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Library Trends

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Genealogy and Libraries

DIANE FOXHILL CAROTHERS

Issue Editor

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Introduction

DIANE FOXHILL CAROTHERS

More Americans are searching for their ancestors than ever before in our nation’s history. This can be attributed to a number of reasons: the recent celebration of the country’s Bicentennial; the publication of Alex Haley’s novel *Roots* and its subsequent television series which had one of the highest Nielsen ratings in American television history; the increasing number of retirees, and others of all ages, with more leisure to enable them to engage in this pursuit; and the encouragement of pride in one’s ethnic origin. Whatever the impetus to begin the search, genealogy is now outranked in popularity as a hobby in the United States only by stamp and coin collecting.¹

Robert M. Warner, Archivist of the United States, stated that research use of National Archives records has been increasing dramatically—a growth of about 79 percent in only the past five years. Much of this increase has resulted from interest in family studies: approximately 75 percent of the 50,000 researcher cards issued and 90 percent of the 310,000 written requests the National Archives responded to in 1980 related to genealogical research. These figures reflect activity at the Washington, D.C., facilities and in the eleven Regional Archives Branches. Significant increases in reference activity have been occurring in the interlibrary loan of microfilm copies of archival records.²

The American Library Association recognizes the general interest in the subject of genealogy and the need to educate librarians in serving genealogists and family researchers. The Reference and Adult Services

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SUMMER 1983
Division-History Section (RASD-HS) has had an active genealogy committee for years and a newly formed genealogy discussion group will be meeting at the midwinter conference in Washington in January 1984. RASD-HS offered a preconference entitled "Genealogy and Local History Reference Services" before the San Francisco annual meeting in June 1981. A special program was offered at the Philadelphia annual meeting in July 1982 to assist librarians serving genealogists, and additional training sessions or workshops are being considered by the Genealogy Committee for future conferences. To meet the growing needs of its members throughout the entire country, the National Genealogical Society has scheduled its recent annual meetings outside the District of Columbia for the first time: Atlanta in 1981, Indianapolis in 1982, and Fort Worth in 1983. These and future meetings in San Francisco and Salt Lake City are being arranged through close cooperation with the state and local genealogical societies and the public libraries.

This growing interest in family history is effecting a broad change in the attitude of librarians and archivists toward the genealogist and genealogical research. In the past the usual library attitude has not supported service to genealogists with the result that professional assistance to them has for the most part been minimal. Now many libraries that had not bought genealogical material are taking closer looks at their acquisitions policies and are beginning to select publications of genealogical societies, associations and governmental bodies, although still generally excluding individual family histories except when adequately indexed.

While reference librarians are becoming more willing to help this type of patron, many of them are unaware of the research tools currently available. New editions of "how-to" books are continually being published, and although they provide some guidance, they do not present an overall view of the subject. It is hoped, therefore, that this issue of Library Trends will offer librarians a valuable, up-to-date portrayal of the subject so that the competence of librarians to meet the research needs of their genealogist patrons will be developed. These articles are meant to inform librarians of what is happening today in genealogy, how genealogical collections are built, the specialized collections in some public libraries and the Library of Congress, the resources of the genealogical society, and the services available to the public through national and state archives and historical society libraries. The Library of the LDS (Latter-day Saints) Church houses the world's foremost collection of genealogical materials, and its facilities and policies are
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described so that a librarian can become familiar with what is offered in order to make worthwhile referrals. Some overlooked materials forming part of a large academic research collection are noted as examples of what can be found in other such libraries. Blacks have special requirements in tracing their family histories, and an overview of such research is provided in another article.

It is anticipated that this issue will help librarians understand the fervor of genealogists and might generate an attitude of real assistance to them instead of the more common feeling of such researchers being second-class citizens. Perhaps, through the reading of these articles, the reference librarians will view genealogists as "unique" patrons rather than "problem" patrons.

References

The genealogist pursues an endless quest in search of ancestors, usually one's own, sometimes those of a friend or client. The quest never ends because ancestors multiply exponentially—four grandparents, eight great-grandparents, sixteen great-great-grandparents, thus doubling with each past generation. Furthermore, the quest soon becomes more than that of mere ancestral identity—there follows a curiosity regarding personal characteristics and the events in the lives of our forebears that shaped their character and tested their mettle. If one believes that genes make a difference, it follows that research into the lives of one's ancestors can bring a better understanding of oneself. The current debate on the rights of adoptees to learn the identity of their natural parents ("I have the right to find myself.") is part of a growing belief in the importance of one's roots. There is an ancient saying: "To forget one's ancestors is to be a brook without a source, a tree without a root." Not only did Alex Haley inspire thousands of Americans to seek their roots, he also provided dramatic proof of the importance of those roots to the individual psyche.

For most searchers after roots, the quest is in the nature of hobby, but like any hobby, it can become all-consuming. For a few, genealogy becomes a profession—experts who assist others for hire. For members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (commonly referred to as Mormons and in this article occasionally as the LDS Church), a knowledge of one's forebears has religious significance. Not only do the
Mormons stress the importance of the family structure in this life, but in the hereafter as well, which accounts for the LDS Church's vast expenditures on microfilming and reducing to computer tapes historical records throughout the world. For some, genealogical research is but a steppingstone to membership in a patriotic society or for social status among one's neighbors, but even these individuals are often bitten by the "genealogical bug." The rumor of unclaimed inheritance has led a surprising number of Americans to attempt, through genealogical research, to prove themselves heirs to fortunes. While the financial success rate of such ventures has been close to zero, the family information gathered has often proved rewarding, nevertheless.

Some who begin the genealogical quest abandon it after awhile because it proves too difficult, or the results become too disturbing. The old American cliché about the danger of finding a horse thief if one probes too far remains a genuine deterrent to some, although for a growing number, such discoveries add to the excitement, especially if the scandal occurred a few decades ago. Illegitimacy, if it ties one to royalty, is romantic, but if it involved one's grandmother and the hired man it may be disgraceful.

Although genealogical research usually begins in a vertical fashion in the quest for ancestors, it often takes a lateral turn along the way; the search for cousins in varying degree and removal can be as rewarding as that for forebears. In fact, as Peter Andrews has noted, "many Americans have discovered that working out a genealogy table can be as much fun as solving a crossword puzzle."1

While interest in genealogy has grown dramatically in recent years, especially in the United States, the subject is as ancient as the written record. The Old Testament is filled with family trees (long passages of "begats"), and, although they do not agree, both the Gospel of Matthew and that of Luke introduce us to Jesus Christ by reciting the ancestry of Joseph, husband of Mary. (Some theologians contend that it was Luke's intent to give Mary's ancestry.) The maintenance of royal families and the perpetuation of the aristocracy in both ancient and modern countries have always been dependent upon genealogical record keeping. Wars have been fought, including the War of the Roses and The Hundred Years' War, over what a recent writer has termed "variant interpretations of genealogical niceties."2 In sixteenth-century England, the College of Heralds commenced a series of county visitations to record the pedigrees of the land-owning population in order that proper inheritance be assured. Even in the absence of the written record, oral tradition has often kept alive the memory of family relationships.
Genealogy Today

In the United States, however, genealogy has not always enjoyed popularity. Despite the fact that America was settled by men and women who came from countries where genealogical record keeping was considered important, many of these settlers held the subject in contempt. Why? Because they had escaped from a society where the traditions of inheritance and caste had denied them opportunity for a better life. American pioneers did not, of course, come from Europe’s aristocracy, nor even from its landed gentry—they represented, with few exceptions, the sector of society in which family connections dictated that one remain at the bottom of the social and economic ladder, regardless of one’s talent, ambition and decency. They sought a land where family connections would play no part in achieving success, where they could move about freely, and where the cobbler’s son and the mayor’s son had the same rights under the law. “I am a self-made man” was a badge of greater pride than “he was born with a silver spoon in his mouth.” “He who serves his country well has no need of ancestors,” observed Voltaire. Abraham Lincoln, good politician that he was, on more than one occasion observed publicly that he was more interested in what the grandson would become than what his grandfather’s position had been. (In private correspondence, however, Honest Abe revealed a genuine interest in the Lincoln family history, a fact not lost on the designers of his tomb in Springfield, Illinois, where a row of flags represent the states where the Lincoln family tarried in their trek westward.)

The success of the American Revolution further discouraged ancestral study. The redcoats had reminded our forefathers of the closed society they had left behind, and, with independence, they saw to it that the vestiges of inherited privilege, such as coats of arms, hereditary titles, and the custom of primogenitor, would have no place in our legal and social fabric. While great effort is made today by countless Americans to trace their ancestry through seven to ten generations to find someone who fought in the Revolution, that ancestor probably would not have claimed a similar interest in his own forebears.

Another deterrent to the maintenance of family records has been the tendency of Americans to move about. Rarely do the remains of as many as three generations rest in a single cemetery. Family records were often destroyed or discarded in this moving about, and family connections were lost and forgotten.

The “melting pot” ideal in America also discouraged the preservation of family traditions and history, especially for European and Oriental immigrants of the nineteenth century. Members of the second
generation were often embarrassed by their parents' heavy accents and peculiar customs. They were not inclined to ask questions about family origins until it was too late.

