

BOUSE GENIES

BE PREPARED FOR YOUR RESEARCH TRIP

by Carolyn H. Brown

[from the SKP Genies Newsletter Oct/Nov/Dec 2008]

In the world of genealogy today many of you have done all of your research on-line or through contact with family via letters and e-mail. You may have forgotten about the fact that everything you are looking for is not on-line and may never be (though we all keep hoping it will).

So! What do you do when you really have to get "down and dirty" and research the old fashion way, in libraries and courthouses. This issue of the newsletter will tell you how to prepare for the specifics of researching in the different repositories.

To be prepared, start now to make what I call "traveling copies" of your records. Do this by making copies of the original records you are sure you will want with you on your trip. Store these in separate folders by surname and in a location separate from the rest of your files. That way when you know where you are going, you can just pull the file(s), get your Genealogy "To-Go" bag and go. Never take original documents with you.

When you know where you are going, get familiar with the holdings of that particular repository. If you can't find enough information on-line, then write to the library or courthouse for more information. It can really be frustrating when you think the courthouse surely will have what you are seeking, only to get there and find those records are 50 miles away.

Take copies of the forms you will be using, like census, will index, deed index, tax and/or military data forms. Many of the current genealogy programs have forms you can print. Some forms are also available at www.FamilySearch.org and Ancestry.com. For those of you who have purchased my "Family History Research" forms CD, you can print the forms you will need and even take the CD along so you can print more as needed. The files on the CD are in .PDF format, so they can be printed from any computer. A sample of two of these forms are shown on page 12.

Dress comfortably. You will be getting up and down a lot. In the case of courthouses, you will be handling very large, dusty, dirty ledgers.

The point is to really plan ahead so you get the most out of the time you have for your research. If you have never done research in a large library or courthouse, talk to others who have and take their advice. You won't be sorry



Vol 2, No. 6
Nov / Dec 2008

Contents

ABC's of Genealogy	2
Academic Libraries	9
Beginners Pit Falls	8
Be Prepared for Research Trip	1
Bits & Bytes	4
Bouse Genies News	9
Burned Courthouse Research	2
Courthouses You Never Know	8
Creating Research Logs	10
Donna's Dictionary	6
From the Computer Desk	3
Libraries Digitized On Line	9
Local Public Libraries	5
Meeting Schedule	9
Preparing For Library Research	4
Preparing for Courthouse Res	7
The Other Coast	10

Bouse Genies

Electronic Newsletter

Published 6 times a year for the members of the Bouse Genealogy Group

Please send all general correspondence to:

Bouse Genies
c/o Carolyn H. Brown
P.O. Box 625
Bouse, AZ 85325
or email

sidcarol@escapees.com



The Bouse Genies meet every other Friday from October thru May at the Bouse Community Building next to the Library. The schedule of meeting is posted in this newsletter.

The Bouse Genies Website is <http://bousegenies.weebly.com>





BURNED COURTHOUSE RESEARCH

by Carolyn H. Brown

[from the SKP Genies Newsletter Oct/Nov/Dec 2008]

First off, the courthouse may not have totally burned down, or if you are really lucky there may have been two courthouses. Sometimes you will hear that a courthouse burned, when in fact it did not. Even if it did, some of the records may have survived. Often when a courthouse burned someone tried to get the records out. They may have taken them home and never returned them until several generations later someone discovered them and returned them to the courthouse.

Also, you will find that some records may have been stolen or used for firewood during the Civil War. Though all of the records were not lost, many may have been destroyed. If the records have been damaged they may have been transferred to the local historical society or the state archives for restoration and safe keeping. Many of these may have been microfilmed. Also many records were microfilmed before the courthouse burned if it happened since 1950.

If the courthouse did burn and the records are lost there are ways to find information for the missing period. First, check the records for the first 10 years after the courthouse burned. In the case of land transactions, un-probated wills, open court cases, or lost birth or death records these records may have been collected by the court to continue actions in progress or to sell land. For birth (baptism), marriage, and death (burial) records check the local church records and newspapers.

May all of your ancestors be like
vegetables in the fall -- turnip!!



When we were young we did not ask
questions;

Now that we're old, there's no one to
answer them

ABCs

THE A-B-Cs OF GENEALOGY

Q - R - S - T

by Maryalice Gordon

[from the SKP Genies Newsletter Sep/Oct 2006]

Q is for **QUERY**, a term used for asking a question. A query consists of several sentences asking for help with your research. Send queries to family associations, genealogical libraries, the Internet, and other researchers.

