful experience. During my research I have visited the final resting places of countless individuals. Each time I am able to pause and reflect on who they were and what they accomplished in life. The feeling will not be the same for those whose remains are spread to the winds or the water, like Aunt Mary; JFK, Jr.; and Robin Williams. Our research, and our experiences, will never be the same.

Happy Valentines Day!

Til next time

Janeice