Blacks brought as slaves to our shores were discouraged not only from remembering the family structure that they had left behind but from establishing new family bonds in America. The slave who took pride in family was a constant threat to the master.

There were other reasons why most Americans continued until recent decades to have little interest in genealogy. A degree of leisure is required for genealogical research, a luxury not enjoyed by many of our pioneering ancestors. Furthermore, bitter memories were often thought best forgotten, which accounts in part for the difficulty experienced by today's genealogist in finding roots in "the old country." There is a saying among genealogists: "The grandfather wants to forget what the grandson wants to remember."

There are always exceptions, of course, and even in Colonial America there were a few individuals who had a regard for family history. George Washington and Benjamin Franklin expressed a keen interest in their ancestry. A genealogical record was actually published in 1731 by James Blake, Jr. as an appendix to Memoirs of Roger Clap. In 1771, a twenty-four page booklet was published at Hartford, Connecticut, entitled Genealogy of the Family of Mr. Samuel Stebbins and Mrs. Hannah Stebbins. By 1830, a total of fourteen family histories had been published in the United States. By 1845 enough people in Boston were interested in genealogy to form the New England Historic Genealogical Society.

In 1876 the nation celebrated its Centennial. Aniversaries, whether for individuals, organizations or nations, always provide occasion to glance backward, and America paused in 1876 to look to its past. Many American families did likewise. It was the Centennial that stimulated the formation of a number of patriotic societies, such as the Daughters of the American Revolution (today's membership, 208,000) and the Colonial Dames of America (now with 22,000 members). These were followed by a score or more of similar organizations, each of which limits its membership to persons able to prove descent from those who participated in the event commemorated, such as the Mayflower Society, the General Society of Colonial Wars, and the Magna Carta Dames. There is even the Society of Descendants of the Illegitimate Sons and Daughters of the Kings of Britain, members of which like to call themselves the Royal Bastards.
Throughout the latter half of the nineteenth century, historical associations, often called pioneer societies, were established in towns, counties and states to help record and preserve local history. Genealogy and local history have much in common, and a heightened interest in one always stimulates activity in the other. In 1869 the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society was founded, and in 1892 the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania was established. In 1903, twenty-four individuals formed the National Genealogical Society in Washington, D.C., which in 1912 began publishing its *Quarterly*. Today there are over 6000 members. The California Genealogical Society dates from 1915.

Both of the world wars promoted an interest in genealogy among Americans. Soldiers finding themselves in the lands of their ancestors tend to become curious regarding those ancestors and may seek opportunity to inquire after relatives. Improved communication and ease of travel in the twentieth century along with the growing number of families able to take vacations, have all played a part in stimulating genealogical research.

In 1940, the American Society of Genealogists was founded in New York City, further proof that the study of family history was achieving recognized status. The society’s constitution limits membership to fifty, chosen “on the basis of the amount and quality of their published genealogical work.”

Since World War II, librarians having charge of genealogical collections, have reported a continuing increase in the use of their materials; they have also reported a change in their patrons—whereas a user under age fifty had once been a phenomenon, college-age patrons began appearing in the 1940s and 1950s. There was even an occasional teenager.

Two events in the 1970s increased American interest in genealogy beyond any level before imagined. One was the nation’s Bicentennial in 1976 and the other was the publication and, subsequently, the television dramatization of Alex Haley’s *Roots*. The effect of the Bicentennial was, perhaps, predictable, but that of *Roots* was almost beyond belief. White Americans were just as inspired by Haley to search for their roots as were Black Americans, and genealogical and historical libraries saw their patrons double or triple in number. Suddenly, genealogy was not only a topic of newspaper and news magazine coverage, but also of radio and television. Milton Rubincam, past president of the National Genealogical Society, was even a guest on the “Today” program. The media coverage has not ceased. The lead article in the August/September 1982
issue of American Heritage is "Genealogy: The Search for a Personal Past" by Peter Andrews. (Walter Cronkite even contributed an item on the "Krankheidt Heirs Association."\(^6\) The October 1982 issue of Changing Times, The Kiplinger Magazine carried an article "Genealogy: Barking up the Family Tree."\(^7\)

Genealogy today ranks as one of the three most popular hobbies in the United States, with stamp and coin collecting. Unlike most hobbies, however, genealogy does not involve collecting material things—while the philatelist has his stamps and the coin collector his coins, the genealogist has only information. Ancestors, themselves, continue moldering in their graves, undisturbed. It is not surprising, therefore, that in this day of information explosion, the genealogist has access to a quantity and a quality of genealogical source materials that would have boggled the minds of the founders of the National Genealogical Society. While two centuries separate us from our Revolutionary War ancestors, materials to determine their identity and to describe their service are many times more accessible to us than they were to the founders of the New England Historic Genealogical Society in 1845—a time when even a few of the old Revolutionaries were still living.

The principal reason for this remarkable increase in the availability of genealogical source material is, of course, the large number of people now involved in research into family history, and the fact that a characteristic of genealogists has always been a willingness to share their findings. Offset printing, by which typewritten materials can be reproduced easily and inexpensively, is also an important element, as are microfilm, the copying machine and the computer.

The Mormons, as noted earlier, have invested vast sums in the microfilming of genealogical source materials, now comprising over a million reels. Their library in Salt Lake City, with its hundreds of microfilm readers, is open to all, Mormon and Gentile alike, as are its over four hundred branches scattered across the country through which reels of microfilm can be borrowed from Salt Lake City. The 1969 World Conference on Records sponsored by the LDS Church played an important role in promoting scholarship in genealogical research. The second such world conference in August 1980, with the theme "Preserving Our Heritage," made a similar contribution.

The genealogist, though rarely trained in historical research methods, follows much the same path as the historian in his search into the past. The historian, however, has tended to concentrate upon the deeds of the mighty while the genealogist, with rare exception, must be content with common folk who, as individuals, rarely altered the course of major events. Most of us discover that we descend from a very large
number of ordinary people because, throughout history, there have been so many.

Librarians and archivists, and especially historians, have long been critical, even contemptuous, of genealogists for their ineptness in historical research and in their uncritical interpretation of records. Genealogists, on the other hand, have long complained that historians have treated them like neglected stepchildren. The situation has improved in recent years, however, as the number of genealogists has increased to include scholars from various disciplines, while a growing number of historians have come to recognize the significance of social and local history, including family history, for understanding our nation’s past. A reviewer of *Nearby History: Exploring the Past Around You* published in 1982 by David Kyvig and Myron Marty notes that “from bottom up” is the currently popular way to look at history. “Kings and parliaments and charters are out: grandmothers and grocery stores and family letters are in.”

As genealogists have organized themselves into local and regional societies, they have learned from each other how to identify, locate and interpret the records vital to their research. As individuals have become expert in the use of a type of record or the documents of a particular region, they have written and lectured, conducted workshops and institutes, and have provided individual guidance to the neophyte. A growing number of colleges and universities are offering courses in genealogy, and the literature in the form of textbooks, guides, and how-to-do-it books and articles increases daily.

The first real guide for the beginner in family history was *Genealogy As Pastime and Profession* by Donald Lines Jacobus (1887-1970) published in 1930. Still available in its second edition revised, this 119-page book set the stage for scores of other volumes and articles for both the novice and the experienced searcher. Mr. Jacobus, a native and lifelong resident of New Haven, Connecticut (he graduated from Yale in 1908), was the first American to make his living as a genealogist and to gain entry to *Who’s Who in America* as a result of the scholarly reputation that he established. He is credited with having founded the modern American school of critical genealogical research.

Another how-to book for the beginning genealogist appeared in 1937. The popularity of *Searching for Your Ancestors*, by Gilbert H. Doane (1897-1980), a graduate of Columbia University’s School of Library Service and one-time director of the University of Wisconsin—Madison Libraries, exceeded even that of the Jacobus volume. It was reissued in its fifth edition in 1980. Indicative of the changing nature of genealogy since *Roots*, the latest edition of the Doane book has a new
chapter entitled "Searching for Ethnic Origins."

During the past decade, scores of other works of a similar nature have appeared, many simply to take financial advantage of genealogy's growing popularity. There are even genealogical books for children, such as *The Family Tree Coloring Book* and *My Backyard History Book*. The Dell Publishing Company has included among its forty-nine cent "Purse Books" sold in grocery stores an item called *Finding Your Roots*. Easily read in less than an hour, this 64-page booklet manages to cover the basics surprisingly well. The opposite extreme is represented by the 1980 revised edition of *Genealogical Research: Methods and Sources*, edited by Milton Rubincam. Intended for the serious researcher, its 579 pages contain instruction and advice by forty of the leading genealogists of the twentieth century.

