



Kansas Council of Genealogical Societies

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Newsletter

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Hello,

Another nice warm, albeit windy day. Or maybe we have to call it an Sunday as they did in a comic I read this week. After all it appears only every four years and when we think of it, we have a gift of an extra 24 hours to use this year. Let's use it well.

Let's do something today, for which we have been wanting to find time and have not been able to.

Have you seen anything you would like to share with other genealogists? IF you can chat and paste it to me I would be happy to send it on.

I have read some interesting items:

From Fold3

The [Medal of Honor](#) is the United States' highest military decoration for valor. There are currently more than 3,400 recipients of this medal, stretching back to 1863 when it was first awarded. This Black History Month, let's take a closer look at a few of the African-American recipients.

[Robert Blake](#). Blake was the first African-American to receive the Medal of Honor, in 1864, for actions while serving with the U.S. Navy during the Civil War. [William Harvey Carney](#) is sometimes credited as the first African-American recipient since he performed his Medal of Honor action first. However, since Carney wasn't awarded the medal until 1900, Blake was the first to physically

receive it. Blake, an escaped slave, was awarded the medal for "[carrying] out his duties bravely" during an "engagement with the enemy on John's Island."

[Robert Sweeney](#). Sweeney is the only African-American (out of 19 total servicemen) to receive the Medal of Honor twice, both for saving drowning shipmates during peacetime, in 1881 and 1883.

[Vernon J. Baker](#). Baker received the Medal of Honor for his "fighting spirit and daring leadership" during a World War II battle in 1945 in Italy. Baker wasn't awarded the medal until 1997, as part of a [review](#) that upgraded the Distinguished Service Crosses of seven African-American WWII veterans to Medals of Honor. Baker was the only one of the seven still alive to receive the honor in person.

[Lawrence Joel](#). Joel was the first medic to be awarded the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War, for actions that occurred in 1965. During a 24-hour battle against the Viet Cong, Joel repeatedly risked his life saving wounded men, despite being shot twice himself.

[James Anderson, Jr.](#) Anderson was the first African-American U.S. Marine to receive the Medal of Honor. He was awarded the medal posthumously after being killed in action during the Vietnam War when he rolled on top of a grenade to save his fellow Marines. These are just 5 of the 90 or so African-American Medal of Honor recipients. All Medal of Honor citations up through 2013 can be found in Fold's collection "[Medal of](#)

There were some comments about this item's being racist. Genealogists do not think that way. We are just happy to find another source of information about our ancestors.

From Eastman

Finding Cemeteries With Your Computer –

Perhaps you found a reference that says your ancestor lived in Holladay, Tennessee. Now you ask, "Where the heck is that?" Even more interesting, the record might say that the ancestor was buried there in the Brinkley Cemetery. Now you really want to know where that cemetery is located! Luckily, in this modern age, this is easy to do, using your home computer and an Internet connection.

Back in the B.I. age (Before Internet), you would purchase a map of Tennessee and then look for the town. However, many small locations are not shown on modern maps. It is also possible that the place may have existed only in past years and has since disappeared. A current map may not show the place you are interested in. Most importantly, finding a small cemetery on a modern map is often impossible.

Today you can sit at home, type on the keyboard, and in a few minutes find that Brinkley Cemetery is located at latitude 35 degrees, 49 minutes, 17 seconds North and 88 degrees, 12 minutes, 2 seconds West (plus or minus 300 feet).

You can also look at a map of the area, displayed on your computer screen or printed on your own printer. The map shows that the cemetery in question is located on a small road, not far from U.S. Highway 40, about four miles south of Holladay, Tennessee. If that isn't enough, you can even look at a satellite view of the area. Your computer screen can display a satellite photo that even shows individual houses and other small buildings, although you probably will not be able to see individual tombstones.

If you have an ancestor who died at Verdun (WWI) and would like his name to be included in this list, you might be able to contribute. Eastman says you need fluent French to do so and that might require you to ask for help from someone you know who can do this. Even if you cannot contribute, you may want to check the list to see if your grandfather or great uncle is there.

Mémoire de hommes et le programme d'indexation collaborative: a Collaborative Index of the Men Who Died for France in Verdun

Dick Eastman..

There is no list today of the men who died for France in Verdun. A web site in France hopes to create that list by crowdsourcing. You can help although I will suggest you do need to be fluent in French in order to contribute. Men of Memory is a virtual memorial in which users can participate through a collaborative indexing program.

The Dead for France in the First World War is a web site dedicated to indexing the French heroes of World War I and to contribute to a more precise knowledge of the conflict through its Died for France: not only the soldiers' names, but also what losses to a unit, a type of degree, territory, a battle, a particularly deadly day. The goal is to accurately honor those killed in the Battle of Verdun.

The information already indexed is available all. A counter is shown to track the number of names indexed so far. To date, more than 435,000 records have already been indexed. If everyone contributes, all the records will be indexed and should be available by 2018.

The Mémoire de hommes et le programme d'indexation collaborative web site is avail-



A picture of a two-story privy once used by our ancestors. If your curiosity gets the best of you, try Wikipedia.

African-American Genealogical Research Group Launched in Oklahoma

from Eastman

A meeting was held Saturday to launch an African-American genealogical research group in Oklahoma. Attendees included representatives from the Oklahoma Genealogical Society, the International Association of Professional Genealogists, and the founder of the Coltrane Group, which has a mission of preserving and revitalizing the historical black towns of Oklahoma. Several private citizens also were in attendance.

The group's next meeting was set for 10:30 a.m. April 2 at the Oklahoma History Center, 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, Oklahoma City. Details may be found in an article by Kimberly Burk in the NewsOK web site at <http://newsok.com/article/5480754>.

Historical Records Survey

The Historical Records Survey was a nationwide series of projects conducted by the U.S. Works Progress Administration (W.P.A.) from the winter of 1935 through 1942. The purpose of the Depression-era program was to provide useful employment to needy out-of-work historians, teachers, lawyers, and research and clerical workers by conducting the largest survey of public records ever conducted in the United States. One of the biggest projects of the Historical Records Survey was the Survey of County Records. Field workers inventoried the extant public (and some private) records of counties in states across the nation—locating, describing and classifying government records, manuscripts, and church records—to make them more easily accessible to county officials, historians, and researchers.

The mission was to organize and compile inventories of historical materials, particularly unpublished government records and important privately owned historical materials, for use by government officials, historians, legal scholars, and other researchers.

The boon for genealogists and other historians is that the surviving inventories and publications of the Historical Records Survey provide an invaluable roadmap to the availability and location of a wide number of historical records and manuscript materials in counties, churches, and archives across the United States.

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There are a number of decorative free family tree charts available online. If you would like one, try googling.

til next time,

Janeice

*Til next time
Janeice*