A well-written query will be backed up with supporting information (details) and contain a focal question of missing or desired information to help others determine if they have helpful information for you. Keep a copy of your request as replies may come months or years later.

R is for **RELICT**. "Relict" may be used in older records to designate surviving the death of another, especially a widow. Often her tombstone may read "relict of John Jones" meaning that she was a widow when she dies. "Consort" on a tombstone indicates that the woman's husband was still living at the time of her death. Knowing the meaning of "relict" and "consort" will give insight regarding the husband.

S is for **SPELLING**, which is always a challenge. Prior to the 1900's there was no universally accepted way to spell any surname and many people weren't even consistent when spelling their own surnames. My husband has a land deed that has his Grandfather's surname is spelled differently three times within the same document. Is it Gordan, Gorden, or Gordon? Brothers used different surname spelling, one keeping the old spelling, others adopting a new spelling, especially with a "foreign" sounding name. When transcribing old documents it is better to not make changes. This will give a sense of our ancestors' time.

T is for **TRUTH**— with a caveat - because genealogical truth can be harmful to your family's fairy tales! So warns Francis Shane, a former executive director of the National Genealogical Society. Family members may remember things differently, or perhaps not even know what truly happened years ago. Documents may prove – or disprove – an event. After all, history is told by the winning side!

FROM THE COMPUTER DESK

SO YOU WANT TO SWITCHED TO WINDOWS VISTA by Carolyn H. Brown



Several of our members have purchased new computers this past year with Windows Vista on them and each of us has had our share of problems. Some minor and some not so minor. The important thing is that we have made the move and are, in general, happy with it.

Last year there was a lot of talk about all of the problems everyone was having with the new operating system. Mainly that things were different in Vista or they could not get their hardware and software to work on the new system. Based on my own move from XP to Vista here is what I found.

The biggest hardware problem was my **scanner**. Though it was only two years old, it was out of warranty. When I installed the original software on my new computer it did not work. I contacted HP (the scanner vendor) who said I had to pay \$55 for support, which I did. They sent me a CD with new software, but it did not have the driver for my scanner on it. It did have the driver for a newer scanner which did not work with mine. I tried to download the driver for my scanner and my computer would not do the download. Never have figured out why. Then I tried to get HP to send me a CD with the right driver on it and they refused big time. I could not download the full scanner update software either. The problem with the second file was the size of the file was larger than I could download using my Satellite connection. After much hassle with HP I was told I should find someone with a DSL line and have them download the software and driver and put it on a CD and send it to me. That is what I finally did and it worked. Took about three weeks for all of this to transpire.

The other hardware problem was one of my **printers**. I have two HP LaserJet printers. A small older HP 1300 and a larger newer HP2605dn Color LaserJet. The small printer worked fine by just plugging it in. But I had to download the update driver software for the HP2605. That was not a problem and it was up and running within the day.

YES! Some of your older software will not work with Vista. **AND!!!** Some of the vendors have not updated their software so you may find that a program you really loved using with Windows XP is not available for Vista. The one that I miss most is Broderbund's **Calendar Creator**. Don't even try to load it!

Some of my other software was a problem because I wanted to transfer it from my old computer to the new one. One of the programs I wanted to transfer was **MS Office Professional** that I had purchased with the older machine when I bought it. It was original equipment manufacturer (OEM) issued. Since my new machine was from the same vendor as the old one, I was hoping that I could transfer it, but I could not. I was told that it was purchased for one machine and could not be transferred to another. Therefore, I had to purchase all new software for any software that I had purchased *with* my previous machine. There was one other major software program that I had to update to a newer version and that was **Adobe Standard 7**, my PDF creator program. I had to purchase the **Adobe Standard 8**, and they sent me **Adobe Professional 8** for the same price.

Many of us use **MS Word** and/or **MS Office**. The cost of this software is really expensive. But I was told to not purchase the **MS Office Standard** version as it was more expensive (\$399.95 new and \$239.95 upgrade) and had less in it than did the **MS Office Home & Student** version (\$149.95). Since this is software purchased directly from the software vendor it can be transferred to another computer when I upgrade again. This is also true if you are using, or want to use, **WordPerfect Suite**. The Home & Student version is much cheaper than the Standard version. The only difference is that these versions do not have any support with them. I have found that I could get support for some software vendors if I used their online support option.