Supplementing the scores of general how-to books for the novice in genealogy today, there is a growing number of specialized guides such as *Cite Your Sources: A Manual for Documenting Family Histories and Genealogical Records* by Lackey and *Genealogical Evidence: A Guide to the Standard of Proof Relating to Pedigrees, Ancestry, Heirship and Family History* by Stevenson. With our growing realization that genealogical research does not follow the same path for everyone, guides have appeared in recognition of ethnic differences, such as Kurzweil's *From Generation to Generation: How to Trace Your Jewish Genealogy and Personal History*; Walker's *Black Genealogy: How to Begin*; *Manual for Irish Genealogy: A Guide to Methods and Sources for Tracing Irish Ancestry* compiled by Glynn; and *Genealogical Historical Guide to Latin America* by De Platt. Still other how-to books relate to types of records and to geographical areas, examples being *Guide to the Parish and Non-Parochial Registers of Devon and Cornwall, 1538-1837* by Peskett and *Tracing Your Ancestors in South Carolina: A Guide for Amateur Genealogists* by Frazier.

The beginning genealogist often assumes that whether or not there exists a published family history will determine the degree of success in one's search for ancestors. It is true that a goodly number of family histories exist. In fact, some 400 had been published in the United States prior to 1876 according to New York State Librarian Henry A. Holmes writing that year. By 1915 the number had grown to 3000, and today, according to an estimate by Willard Heiss of the Indiana Historical Society, the total is nearly 50,000. Major research libraries with strong genealogical collections, such as the Library of Congress, the New York Public Library, the Newberry Library of Chicago, and the Burton Collection of the Detroit Public Library have them in quantity.
Privately printed in small editions, and therefore expensive whether new or old, the quality of the published family history varies greatly in content as well as format. Of genuine value if used wisely and cautiously, the family history is found all too often not to pertain to the particular line of descent sought. Furthermore, errors of fact and interpretation abound in a large percentage, and the user is always advised to verify the data copied. Examples to illustrate the proverbial expression "to lie like a genealogist" can be found all too often, especially in family histories published in the nineteenth century. The Esterhazy family, for example, not only traced its ancestry to Adam, but to Adam's grandfather.26

While the Cadwalader family of Philadelphia did not claim human descent beyond Adam, they did include the god Jupiter on their family tree.27 Albert Welles, in 1879, traced the Washington ancestry of the father of our country back to the Norse god Odin.28 A branch of the Cuthbert family once claimed descent from St. Cuthbert of Lindisfarne, unaware, apparently, that the old monk died in his cell in 687 without issue.29 Had the Mayflower really carried all the passengers that have been claimed as ancestors, it would have sunk within sight of England, and had as many of our Colonial forebears possessed royal blood as has been claimed, surely we would not have fought the Revolution. Furthermore, if the claims of genealogists of the early 1900s could be believed, the officers considerably outnumbered the privates in the War for Independence. These genealogical absurdities have constituted splendid ammunition for the critics of genealogical study and have been responsible, in part, for the low esteem in which genealogists have been held by many librarians and archivists.

Unfortunately, but not surprisingly, simple carelessness does not account for all the errors and false claims found in published genealogies. Fraudulent intent has played its part, especially that practiced by certain "professional genealogists" engaged to do research and write family histories for hire. It was to combat this unscrupulous behavior that the Board for Certification of Genealogists was created in Washington, D.C., in 1964 "for the purpose of formulating standards of genealogical research and the establishment of a register of persons who are deemed to be qualified for this type of work."30 For certification purposes, a careful distinction is made between the "genealogist" and the "genealogical record searcher." Lists of these certified individuals can be obtained for a nominal cost from the Washington headquarters of the Board.31
Most genealogical research involves the use of what historians call primary source materials—e.g., probate records, deeds, land grants, tax and census reports, military and church records, pension applications, family registers in old Bibles, court documents, and newspapers. In fact, any record of the past pertaining to people will interest a genealogist somewhere. One of the reasons that family histories of the nineteenth century and earlier contain so many errors and inadequately proved traditions and assumptions is because records such as the above were difficult to locate and examine. Walter Lee Sheppard, Jr. in "A Bicentennial Look at Genealogy: Methods, Performance, Education, and Thinking" has described the "difficulties of early genealogical work" as follows:

Source material was rarely available in printed form, and the antiquary (usually the only worker with interest or competence in genealogy) often had to travel considerable distances on foot or by horse to many different ill-kept offices to dig out the necessary facts. The New England town clerks, for instance, usually kept their records in their homes, and these could only be consulted at the clerk's convenience. Church records were often difficult to locate because custody could vary, sometimes with the minister and sometimes with a clerk. Court clerks were over-worked and, though some cooperated with researchers, probably few provided the access to land, probate, guardianship, and other documents which the genealogist really required. When a searcher handled unabstracted and unindexed or badly indexed manuscript material, his work must necessarily have been tedious, his studies laborious, and his output limited.

Examples of the publishing of genealogical source materials can be found early in the nineteenth century, but instances were rare until after the Civil War. The oldest continuing genealogical magazine, The New England Historical and Genealogical Register, actually dates back to 1846, and the Record of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society has been published continuously since 1869, but most of the scores being published today are of a much more recent vintage. While the percentage of the total bulk of our public records of the past that have been published in one form or another is still slight, the volume would have astounded genealogists of but a decade or two ago. Space permits the citing of but a few examples of the genealogical periodicals now available.

The Quarterly of the National Genealogical Society, begun in 1912 and now (1983) in its seventy-first annual volume, is particularly noteworthy, not only for its publication of carefully transcribed and edited primary source materials from throughout the United States, but for its
extensive reviewing of genealogical works. A few examples of items found in recent issues must suffice as illustrations: "New York Quarter Sessions of Court Minutes, 1722-1742" (March and June 1982); "Emigrants from Laubenheim, Germany, to New York in 1909/10" (June 1982); "On Getting Involved with Computers: Some Guidelines for Genealogists" (September 1982); "Belmont County, Ohio, Census of Blacks, 1863" (September 1981); "Maryland Runaway Convict Servants, 1745-1780" (begun in June 1980); and "Newspapers as a Genealogical Resource" (September 1980).

Another well-known genealogical periodical of national scope (occasionally even international) is *The Genealogical Helper* published bimonthly since 1947 by the Everton Publishers of Logan, Utah. While containing short articles on a great variety of genealogical subjects along with short reviews, practical advice and advertisements, the primary purpose of the *Helper* is to enable researchers having the same ancestral interests to get in touch with one another. Because genealogists have long known the value of sharing information, dozens of query and answer magazines have come and gone. (*Genealogy and History*, a quarterly which claimed to be "the only periodical of national scope and circulation, devoted to queries and answers relating to family history," flourished from 1940 to 1965.) Besides magazines devoted to genealogical queries, such as the bimonthly *Car-Del Scribe* published in Ludlow, Massachusetts, there are dozens of newspapers that carry genealogical columns largely devoted to queries. A directory of these columns was published in 1979.

Genealogical societies are to be found today in every state, some at the state level, others at the county, city and community level. One writer has described their increase as "sprouting up like so many McDonald's." Existing to enable their members to learn from, share among, and assist each other, many of these organizations, especially those east of the Mississippi River, regularly publish books and periodicals devoted to genealogical source material. Membership is extended to persons separated by distance but interested in receiving the organizations' publications. Of the 1000-plus members of the Detroit Society for Genealogical Research, for example, a relatively small proportion actually attend the monthly meetings—most have joined to receive the society's *Magazine*, now (1983) in its forty-sixth volume. A genealogist remarking recently on the growth of these societies noted: "When a State society becomes as large as the Ohio State Genealogical Society with over 3,000 members, it is possible to exercise a wholesome influence on state legislation in the care and preservation of state, county and municipal records."
As part of the Bicentennial celebration, a number of state genealogical societies undertook the preparation of indexes to federal census records, particularly that for 1850, which was the first to include the name, with sex, age, and place of birth, of each member of each household (except slaves). (The federal census records, beginning with 1790, constitute a major source for genealogical research. Nearly all from 1800 through 1910 are available on microfilm from the National Archives.)

Below the state level there are scores of genealogical societies that publish periodicals devoted, usually, to a county. Examples include *The Essex Genealogist*, a quarterly published by the Essex (County) Society of Genealogists in Massachusetts, and the quarterly issued by the Wilkes (County) Genealogical Society in North Carolina.

In almost every instance, genealogical societies of this nature are closely associated with libraries—at the state level, with the state library, and at the county or community level, with a local public library. The library profits not only through the society's assistance in building its genealogical collection of books and journals, but in many instances members of the society serve as volunteers to assist patrons in using the library for genealogical research and in responding to queries that the library receives through the mail. A growing number of librarians are recognizing the constructive role that such groups can play. While genealogists' support is directed primarily toward strengthening the library's genealogical and local history resources, it can easily extend to the entire library. "These people tend to represent some of the community's most influential families," Kenneth King, director of the Mount Clemens (Michigan) Public Library, has observed, "and it follows that their pro-library stance can be very helpful." An example of a library that has been especially receptive to its genealogically-minded patrons is the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana. As part of the normal budgetary process, this library has built a collection of some 120,000 volumes and 30,000 reels of microfilm pertaining to genealogy and is now recognized, in the words of Milton Rubincam, as "one of the largest genealogical research centers in the country."

At least half the genealogical journals and books being published today come from societies. A few are published by libraries, the rest by commercial publishers and individuals. Because of the great growth in genealogy's popularity, profits can now be made from many such publications, not only from original texts, but from reprints of volumes long out of print. For example, the summer 1982 catalog of the Southern Historical Press of Easley, South Carolina, which specializes in southern genealogy and local history, lists some 500 titles at prices from $5 to $95.
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A number of genealogical periodicals are published privately, which is true of *The Genealogical Helper* and *Car-Del Scribe*, mentioned earlier. Another example is *The Georgia Genealogical Magazine*, a quarterly begun in 1961, which is edited and published by the Rev. Silas Emmett Lucas, Jr. When an index was prepared for the first forty-six issues, it was found to contain the names of over 160,000 Georgians. *The Virginia Genealogist*, a quarterly, has been issued by John Frederick Dorman for over a quarter century. Unique in its frequency of publication is *Family Puzzlers*, a weekly usually containing twenty pages, which is published by Mary Bondurant Warren of Danielsville, Georgia; it consists almost entirely of queries pertaining to southern families.

A number of bibliographies of genealogy and local history have been compiled. A major contribution in this area has been that of Marion Kaminkow whose two-volume *Genealogies in the Library of Congress* appeared in 1972. This was followed in 1977 by a supplement. In all, Kaminkow found 22,738 titles. In 1981, her *Complement to the Genealogies in the Library of Congress* listed some 20,000 additional titles located in some forty other libraries. In 1975 her *United States Local Histories in the Library of Congress, a Bibliography* contained some 90,000 entries. (All three of these works were published by the Magna Carta Book Company in Baltimore.) The third edition of Netti Schreiner-Yantis's *Genealogy and Local History Books in Print*, privately published in 1981, contains over 10,000 titles.

Among the dozens of types of genealogical publications, probably the most ephemeral and illusive in terms of library collecting is the family magazine. At least 400 of these are currently being published in the United States. They differ greatly in content and appearance, some concerned only with keeping relatives in touch with each other, while others are devoted exclusively to serious genealogical study of the family in question. Each is a labor of love, often undertaken in one's retirement years, which means that they do not tend to be of long duration.

Perhaps the present writer may be pardoned for noting that he edits one of the oldest such publications, *The Sparks Quarterly*, the first issue of which appeared in March 1953. The publisher is The Sparks Family Association, the sole purpose of which is to support the publication of the Quarterly through annual dues paid in varying degrees of generosity by its nearly 800 members.

It should come as no surprise that, with the current popularity of genealogy, the opportunity to take advantage of the gullible for financial gain has occurred to a number of unscrupulous individuals. All too
many Americans, for example, have been duped into purchasing plaques and paintings of coats of arms to which they have been assured they have an inherited right. There is no legal recognition of heraldry in the United States, of course, so we may decorate our walls with any armorial device we may please, but it is always a pity to spend an exorbitant sum on a fake, no matter what the nature of the practiced deceit. An even more disturbing example is found in the recent activity of one Beatrice Bayley of Sterling, Pennsylvania. Actually, Beatrice Bayley probably does not exist; if she does, her name is merely being used to shield the individual or group claiming to have prepared "family heritage books." Hundreds of identical postal cards, identical except for the insertion of different surnames, have been mailed to tens of thousands of Americans announcing the publication of their own "family heritage book." Depending on the length of the book, the price charged is either $27.85 or $29.95. It is known, for example, that nearly 18,000 such postal cards were sent early in 1982 to people named Sparks. Their names, with addresses, had been obtained from a data bank containing some 70 million entries, based apparently on automobile registrations throughout the United States. A careful reading of the postal cards from "Beatrice Bayley" actually reveals no promise of a history of a particular family, and persons with a knowledge of genealogy are not usually "taken in." Thousands of others have mailed their checks, however, only to receive a second-rate how-to book with lots of blank pages for filling in one's own family history. It is only on the exchangeable title-page that the name appears for which the "heritage book" has been "prepared." There is included in each book, however, a list of the names and addresses to whom the invitation to purchase was sent, there being no fewer than 17,928 such entries in the *Sparks Family Heritage Book*. An amusing bibliographical curiosity results from these publications—the same 1912 photograph which purports to be that of four-year-old Beatrice Bayley in her "christening dress" standing beside her beautiful mother attired in her "wedding gown" apparently appears as a frontispiece in each. Surely no identical frontispiece has been used in as many supposedly different books. Perhaps these attempts to defraud must be expected when an activity commands the widespread interest as does genealogy today.

There are other signposts pointing to genealogy's gradual acceptance into the world of scholarship as well as its current popularity. Earlier mention was made, for example, of the establishment in 1964 of the Board for Certification of Genealogists to formulate standards for genealogical research. The issuing of standards and the creation of some
form of certification are generally anticipated steps in an activity's rise toward professionalism. In 1981 appeared the first *Who's Who in Genealogy & Heraldry*, in which biographical sketches have been included for some 800 individuals in the United States and Europe whose genealogical publications and research have been judged to be significant. It is sometimes claimed that an activity cannot achieve professional status until a code of ethics is not only needed but provided and accepted. A *Code of Ethics* for genealogists was, indeed, adopted by the trustees of the Board for Certification of Genealogists in 1971. As noted earlier, increasingly serious attention is being accorded genealogical research by historians, and the hearty welcome now extended to genealogists by librarians and archivists would have astounded family historians of a generation ago. Robert M. Warner, Archivist of the United States, not only acknowledges but publicizes the fact that 80 percent of the patronage of the National Archives is that of genealogists. In recognition of this, he has readily sought their leaders' advice and counsel.

Further evidence that genealogy has achieved not only popularity but that its pursuit has scholarly merit is the fact that an issue of *Library Trends* is being devoted to the subject.

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An Overview of Genealogical Research in the National Archives

BILL R. LINDER

WHEN MOST WASHINGTON, D.C., visitors glance up from the street and catch a full view of the giant, firm, indestructible National Archives Building, a special feeling stirs within—as when lumpy throats and teary eyes sometimes take over as sounds of our National Anthem or the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" begin to swell. Planted solidly and majestically between the famous Constitution and Pennsylvania Avenues in the nation's capital, the impressive rows of thick, towering, sturdy, and ornate Corinthian columns on all four sides give the National Archives Building genuine historic and enduring character.

One could hardly believe the United States was among the last of the civilized nations to set up a national archives. Ours was established by an act of Congress in 1934, as recently as the Roosevelt years. Before the building was completed and opened in 1936, records were kept in attics, cellars, warehouses, closets, garages, trunks—you name it. These records were exposed to insects, heat, cold, and humidity. Some documents were still here but showed signs that exciting episodes had threatened their lives by fire. When the great iron doors, each over thirty-eight feet high and weighing six-and-one-half tons, finally opened trucks large and small lined up around the building and down Constitution Avenue waiting a turn to dump their loads of documents. That was almost two generations ago. The National Archives collections had begun to build.

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Over a hundred years earlier, in 1810, a congressional committee had found the public papers "in a state of great disorder and exposure; and in a situation neither safe nor honorable to the nation." It took Congress just over 125 years to get the corrective job done! But we do have a National Archives—an impressive one. Most Americans still do not know about it, and what it does, and what it can do for them. Librarians can help get that teaching job done.

**Background**

What does the National Archives do? Its chief purpose is as the ultimate repository of permanently valuable noncurrent records of the federal government. The holdings document American history from the First Continental Congress. Records of all three branches of government are included.

The archives are preserved and made available because of their continuing practical utility for the necessary processes of government, for the protection of public and private rights, and for the uses that can be made of the information contained in them by scholars, students and the general public. Records of lasting value from government agencies are preserved and made available to the general public by the National Archives. They become the stuff researchers use to create books, studies, articles, reports, and dissertations.

The records amount to more than a million cubic feet. They are deposited not only in the National Archives Building in Washington, D.C., but also in the Washington National Records Center in Suitland, Maryland, and in the eleven regional archives branches located in federal archives and records centers around the country. The records are described in the comprehensive Guide to the National Archives of the United States. In each of the National Archives depositories, additional finding aids are available. These include inventories, preliminary inventories, special lists, indexes, and supplemental guides on specific subjects. In recent years, as more and more Americans have been discovering genealogy and family history, the National Archives has become more widely known and more frequently used than ever before.

**Archives' Records of Genealogical Value**

Since the National Archives doors opened for research, the genealogical researchers have been by far the most numerous of all persons who come to the National Archives to use its records. And now, after all
the attention to ancestors that the Bicentennial and the two television series *Roots* inspired, the National Archives is doing a "land-office business." The number of researchers has doubled, and the general information and records reproduction mail has tripled.

Normally, about 65 to 70 percent of the in-person researcher traffic is genealogical, and over 90 percent of the mail received by the National Archives has to do with genealogy. Several thousand genealogical inquiries and records reproduction requests arrive every week.

Although the National Archives has no genealogical records in that sense, it does have records of genealogical value. This is to say, the National Archives has no collection of family trees, nor does it house published family genealogies. As pointed out earlier, the National Archives is a federal records depository. However, the federal records, in many cases, contain the four key elements in genealogical research—names, dates, places, and relationships. We consider runs of National Archives records (series) containing this information to be of genealogical value, thus they are commonly termed "the genealogical records in the National Archives."