A few words about **MS Word 2007**. Microsoft has made some major changes in their new **MS Office** software and it will take you quite a while to relearn where everything is located on the tool bars. I personally found some of it very confusing. Also, when you create a **MS Word** document in MS Word 2007 it has the file new extension of **.docx**. The older versions of MS Word can't open these files. You must save the file as a **Word 97-2003** document and it will have the old **.doc** file extension.

Upgrading may take some effort, so I would not do it unless I was purchasing a new machine.



Web sites come, move, and go on a regular basis. These URLs were current at the time of publication and are subject to unannounced changes.

*Save time doing On-Site Research.
Do your homework first.*

The location, holdings and sometimes catalogs of repositories can be found via these web sites:

Family History Library (FHL), Salt Lake City, UT
 Directory of Genealogy Libraries in the US
 Directory of US public and academic libraries
 Directory of State Archives & Historical Societies
 Directory of County Courthouses
 Genealogy Resources by State

www.familysearch.org
www.gwest.org/gen_libs.htm
www.publiclibraries.com
<http://web.syr.edu/~jryan/infopro/hs.html>
<http://genealogy.com/00000229.html>
www.usa.gov/Citizen/Topics/History_Family.shtml

Two links on this page will take you to loads of on-site research facilities. Click on the link Genealogy Resources by State or on the link Archives & History by State. Both are worth a visit.

PREPARING FOR LIBRARY RESEARCH

by Carolyn H. Brown

[from the SKP Genies
Newsletter Oct/Nov/Dec 2008]

One of the most important trips that all genealogist make is a trip to a library that may have records on your ancestors. But - are you really prepared for this journey?

If you are not prepared you will spend a lot of time once you get there trying to figure out what you want to see first. So I spend at least a week before I go just getting my planned research lined up.

KNOW WHERE & WHEN YOU ARE GOING

As soon as you know you will be visiting a specific library, check to see what their hours of operation are. This can usually be found on their website. Generate a map on Yahoo Maps (or some other web site) so you don't have to try to find the facility from a larger state map that may not provide enough detailed information. Once you know where you are going and when they are open, make plans on where you might want to stay.

KNOW WHAT THE LIBRARY HAS AVAILABLE

With those items taken care of, you can then focus on what books are available at that specific library. Check out their index of holdings on-line at the library's web site. Most big libraries have their indexes on-line which



Library of Virginia, Richmond, VA.

can save lots of time. Make a list of the books or films you want to look at so you don't have to spend time doing basic things once you arrive. Unfortunately, most small local libraries do not provide this service.

ORGANIZE YOUR RECORDS

Next organize the documents you want to take. Depending on the library, I have a list of everyone I am researching in that county, state or region.

Print out a list from your genealogy program of descendants for the families you are researching in that library. Take an ancestor report, just in case you find information you were not expecting.

RECORD YOUR PLAN AND STICK TO IT

Write your plan down, and take it with you. You are more apt to stay focused in your research when your plan has been clearly defined. There are times when you will find a book or other document which you had no idea was there. In this case, stop and research that item. Then go back to your original plan. You are there for a reason, so stay focus. When you get lucky and find exactly what you want early in the day, then take time to see what else may be available that you have not planned on.

MAKE COPIES OF ALL YOU FIND

Don't try to hand copy information found in books or film. Make a copy so you are sure there are no errors in the copy process. This means that you should have sufficient coins for the copy machine. If you are working in a state archives you may not be allowed to

make copies of some materials yourself. If you really want the document, pay the price for a copy. This can be rather steep in some facilities, but it is well worth the price in the end. Make sure you record the title page of the book and the pages that identify the author, year and date of publication. Also make sure the page numbers are visible on the copy and hand number them if they are not.

It is really miserable to get home and find that you made copies of some pages in a book and don't know which one it was.

TAKE A BREAK

Every once in a while get up and move around, get a drink of water and don't forget to eat lunch. Sometimes we get so caught up in our research we forget the important stuff. If I know my time is going to be very limited in the library, I will take a bag lunch. That way I don't have to leave to find food.

TAKE TIME TO REGROUP

After you have been researching a while, whether you found what you are looking for or not, you should take a few minutes to go over your plan. Review what you found, where you still need more research, and decide what to do next.