The National Archives has in its custody millions of records relating to persons who have had dealings with the federal government. These records may contain full information about a person or give little information beyond a name. Among the federal records of the most value, and thus the most extensively used by genealogical researchers, are the federal census, military service and related records (such as applications for pensions and applications for claims to bounty land for military service), records of federal land transactions, and passenger arrival records.

**The Federal Census**

The most widely used record ever created by the government is the federal census of population. The first census was taken in 1790 for the purpose of apportioning representation to Congress. A population census has been taken every ten years since that time.

The National Archives has the 1790-1870 originals, a microfilm copy of the 1880 census and a microfilm copy of the 1900 and 1910 censuses. The 1890 census burned, with only a few fragments remaining. Censuses later than 1910 are under restriction and have not been released for public use. The 1910 census was released for public use in 1982, according to law, when it became age seventy-two. Recent censuses are withheld from researchers out of respect to the privacy of living individuals who were enumerated.
The 1790-1840 censuses give the names of the free household heads only; other family members are tallied by age and sex but are not named. In 1850 a very great decision was made—at least for the field of genealogy. That year the census takers were instructed to list the names and ages of every free person living in every household. Also listed was the state, territory, or country of birth of each free person. Additional information was included with each succeeding census.

The census records are one of the first records a beginning searcher should seek out. Through their use, families of ancestors living during the period 1850 to 1910 can be entirely or partially reconstituted. Although the 1790 to 1840 censuses do not show whole families, these censuses may provide very good leads and circumstantial data that can help solve genealogical problems.

One of the tremendous things about census records is their unequaled availability. All the available census records held at the National Archives have been microfilmed, and copies of the microfilm have been widely purchased. Many state and local historical and genealogical societies, large public libraries and state and university libraries and archives have purchased microfilm copies of census records.

Numerous local city and county libraries throughout the country have purchased from the National Archives copies of the available census records for their areas. In many cases these libraries have all census records for their entire state and sometimes all nearby states. Local librarians should make it a point to know what census records are available in the nearby area and should make this information readily available to library patrons. Remember, the federal census is the most widely used record ever created by the government. Librarians keen on genuine public service and the filling of real needs should be alert to the importance and value of these records that are in so great demand by "grass roots" America.

Some state libraries will lend their census microfilm via interlibrary loan to local city or county libraries. The North Carolina State Library in Raleigh offers such a program, one that could well be used as a model for other state libraries. The Library of the Genealogical Society of Utah holds a complete set of National Archives census microfilm and lends copies via its vast network of over 400 branch genealogical libraries. Librarians should know the locations and hours of operation of nearby genealogical libraries of the Genealogical Society of Utah. To find out the locations and hours of branches near you, write to: Branch Genealogical Libraries, Genealogical Department, 50 East North Temple Street, Salt Lake City, Utah 84150. Ask for the names, street addresses, telephone numbers, and hours of the nearest branch genea-
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logical libraries. These branch genealogical libraries are run by volunteers; the hours are usually partial days and the hours differ on various days and evenings. The libraries are free and open to the general public. A nominal fee is charged for microfilm loans sent out from the main library in Salt Lake City; the charge is to cover postage and handling, not for profit. Having this information available and disseminating it widely will be a valuable service to your library patrons.

The regional archives branches of the National Archives, located in eleven metropolitan areas around the country, have complete sets of census microfilm, 1790-1910. A list of the regional branches of the National Archives, with hours, addresses and phone numbers can be obtained by writing for the free leaflet on regional branches. Librarians and researchers should write to: Reference Services Branch (NNIR), National Archives, Washington, D.C. 20408. Rentals of microfilmed federal census records can be obtained by mail through libraries or genealogical societies. The National Archives has contracted with a private company to provide this service. At a fee of $2.25 per roll (some libraries add a nominal handling fee), rentals can be ordered from: D.D.D. Company, Census Microfilm Rental Program, P.O. Box 2940, Hyattsville, Maryland 20784. Rentals are not made directly to individuals.

Passenger Arrival Records

The passenger arrival records in the National Archives list names of passengers who arrived at ports on the Atlantic Ocean or the Gulf of Mexico and a few inland ports. The available records consist of passenger lists, transcripts, abstracts, baggage lists, and manifests. Although there are lists for as early as 1798, most of them are for the years 1820-1945, and for those years there are many gaps. The lists dated before 1819 are primarily baggage lists that are a part of the cargo manifests. The San Francisco passenger lists were destroyed by fires in 1851 and 1940, and lists for other Pacific coast ports, if they exist, have not been transferred to the National Archives. During the nineteenth century the law did not require passenger arrival records as such to be kept for persons entering the United States by land from Mexico and Canada. Whereas thousands came during the Colonial period, for which the National Archives has no holdings, it was later that the great tidal wave of migration hit the Atlantic coast of this country. A great bulk of immigrants came during the one hundred year period 1815-1914. Some 35 million Europeans immigrated during this period, most of whom
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came through the port of New York. Although the passenger arrival records in the National Archives are incomplete, the available lists document a high percentage of nineteenth-century immigration. The voluminous lists are handwritten and are chronologically arranged by port.

The lists consist mainly of customs passenger lists and immigration passenger lists. Customs and immigration passenger lists were received by the collectors of customs and later by the immigration officials at the ports of arrival from the captains or masters of vessels. This was done in compliance with federal law.

There are some indexes to the passenger arrival records but they are not complete. The National Archives will consult an index for patrons by mail and if the name of the ancestor is found will make a photocopy of the corresponding passenger list for a nominal charge. This service can be obtained by use of NATF Form 40, Order for Copies of Passenger Arrival Records. At this writing the charge for copies was $5, payable in advance. If no record is found, the $5 is returned.

In some cases, in order for the staff to find the list, the researcher must provide the very information he wants to know. However, in a great many instances the staff is able to locate lists with a minimum of data supplied by the researcher. Librarians may advise researchers to order forms from: Reference Services Branch (NNIR), National Archives, Washington, D.C. 20408.

Librarians should remember that federal passenger lists date no earlier than 1820. These records are of no use in tracing ancestry for the Colonial period. Always refer library patrons to the state archives in the Colonial states when they are researching ancestry in the Colonial period. The passenger arrival records are available on microfilm only in the National Archives Building in Washington, D.C. Copies of the microfilm are not housed in the regional archives branches.

Military Service and Related Records

Beginning with the Revolutionary War, the National Archives has records relating to military service (army, navy, marine corps, coast guard, air force) of individuals and their units and records of veterans' benefits, including pension, bounty land, and other benefits. These records are often rich in genealogical information or can be helpful in providing clues as to the identity of veterans or their heirs.
Compiled Military Service Records

One type of record available is the compiled military service record. These compiled service records are files that include data compiled from various records created during a soldier's service. It must be remembered that in the early days detailed records were not made as they are today. Using what records were available, the War Department made compilations of soldiers' service information before the records themselves were retired to the National Archives. Normally there is not in the files much personal data about a soldier or his family. Often you find his age at enlistment and the place of enlistment, which can be valuable information. Occasionally a death date is in the file, particularly when the soldier died in service.

The military service records of volunteers (persons who served during an emergency) 1775-1902 relate to service during the Revolutionary War, immediately after the Revolutionary War 1784-1811, the War of 1812, the Indian Wars 1816-1860, the Mexican War 1846-48, the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, and Philippine Insurrection. The records relate to persons who freely enlisted as well as to those who were induced to serve. Included are records relating to activities involving the quelling of disturbances by Indians and American citizens or residents and service in settling disputes with Canada and Mexico.

The military service records of volunteer soldiers and sometimes sailors and marines who served beginning with the Revolutionary War through 1902 were abstracted onto cards from original documents in the various War Department office records and from documents received by those offices from federal, state and private sources. The information was gathered from muster and pay rolls, rank rolls, returns, hospital records, prison records, accounts for subsistence, and such other records likely to contain information about the military service of individuals.

The abstracts for each individual soldier were placed into a jacket-envelope bearing the soldier's name, rank and military unit. The record resulting was called a compiled military service record. The compiled military service records were arranged by period of service, thereunder by state or other military unit designation, thereunder by unit, and thereunder alphabetically by surname of the soldier. They were prepared under a War Department program begun some years after the Civil War to permit more rapid and efficient checking of military and medical records in connection with claims for pensions and other veterans' benefits.

A compiled military service record is as complete as are the records relating to the individual soldier's or his unit's activities. Typically they
show the soldier's rank, military unit, entry into service, discharge or separation by desertion, death or dismissal, and may also include age, place of birth and residence at enlistment. The abstracts were so carefully prepared that no need exists to consult the original records from which they were made, which is good because it would be a difficult and time-consuming task to do so.

**Pension Application Files**

The National Archives has millions of pension application files and also pension payment records for veterans, their widows, and other heirs. The records relate to military, naval and marine service performed between 1775 and 1916, generally excluding Confederate service. Pensions were granted by Congress to invalid or disabled veterans; to widows and orphans of men who were killed or died in service; to veterans who served a minimum period of time and were generally disabled and living at an advanced age; to widows of veterans who served a minimum period of time if the widows were living at an advanced age; and, in some instances, to other heirs.

The acts of Congress under which applications for pensions were made are numerous. They include public acts which affected large groups of persons and private acts which affected specific individuals. Each claim for a pension was normally based upon a single act of Congress. A claims file consists of the application of the claimant, supporting documents of identity and service, and evidence of the action taken on the claim. There were often two or more claims relating to the service of the same veteran in the same war, which records are filed together. For example, a veteran might apply for a pension and, after his death, his widow might apply for a pension on the basis of the same service. A file showing that a surviving widow applied for a pension normally contains more information than a veteran's file.

Because of the applications of surviving widows, the pension application files are known as the most valuable genealogical records relating to military service. These files often are rich in genealogical data. In order to start receiving the pension, the widow had to prove she married the soldier. It is normal to find in the files the marriage date and place, the name of the minister who performed the ceremony, the maiden name of the wife, and often other good information. Sometimes pages from the family Bible were sent to Washington as the only available written proof of marriage or age. These old family Bible pages are still in many of the pension application files.

Initially the documents relating to an individual claim were folded
and placed in an annotated jacket. Later these documents were flattened and filed with the jacket in one or more large envelopes. The envelopes with their contents are called pension application files. Consolidated with the documents relating to an original claim and in the same envelope or envelopes are the documents, if any, relating to later pension claims based on the same service. In addition, for Revolutionary War and War of 1812 service, some bounty land warrant application files (discussed later) and some final payment vouchers have been consolidated with the related pension application files. The number and nature of documents in a file vary considerably. The records in all series except those for the Civil War and later series are arranged alphabetically by name of veteran. This excepted series is arranged numerically by application, certificate or file number. All series of pension application files have alphabetical name indexes.

**Bounty Land Warrant Application Files**

Before 1855 the government gave away bounty land for military service. The bounty land warrant application files also often contain information of genealogical value. Normally you at least find the veteran’s age at the time of application and his then current county and state of residence, both of which are good genealogical information.

A bounty land warrant was a right to free land on the public domain. Bounty land warrants were granted to veterans or their heirs on the basis of wartime military service performed during the period 1775-1855. Congress authorized special privileges to Union veterans of the Civil War who applied for homesteads but did not authorize the granting of bounty land warrants.

The documents in a bounty land warrant application file include an application for a warrant and/or discharge certificate surrendered by the veteran or his heir to substantiate his claim, and jackets containing notations as to whether the claim was approved or disapproved. A file shows such information as name, age, residence, rank, military or naval unit, and period of service of the veteran. If the applicant was an heir, it shows such information as the date and place of death of the veteran, the name of the heir or heirs, and the degree of relationship. If the application was approved, it also shows the number of the warrant, the number of acres granted, and the year of the act under which the warrant was granted.

A file containing an approved bounty land warrant application file is identified by a number made up as follows: the number of the warrant, the number of acres granted and the year (last two digits of the year of the
act under which the claim was adjudicated)—e.g., BLWT 66415-160-55. This number is sufficient to identify the related land-entry papers, which are part of another separate series of records (land records) in the National Archives.

**Ordering Copies of Military and Related Records by Mail**

Researchers can fill out a government form and send it to Washington. For a nominal charge the National Archives will supply photocopies of the documents it has on individuals who fought in any of the early wars. The three types of military and related records described earlier begin with the Revolutionary War. The records of men who fought in the War of Independence are not complete, as there were two fires that caused some losses. An office fire in 1800 was followed by more losses when the British burned Washington during the War of 1812. Nonetheless, the National Archives has a good collection of Revolutionary War military service records, pension application files, and bounty land warrant application files. The records of later wars are more complete.

There are files at the National Archives on men who fought in all the wars up to World War I. The records on men who fought in World War I and later wars are at the Military Personnel Records Center (MPRC), GSA, 9700 Page Boulevard, St. Louis, MO 63132. Requests by mail for records housed at the Military Personnel Records Center should be made on Standard Form 180, Request Pertaining to Military Personnel Records. Certain criteria must be satisfied before copies of these more recent records can be released.

Ordering copies of veterans' records of the early wars is much less complicated. Researchers simply fill out NATF Form 26, Order for Copies of Veterans' Records. Minimum identifying data required are the veteran's name, the war, and the state from which the soldier served. Blank forms are available by writing to: Reference Services Branch (NNIR), National Archives, Washington, D.C. 20408. Libraries need not stock this form. It is better to advise researchers to write personally to the National Archives, requesting the specific forms needed and at the same time asking for a set of the free genealogical information leaflets.

Librarians should always advise researchers to use the services available from the National Archives by mail. The services are largely subsidized by tax dollars. Whenever it is known that an ancestor fought in one of the early wars, or even when such service is only suspected, it is wise for researchers to order copies of any available files that may relate to an ancestor's military service, any pension his or her heirs may have
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received, or any available bounty land application relating to the service.

Land Records

The land records in the National Archives are dated chiefly 1800-1950 and include bounty land warrant files, donation land entry files, homestead application files, and private land claim files relating to the entry of individual settlers on land in the public land states. There are no federal land records for the thirteen original states and Maine, Vermont, West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas, and Hawaii. Records for these states are maintained by state officials, usually in the state archives or offices of secretaries of state, or other state offices in the state capital.

The donation land entry files and homestead application files show, in addition to the name of the applicant, the location of the land and the date he acquired it, his residence or post office address, his age or date and place of birth, his marital status, and, if applicable, the given name of his wife or the size of his family. If an applicant for homestead land was of foreign birth, his application file contains evidence of his naturalization or of his intention to become a citizen. Supporting documents show the immigrant's country of birth and sometimes the date and port of arrival. Genealogical information in records relating to private land claims varies from the mention of the claimant's name and location of the land to such additional information as the claimant's place of residence when he made the claim and the names of his relatives, both living and dead.

Most of the federal land records are housed at the Washington National Records Center in Suitland, Maryland, which is just outside the District of Columbia, and is accessed by shuttle from the National Archives Building in downtown Washington. A mail service is also available for these records. The National Archives will search the land records for Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Florida, Louisiana, Nevada, or Utah for the period 1800 to 1 July 1908, if the full name of the applicant and the name of the state or territory in which the land was located are given. The search can be made because of existing indexes to the records that came with the records when they became a part of the National Archives.

A search of the records for all other public land states and territories, 1800-1950, requires, in addition to the applicant's name (1) the number of the land entry file or a description of the land by township, range, section, and fraction of section or (2) the name of the land office
and either the date when the original application was filed or the date of the final certificate. Researchers may be able to obtain the legal description of land by writing to the county recorder of deeds in the county seat of the county in which the land was located.

The federal land records verify the transaction when ownership of land in the federal domain was transferred to an individual. Once transferred, the next transfer of title when that land changed hands was recorded in the county of jurisdiction and is a part of the deed records in that county. No form is available for ordering copies of federal land records. To order by mail, send all the known information regarding a land transaction in a letter and address it to: Land Records, National Archives, Washington, D.C. 20409.

Other Records of Genealogical Value

The three high-volume records used most because they are of the most help to the most people are mentioned in the preceding—census, passenger arrival, and military and related records. But, as discussed, there are also records relating to land, affecting only persons who received land directly from the federal government. There are also other records—relating to passports, Indians, claims against the government, and others that can be genealogically useful.

Passport Applications

The National Archives has passport applications and related papers, 1791-1905, of U.S. citizens who intended to travel abroad. Passports were not required during the nineteenth century, but many people took the time to get them because of their convenience in getting about from country to country without delays. The National Archives will make limited searches for age and citizenship information in any of these records that are at least seventy-five years old. The name of the person who applied for a passport and the place and approximate date of application should be supplied. Write to: Passport Applications, National Archives, Washington, D.C. 20408 (send a letter; no form is required). Requests for information from passport records after 1905 should be addressed to the Passport Office, Department of State, Washington, D.C. 20520.

Records about Indians

There are many records in the National Archives relating to Indians who kept their tribal status. The records, arranged by tribes, are dated chiefly 1830-1940. They include lists of Indians (mainly Cherokee,
Research in the National Archives

Chickasaw, Choctaw, and Creek) who moved west during the period 1830-46; annuity pay rolls, 1841-1949; annual census rolls, 1885-1940 (available on microfilm); and Eastern Cherokee claim files, 1902-10. The regional archives branches, particularly those in the western states, also contain valuable holdings of Indian records.

Guide to Genealogical Records in the National Archives

This year the National Archives published the first revision to the 1964 edition of Guide to Genealogical Records in the National Archives. The second edition, entitled Guide to Genealogical Research in the National Archives, has been in the works since late 1976 and is a great improvement over the earlier edition.

Additional Helps and Tips on Research in the Nation's Capital

The National Archives has "sister" institutions in Washington, D.C., which have good collections of genealogical materials. Among them are the Library of the National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution; the Library of Congress; and the Library of the National Genealogical Society. The DAR and LC do not circulate books to genealogical users, but loan service is available to members of the National Genealogical Society (NGS). Librarians should advise researchers of the valuable by-mail genealogical book circulation service available to them through membership in the National Genealogical Society. Membership applications and materials concerning NGS can be obtained from: National Genealogical Society, 1921 Sunderland Place, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. The NGS also sponsors educational programs and national conferences and has a correspondence course available to help people become adept at the pursuit of American ancestry.