Cincinnati Hamilton Co., OH
Library

LOCAL PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

A Gold Mine Concealed in Brick and Mortar

by **Barbara A. H. Nuehring**

[from the SKP Genies Newsletter Oct/Nov/Dec 2008]

Behind mortar and brick, through old massive oak or modern clear-glass doors, up stairs or down stairs, in open or closed stacks, lies a gold mine of genealogical material just waiting to be discovered. Those of us who use these caches of hidden treasures know them as Public Libraries.

The generic term "public libraries" takes in a rich vein of varied repositories. There is our national library—The Library of Congress. There are state libraries, often in conjunction with state archives. There are academic libraries of varying sizes supported by universities and colleges. And there are local libraries funded by counties and cities—the focus of this article.

Whenever you are in an area where your ancestors lived, drop into the local library. You just may be surprised at the priceless nuggets of information you will find even in the smallest of public libraries.

Browse their shelves for county histories, local genealogy society's publications and self-published genealogies. Use their microfilm collections of local newspapers, old city directories, farm plat map books, phone books and the county's pages of state censuses. Search their oversized collection for historical maps and atlases of the area. Check the on-line subscription databases and indexes that you can access at their terminals or on your laptop through their Wi-Fi. Talk to the senior librarians—oh, the stories they could tell you; the leads they could give you!

Most libraries will have a genealogy section—seek it out. Sometimes it is just a shelf. Sometimes it is alcove or a room. Sometimes it is a whole department or branch.

There are several public libraries that have very large genealogical collections. In fact, there are four that are vying for the title of "largest genealogy collection in a public library." That is definitely a win-win situation for us. Visit their web sites to read descriptions of their holdings, to access their catalog, to get directions, hours of operation and contact information and to find other research facilities in the area. You may find that what is behind their brick and mortar is worth a detour or requires a special trip.

California, San Francisco: The **Sutro Library**, strong on California genealogical resources, also has extensive holdings of family histories and local histories from around the nation and microfilms of all the US census. Download their genealogy resource guides and access the state library's main catalog by starting at <http://www.library.ca.gov/collections>.

Colorado, Denver: The **DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARY'S** holdings include an incredible collection of historical photographs of western activities and genealogical material including the Indian Census Rolls, 1885-1940 and the Dawes Rolls, 1898-1914. Their on-line catalog is accessed through <http://history.denverlibrary.org/collections/genealogy.html>.

Illinois, Chicago: The **NEWBERRY LIBRARY** has an eclectic mix of donated materials such as copies of original records, research notes, correspondence and personal diaries. They also

have colonial American genealogies, local histories from all regions of the USA, Canada, and Great Britain and published works of pre-20th century records. Visit their web site at www.newberry.org/genealogy/collections.html.

Indiana, Fort Wayne: The **ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY**, the destination of our first SKP Genies Magic research trip, is the home of the largest genealogy and local history periodical collection in the world. Their collection also contains printed volumes, microfilm and microfiche of family histories, federal, state and territorial censuses, city directories, passenger lists, military record indexes and service records. Additionally, the genealogy department has an arrangement with the Family History Library (FHL), allowing them to borrow microfilm for patrons. Access their on-line catalog at www.acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy.

Missouri, Independence: **MIDWEST GENEALOGY CENTER** of the Mid-Continent Public Library, one of the destinations during SKP Genie Magic following the 2009 Escapade, has a vast publication and microfilm collection including passenger lists, records of antebellum southern plantations, Civil War unit histories, yearbooks, Missouri land records and service records of Union and Confederate soldiers. Visit www.mcpl.lib.mo.us/genlh/mgc.htm to access their extensive list of family history resources and their on-line catalog and databases.

Missouri, St. Louis: **ST. LOUIS COUNTY LIBRARY** has the holdings of the National Genealogical Society (NGS), and the St. Louis Genealogical Society, as well as a respectable collection of genealogical and historical materials of the local area. Access their on-line catalogs through <http://webpac.slcl.org>.

New York, New York City: The **NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY, MILSTEIN DIVISION** has hundreds of thousands of publications and microforms of local historical and genealogical material including passenger lists of vessels arriving at New York harbors. Search their catalog at <http://catnyp.nypl.org> and narrow your search to the Humanities and Social Sciences collections. If you are planning a special trip to the New York Public Library you may want to wait about two years, because the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society (NYG&B) is in the process of moving their enormous holdings to the New York Public Library.