National Institute on Genealogical Research

An in-depth course of genealogical instruction known as the National Institute on Genealogical Research has been going on at the National Archives for over thirty years. At present the institute is sponsored by a coalition of the major genealogical organizations in the United States in cooperation with the National Archives. Information regarding this course, normally held in July each year (one or two weeks, with classes held in the National Archives Building), can be obtained by writing the Institute at P.O. Box 4970, Washington, D.C. 20008. This course is designed for persons who have had experience in the field of genealogy and is not intended for beginners. Over the years
the graduates of this intensive course have eventually emerged as the leaders in the genealogical field in this country.

Genealogical Tour to the Nation's Capital

A week-long "Washington Orientation Week" ("WOW!" as one participant labeled it) is sponsored in October each year by Washington area genealogists and myself—all former affiliates of the National Archives and of the National Institute on Genealogical Research. The week tour is open to everyone and includes orientation and research time at the National Archives, the Library of Congress, the D.A.R. Library, and the National Genealogical Society Library, plus added social attractions, such as a night out at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Information is available from: Genealogy in the Nation's Capital, c/o Bill R. Linder, 6129 Leesburg Pike, No. 415, Falls Church, Va. 22041.

It Ain't Always Easy Always Bein' Nice

Admittedly, it is not easy for librarians and depository attendants to continue to be courteous and helpful to all the everyday Americans who get interested in their ancestry and come in for help. Sometimes we want to duck and hide when they arrive armed with all their ignorance, inexperience, emptiness, and unpredictable questions. But we should try to be patient and understanding. We should try to help genealogist users get underway, in the right way. The pursuit of genealogy is enjoyed by millions and is recognized as one of the world's most popular indoor hobbies. Those who get into it have a great time, meet many interesting people, take trips, write letters, get mail, find lost cousins, and much more. Best of all their lives are enriched. Librarians can make a magnificent contribution by steering America's everyday researchers easily and correctly, overseeing them gently until they experience their own first "thrill of discovery."

References

The Impact of Genealogical Users on State Archives Programs

ROY TURNBAUGH

The Illinois State Archives, a division of the Office of the Secretary of State, was established by the General Assembly in 1921. The statutory responsibility of the archives consists of preserving state and local governmental records that are of permanent legal, administrative or historical value, and disposing of records without such values. The archives building was opened in 1937, and it now holds some 60,000 cubic feet of records. This facility was created, in large part, by the demand of World War veterans who wanted to see constructed a sanctuary for records when the old State Armory burned in the mid-1930s. Adroit manipulation of this demand resulted in the construction of an excellent physical plant directly south of the Statehouse.

The Illinois State Archives is one of the major genealogical reference and research centers in the Midwest. In 1981, over 50,000 genealogical requests were handled by the reference staff. Since 1976, two additional programs of major interest to genealogists have been initiated by the archives. The first of these, the Public Domain Computer Conversion Project, was completed and opened to use by the public in 1981. The second program, the Illinois Regional Archives Depository system (IRAD), has reached maturity as a local governmental records counterpart to the State Archives.

Genealogical Users of State Archives

Obviously, then, genealogists make up an important constituency of the Illinois State Archives. This article will examine in turn the...
resources which are available to genealogists at the State Archives; the programs that are addressed specifically to these users; the impact of these users on collection and appraisal policies; and the place occupied by genealogists in the allocation of institutional priorities.

Despite, or perhaps because of their numbers, many archivists have traditionally held genealogists in low esteem. The reasons for this antipathy are complex and include the fact that many archivists characterize genealogical research as a low-level use of their holdings, a pursuit which they feel requires little intellectual skill or ability. Complementing this judgment is the undeniable fact that archivists have preferred to think of their collections in terms of use by scholars, probably in hopes of status by association. This condescension toward nonscholarly users is, at last, beginning to break down everywhere. This is predominantly due to the fact that in a period of diminished budgets, archivists have been forced to realize the importance sheer numbers of users can have for an institution.

Genealogists have been assured of a decent reception at the Illinois State Archives for a number of years. The reasons for this treatment help to characterize the State Archives. The fact that the archives is a completely public, tax-supported institution is central. This alone is a powerful force against the development of reference elitism, and one which works in favor of attempting to satisfy the greatest possible number of patrons without passing judgment on the nature of their research. However, public funding of the archives is not the entire explanation. Closely linked with this is the fact that the Illinois State Archives is a “pure” archives, by which is meant simply that it is the custodian exclusively of governmental records. In Illinois, public records are under the purview of the State Archives; all other records go elsewhere.

In terms of providing reference services, this restriction can be a handicap. Public records are bulky, and it is not uncommon for a single record series to take up dozens of cubic feet, or even hundreds of bound volumes. Public records, or archives, can also seem to be of less immediate or obvious interest than manuscripts, or private records. So pronounced is this difference between archives and manuscripts, in fact, that institutions which hold both public and private records often learn that public records are neglected, by staff and patrons alike, in favor of manuscripts.

Like hanging, being a pure archives focuses the attention. Governmental records do contain much information of value to the genealogist. Titles to land, births, deaths, marriages, matters of probate, military service records, censuses, all are governmental records, and all
are replete with names. The problem is one of exploiting these resources, both for the user and for the archival administrator.

In the past, pure archives have received little use by scholars. By far the bulk of scholarly attention has been drawn by manuscript collections. Even the much-heralded "new" social history of the 1960s and the advent of quantification have failed to make themselves felt as major presences in governmental records repositories. What does this leave archives with, in terms of users? Despite trends in scholarship, government employees and genealogists remain the core user groups for a pure archives.

Illinois State Archives Records of Interest to Genealogists

The resources available at the Illinois State Archives are substantial for one who is interested in doing genealogical research. The State Archives has indexes to the men who served in Illinois units during the Indian Wars, the Black Hawk War, the Mexican War, the Civil War, and the Spanish-American War. It also has alphabetized veteran's bonus records for World War I, World War II and the Korean War.

The State Archives has a single, massive surname index of residents of Illinois up to 1855, which is based on federal and state census information, executive records, and other records with a high incidence of names. The archives also has the records of the ten federal land offices in Illinois. These contain information about the first sale of each piece of land within the borders of the state, and the information includes the name of the purchaser, the date of purchase, and a legal description of the land that was bought.

Furthermore, the sale records of the public domain have been converted to machine-readable form, so that types of access more suited to use by genealogists, among other groups, have been developed. The two most popular arrangements of the 550,000 land sales in Illinois are alphabetical, by surname of purchaser, and geographical, by legal description within a given country.

Published county histories, most from the nineteenth century, feed into another name index, as each volume is comprehensively indexed by volunteer. These county histories can provide researchers with a wealth of background information, since each name in the index appears with a page and book citation.

By far the most heavily used records, from a genealogical perspective, are the census records. As mentioned previously, a comprehensive name index, with citations, covers the period up to 1855. The 1860 census is currently being indexed by volunteers. This arduous task,
however, has only begun. The 1870 census has only had three counties indexed to date. Fortunately, the 1880, 1900 and 1910 censuses; have all been indexed, either by Soundex or by Miracode. The indexes enable a patron to move through the information contained in the censuses with authority. The remaining fragments of state censuses, up to 1865, are not indexed, so that user access is limited to searches based on geography (county, township).

Although this does not exhaust the range of sources available to genealogists at the Illinois State Archives, this brief descriptive list does constitute the most frequently and heavily used records. In 1978, the archives published *A Descriptive Inventory of the Archives of the State of Illinois*, a comprehensive guide to its holdings, with record descriptions at the series level. Surprisingly, perhaps, this guide has been little used by genealogists. The reasons which have been offered for this neglect range from the notion that the guide holds too much information—at 700 pages, it can be intimidating—to the idea that genealogists somehow know in advance what records are useful at any archives. None of these rationales is entirely persuasive. It is probably closer to the truth to offer a generalization about genealogists as patrons, which is: as a group, these users prefer to remain with sources of information, or finding aids, that conform to their established patterns of use rather than to experiment with new and unfamiliar sources of information.

Yet another limiting factor is created by the fact that the bulk of the genealogical reference handled by the State Archives comes by mail. This operates to restrict both the nature of the research and the type of response made by the archives. Mail request must be tightly defined for a reference staff to be able to cope with the volume of requests that come in without creating a hopeless backlog. Metaphorically, the services provided by the State Archives to its users who send in requests for information are not dissimilar to the operations of a fast food restaurant. The archives offers a limited, yet appealing menu, and it takes immense pains to deliver what is offered. In concrete terms, this means that users are asked to request no more than two specific items at a time; to designate the record to be searched; to provide the complete name of the person or persons to be searched; and to refrain from submitting a second request until the answer to the first has been received. The predictable, repetitive quality of the reference requests is precisely the element which enables the reference system to function efficiently. It should also be pointed out that the reference staff handles only genealogical requests. Other users are directed to other members of the archives staff.
Impact of Users on State Archives Programs

The Illinois Regional Archives Depository System

A somewhat different picture exists with respect to the Illinois Regional Archives Depository (IRAD) system. To repeat, IRAD collects only local governmental records. At present, the system holds large amounts of records of primary interest to genealogists, both in paper originals and on microfilm. Many of these records offer the researcher the opportunity to move beneath the barebones information held in census records, land records, or military service records, and to develop more detailed pictures of one's ancestors and how they lived.