Ohio, Cincinnati: The **CINCINNATI AND HAMILTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY**'s reference collection of print volumes, bound periodicals, microfilm and microfiche includes city directories, historic newspapers, maps, atlases, gazetteers and cartobibliographies. Their catalog is on their web site at www.cincinnati.library.org/main/hi.asp.

Texas, Dallas: The **DALLAS PUBLIC LIBRARY** Genealogy Section's collection is primarily national in scope, but also consists of materials for some foreign countries. Holdings are extensive and include one of the most complete collections of military service records in the nation and microfilm borrowing privileges from the FHL. To find specifics about their collection, download their excellent guide to research and access the catalog start at <http://dallaslibrary.org/CHS/cgc.htm>.

Texas, Houston: **CLAYTON LIBRARY**, a stand alone branch of the Houston Public Library, has a huge collection of microfilm and microfiche which include a complete collection of NARA passenger lists, indexes to Federal service records from the American Revolution through the Philippine Insurrection and all Federal censuses, as well as books, periodicals and family histories. Access their catalog at www.houstonlibrary.org/clayton/clayton_holdings.html.

North, south, east or west—no matter where your search for your ancestors leads you, no matter what direction your RV is headed—there is a local public library just waiting to offer you the chance to dig through their gold mine of materials, books, periodicals, microforms, maps, CDs and on-line databases.

DONNA'S DICTIONARY

Reading how-to books is not a waste of time.

You won't know if you don't go.

It is okay to read the end of the book first that's where the index is.

A family history without sources or documentation is fiction.

Never go anywhere without a pencil and notepad.

Genealogy is not for the faint of heart.

The facts of the matter have to make sense.

PREPARING FOR COURTHOUSE RESEARCH

by Carolyn H. Brown
[from the SKP Genies
Newsletter Oct/Nov/Dec 2008]



Crook Co., OR Courthouse

Get to Know the County and the Courthouse

The first place to start is the Red Book: American State, County, and Town Sources (published by Ancestry). You need to know when the county was formed and what counties are in your general area of interest. Depending on the time frame of your research, you may need to research in several different counties for someone who never moved. There are several locations in America which will appear in the records of as many as two or three states. Some may even appear in multiple counties within a given state. I have a friend who is researching a family which has lived in two states and four counties and never moved.

Try to find out as much about the courthouse before you go. Some questions to consider are: (1) where the records of interest are located? (2) hours of operation of the facility? (3) are reservations required? and (4) how are copies made and how do you pay for them? It may help to make a copy of the pages about the county from the Red Book and take them with you. That way you can show the clerk exactly what you want to look at.

GET YOUR CURRENT RESEARCH ORGANIZED

Make a list of what you have and another list of what you are looking for on each family before you go. Get each list into chronological order by surname. Then when you are looking at a ledger you can go through it for all families at once.

Review your records thoroughly before you go and make sure they are up to date. If you know what you have you will not be looking for the same records again just because you are there.

Have a list of all surnames of interest in the county in alphabetical order. This will help when you are going through indexes.

SET YOUR RESEARCH PRIORITIES

Know how much time you will have and decide what is most important to you. If possible, get a copy of

documents you know about before you go. These might lead you to other documents you did not know about before.

TAKE THE RIGHT TOOLS

Besides the lists mentioned above there are other records you will need. One I take is a Descendants Chart for each family of interest in that area. Make sure the chart has the dates and place for birth, marriage

and death shown. Your genealogy program should be able to provide this chart. This is like taking a stack of family group sheets, but in a much more compact list. You will need to print one for each surname you are researching, but you can limit the number of generations where the families overlap.

Make sure you have change for the copy machine and the vending machines. Take along some hand towelettes as the records are very dusty. Always use a pencil, never a pen when working in a courthouse.

Many people take their computer with them, however this can be a hassle as you may be moving around a lot. Often there is very little space to work and there is a chance of it getting knocked off the counter. If you have a PalmPilot or other smaller device it may be more appropriate.

When researching records in a courthouse it helps to use the Courthouse Records - Wills and Courthouse Records - Deeds forms a described on page 10. These forms can save you a lot of time in your research. They also provide an excellent record of what you have done and what needs to be done.

BE CREATIVE IN YOUR SEARCH

Remember that every name has multiple spellings. You may find the same name spelled three different ways in one document. You never know which way was used in the index. If you are researching in a burned county, there are many ways to try to get around the problem but the best is to start searching in their earliest records, even if it is long after the date of interest. Many records were recreated within the first 10 years after the courthouse was re-established.

TAKE A BREAK

After several hours of researching you will be tired. I often take a lunch with me, then sit in the car or on a bench and review what I have gathered while I eat. That way, I don't have to depend on a waiter if I am in a hurry to get back to business. During this time I get organized for the rest of the day of research. If you have someone with you, discuss any problems you

have encountered. Many times someone else can think of a different approach to help you out.

Curtsy goes a long way in a courthouse. The staff will be much more open to helping you if you are prepared and are friendly. If you have a problem try to get a clerk who has been there the longest to help you.

COURTHOUSES: YOU NEVER KNOW

by Bob Gordon

[from the SKP Genies Newsletter Oct/Nov/Dec 2008]



St. Lawrence County Courthouse, NY

In our travels around the United States, Maryalice and I visited many courthouses over the years.

Our first courthouse experience was in Ogdensburg, New York on the St. Lawrence River. While not the seat of St. Lawrence County, it is a courthouse serving that geographical area.

Because I was a beginner, I asked for help looking at the land and vital records. A very kind gentlemen clerk explained how their records were stored and displayed, e.g., the grantor and grantee situation. I easily found evidence of my New York ancestors and was very pleased with how easy it was to use a courthouse.

Over the years we found that in most cases we could walk into a courthouse, go to the clerk's office, and unaccompanied, look at the ledgers and books, hopefully containing information we were looking for. Once information was located, the photocopying was normally possible for a nominal fee. The highest fee ever paid was for a marriage record in Kankakee, Illinois - \$7.50 and that was not even a certified copy. Normally the fees were well under a dollar per copy.

The diversity between counties in accessibility and fees can be shown by two adjacent counties in northeastern Kansas. We started our research in the courthouse in Washington, Washington County. The records were in the worst shape experienced to that point. We were allowed to only look at the records and were not permitted to photocopy any of the pages. If we found anything of interest, we had to copy the information by hand. We moved south to Clay Center in the adjoining Clay County. I probably found more family information on births and marriages in their rather large ledgers than in any other county

researched. We kept bringing these heavy ledgers to the clerks and they gladly photocopied the pages and in most cases had to make two prints to contain all the information. They then took the time to tape the pages together and the best news was - ten cents per copy! Of course we were very appreciative.

The lesson learned from Kansas County courthouses is that you never know how records are kept or how supportive (or not) the clerk's staff will be in your research unless you give it a try.

Always be polite regardless of the reception. "Please" and "thank you" can go a long way. Don't let one bad experience dampen your approach to vital records research.

BEGINNERS' PITFALLS FALLS

by Carolyn H. Brown

[from the SKP Genies Newsletter Oct/Nov/Dec 2008]

THE TOWN MY ANCESTOR LIVED IN DOESN'T HAVE ANY RECORD OF MY ANCESTOR; I ALREADY ASKED.

It all depends on how you asked your question of the courthouse staff. If you asked for "any records on the XYZ family", don't be surprised if you got no answer, or they replied "we don't have the records you seek".

Be very specific when you request information from a courthouse or library. Only ask for **one record** at a time and be very specific with the data you supply. If you can't visit and need to write to a repository, don't give the family history or ask for multiple people's records in your letter. Give variant spellings for all names and date ranges.

If you still don't get the answer you are seeking, do more research on where the various records might be held and then try again later. You just may get a different clerk in the courthouse.

You know you are a genealogist when:

You're the only person in the party who knows what Soundex is.

"I need to spend a little more time in the courthouse" means forget the cleaning, washing, dinner, chores: the day is shot

Some of your best friends live over 200 miles away..

ACADEMIC LIBRARIES: NOT JUST FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

by Barbara A. H. Nuehring
[from the SKP Genies Newsletter Oct/Nov/Dec
2008]

There is one group of people who do more research, publish more histories, or depend on more sources for information than do genealogists. Those are college students, PHD candidates and the university faculty. Take advantage of their resources—visit a university near you and make use of the books, microfilm and CDs they have within their hallowed walls of their libraries. It is a rare academic library that will not allow the public free access to their holdings. You just can't check out any books. Tip: Make note of the summer hiatus, spring breaks and Christmas holidays of your local campus—the library is much less crowded and they may be operating on reduced hours.

LIBRARIES DIGITIZED ONLINE

The Internet is expanding to the point that some day every book ever printed will be available through the Internet. That time probably will not come in our life time, but even now there are a lot books available that we can research in without leaving out computer.

With the availability of books online we have to study the copyright laws in detail to fully understand what we can't do when using data found in books. Before you start it is suggested that you read the rules on established by the United States Government concerning copy right at www.copyright.gov

Some suggested web sites to visit are:

MILLION BOOK PROJECT - www.ulib.org This site is supported by the Carnegie Mellon University and has digitized 1.5 million books.

GOOGLE BOOKS - <http://books.google.com> Googles site has a mass amount of books available, however some of them can not be viewed in their entirety.

OPEN CONTENT ALLIANCE - www.opencontentalliance.org and www.archive.org A combination of groups digitizing several types of media, not just books.

PROJECT GUTENBERG - www.gutenberg.org/ 100,000 books are available on this site. Of course they are not all concerning genealogy.

THE ONLINE BOOKS PAGE - <http://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu> has over 25,000 free books on the web.

There are other projects going on line on a regular basis from all over the worked so check them out when you need a library in your own home.



Nikki, Roberta, Gloria, Beth & Shirley

Bouse Genies News

There was no meeting on October 10 as almost all members who were in town had other commitments. The October 24th meeting was a big hit with all of those attending. We were able to show three of the nine video

training classes we have on CD. The day started with our regular business meeting. The first training video was **Beginning Legacy Training** for Legacy 7. This was followed by **Mastering Legacy Family Tree**. We had a break for lunch and continued the day with **12-Step Check List to Using Legacy Family Tree**. We have six more training videos to view. We were all amazed at how extensive & flexible this program is. All of us came away with a very long "To-Do" list we need to get to work on in our own Legacy files. A copy of these CD's will be available to be used in the Library. They will be listed as **Reference Only** - not to leave the library. Most of classes take from 45 minutes to one hour to view. The overall consensuses of those attending is that this is money well spent for our organization. Legacy 7 incorporates some very major upgrades over Legacy 6 and all members are encouraged to upgrade as soon as possible. If you are using Legacy you certainly will want to view these videos.

2008 MEETING SCHEDULE

Please note that when we set the start date for the fall meetings there was a misjudgement in the dates selected which caused the meetings to fall on the Thanksgiving Holiday. The start date for the meetings has been changed and the new meeting dates are:

November 7 & 21, 2008

December 5 & 19, 2008

Meetings are held every other Friday from October thru May at 10:00 a.m. in the Bouse Community Building next to the library.

CREATING RESEARCH INDEX LOG FORMS FOR COURTHOUSE RESEARCH

by Carolyn H. Brown [from the SKP Genies Newsletter Oct/Nov/Dec 2008]

When doing research in court records it helps to have a form pre-prepared to record the index information from the many court ledgers in which you will research. These logs will help you when you are looking for multiple last names in the same ledger.

There are two forms you can use. The first is a form for wills, probates, court orders and all documents which are index under one surname. The second form is for deed indexes which have two separate indexes for each document. Deeds are indexed by grantor and again by grantee, so the form is slightly different from the other more general form.

Create both forms in your wordprocessor. To create the form, set the page to landscape layout format. Enter the title you wish to use and other more general data, as shown on the top in the following examples. Then create the actual form portion using the **table** option. Each form uses 9 columns, just different spacing and titles. Create enough rows to fill the remainder of the page.

Depending on the time you will have to spend in the courthouse, you may wish to enter the data in your spreadsheet program. That way you can sort the entries by book and page number. Using the spreadsheet print-out you can browse the ledger from front to back without having to go through the ledger but once. This works great if the ledger is on microfilm. Also, you can check which pages you wish a copy of as you go.

INDEX TO COURTHOUSE RECORDS - WILLS, COURT ORDERS & OTHERS								County: _____	
Court Record Type: _____				Reel Number: _____				State: _____	
Surname	Given Name(s)	Spouse	Book	Page	Day	Month	Year	Notes	

INDEX TO COURTHOUSE RECORDS - DEEDS										County _____	State _____
GRANTOR			GRANTEE								
Given Name(s)	Surname	TO	Given Name(s)	Surname	Book	Page	Day	Month	Year	Notes	

THE OTHER COAST