IRAD depositories are located at Eastern Illinois University, Charleston; Illinois State University, Normal; Northern Illinois University, DeKalb; Sangamon State University, Springfield; Southern Illinois University, Carbondale; and Western Illinois University, Macomb. All these depositories are staffed by graduate student interns, who are contractual employees of the State Archives. Each facility has from two to three interns; each intern works twenty hours a week in the depository. When the IRAD program began, in 1976, the interns spent the bulk of their time arranging and describing records which had been accessioned. As the program developed, however, the pace of acquisitions fell off, and the emphasis began to shift from processing records for use to providing reference service to those records.

Even though the volume of reference work handled by the regional depositories has increased dramatically during the past five years, it still amounts to only about five percent of that performed at the State Archives itself. With fourteen interns, this means that more time can be spent dealing with each individual request for information. This is fortunate, because the records in IRAD lack the precise name indexing of the heavily used records at the State Archives. Still, genealogical users are asked to observe the same policy established by the reference staff at the archives itself.

Information Programs for Genealogists

Within the last two years, the Illinois State Archives has created programs oriented to genealogists. Two programs, both initiated with IRAD, have proven to be greatly effective. The first of these programs is a slide/tape program entitled "Windows on the Past." This was done to introduce potential users of IRAD to its structure and holdings. It is available in two formats: one with a cassette with silent tones for synchronized projection, and the other with audible tones for manual projection.
“Windows on the Past” lasts only ten minutes, and it does provide users with an overview of the program and what it can offer researchers. To the initial surprise of archives staff members, the multiple copies of the program are in continual use. Many requests for it now come from out of state, especially from the states west of Illinois. It does not seem premature to associate showing of this program with an increased volume of reference requests from areas where the slide show has been seen.

The second, more elaborate program directed in part toward the genealogical public consists of six computer-generated finding aids for the records in IRAD. These finding aids manipulate the information entered for each record by county, by subject descriptor, by depository, by title, and by date. The following information is entered into a master file for each record: accession number, accession date, depository, county, status, office of creation, title, beginning date of the record, ending date, quantity, and up to ten subject descriptors.

The most popular listing, so far as genealogists are concerned, is the county listing, and a single record from it contains the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Montgomery</th>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Recorder</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accession Number</td>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Depository</td>
<td>Beginning Date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/0212/01</td>
<td>Deed record</td>
<td>SSU</td>
<td>1821</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Users begin with the county, which is their basic point of entry to the information, and proceed to the title of the record. When they encounter a record of interest to them, such as the deed record above, they are given supporting information about it. They can see that it is on deposit at SSU, or Sangamon State University. They can also see that the record begins in 1821 and ends in 1958. These informational elements have proven to be adequate for the purposes of most genealogical users of the IRAD system, at least in terms of identifying and locating records of potential research value. The seven-digit accession number that accompanies each record is a unique number used by the IRAD system to link manual finding aids with the computer-produced listings, and also to provide the physical location of the record within the depository. Many users have learned that the most efficient way for them to proceed is to cite the accession number as a part of any reference request.

When these listings, collectively known as System Nebo, were designed, archives staff members were aware that it was essential to get the listings, or portions of them, into the hands of the users. As an
Impact of Users on State Archives Programs

experiment in information dissemination, the listings were also produced on computer-output microfiche. A free set of this microfiche was sent to every library in Illinois with a brief cover note. This note explained what the purpose of the listings was and how to use them. The recipient was informed that he or she would be able to receive free microfiche updates if the recipient requested these updates from the State Archives.

At present, nearly 300 libraries do subscribe to these listings. At the same time, the archives offers to send any user, at no charge, hard copy of a listing for a single county. This measure has proven to be extremely popular and effective with genealogists, who have experienced no difficulty in using the listings once they have received them. The ease with which patrons use these computer-generated finding aids was not accidental; they were designed with an eye to absolute simplicity and concomitant intellectual accessibility. The standard by which the listings were evaluated during the design process was whether any user, without any familiarity with computers, would be able to use them with little or no instruction.

The professional implications of this last program, especially when contrasted with the reception of the State Archives guide by genealogists, are encouraging. Genealogists are not resistant to innovative finding aids. However, all finding aids directed at this group of users should be designed to conform with known genealogical patterns of use. The Descriptive Inventory of the Archives of the State of Illinois was arranged by agency, and then subject indexed by permuting the narrative descriptions of the records. The structure of the guide, equivalent to provenance, was one which was generally irrelevant for genealogical purposes. Subject access was likewise irrelevant, since most subjects that a genealogist would select would in all likelihood be broad ones, such as the Civil War, or Winnebago County. In fact, subject access has been largely ignored by genealogists who use the State Archives, and the subject listing for IRAD is used very infrequently.

Genealogists' Influences on the Illinois State Archives

How are genealogists bound in relationship to an institution such as the Illinois State Archives? What strengths can they impart to an archives? These are difficult questions to answer, because of fundamental tensions between groups of users. That is, most of the time, users are competing with other types of users for finite resources. To complicate this situation, genealogists, even when satisfied, inevitably demand more.
In general terms, one can say that genealogists do help to reinforce an institution’s sense of being a public agency. This is a real virtue, insofar as it operates to prevent diversion of archival resources to small, self-constituted elites of users. In other words, the presence of genealogists can help to democratize an archives. An illustration of this type of impact is the Public Domain Computer Conversion Project, which was completed by the State Archives in 1981.

**Public Domain Computer Conversion Project**

The conversion project was initiated in 1976 with the assistance of a $58,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). This grant was eventually supplemented by a $22,000 additional grant from NEH, but even this relatively sizable total would have been inadequate without the assistance of the Data Processing Division of the Office of the (Illinois) Secretary of State. Data conversion consumed five years. Coders were hired, trained, worked for some time, and then left, to be replaced by new coders in a rather disheartening cycle. The work required from the coders was quite demanding in terms of reliability and accuracy. Each original sale had to be entered on an 80/80 code sheet; completed code sheets were then keyed onto magnetic tape; and the tapes thus created were played onto paper so that the entire process could be rechecked by the coding staff.

Difficulties were compounded by the fact that the original records had been written by a variety of nineteenth-century clerks, some of whom had penmanship that was extremely hard to decipher. An error of a single character in transcribing or entering a sale could make nonsense of the sale. Obviously, genealogists would be able only to make a relatively superficial use of the end result of the data conversion, since their preferred access would be by name or possibly, by place. Academic and governmental users would require the computer to manipulate combinations of data, so that one of these users could discover how much land sold for a certain price during a specified interval, for example. However, the size of these last two groups would be miniscule when compared with the numbers of genealogists who would use the conversion project. In a real sense, therefore, all other groups of users benefited from the fact that genealogists would provide the sheer numbers necessary to justify completion of this task.

This forecast accurately reflects what has happened. Genealogists do use this file of 550,000 sales entries extensively, if predictably, while other groups use it infrequently, if at all. Thanks in great part to the fact that the State Archives was able to dovetail the needs of several groups of...
Impact of Users on State Archives Programs

users in formulating this project, Illinois is now the only state which has accomplished such a massive conversion. The Illinois State Archives is the only institution of its kind to have created precise access to this type of record.

A situation which contained a great amount of potential user competition, therefore, was in this case transformed into a cooperative one. Quantitatively, of course, genealogists do gain the most from this project. Qualitatively, however, it is difficult to deny that users who want to manipulate the file to produce generalizations about patterns of land ownership, land sale, and other questions requiring large amounts of data have gained more than the genealogists. In essence, then, a symbiotic relationship between competing groups of users has appeared. The project would not have been undertaken solely for the benefit of genealogists, yet it would have been extremely difficult to justify the outlay of resources for it without their presence.

Records Collection and Appraisal

Genealogists are also a factor in collection and appraisal strategies. No matter what criteria an archives employs in appraising records, at the bottom of the appraisal logic remains the fact that given the choice, most archivists would prefer to accession records that will be used rather than records that will not be used. Part of this desire is economic. It becomes expensive to provide a permanent, archival home for records. If significant sums are going to be spent acquiring records and readying them for use, it is logical that those records should receive some use. Few things are more demoralizing than finding, accessioning, arranging, and describing records which are then shelved and never receive the attention of patrons.

Genealogists can and do influence collecting and appraisal programs. At the Illinois State Archives, some records are accessioned because their governmental value is high, whatever their research value may be. Other records are accessioned because their historic value is great, in the hopes that eventually they will be the subject of historical inquiry. Examples of this category of record include nineteenth-century election records, especially those which were created prior to 1848, when Illinois still had *viva voce* voting. When they are discovered, records this valuable are accessioned without hesitation.

The bulk of appraisal decisions, however, fall into a kind of gray area. That is, the records in question do have some value, but nothing that overwhelms the person doing the appraisal. This person must
ROY TURNBAUGH

decide whether the records justify setting in motion the whole mechanism of accession, arrangement, description, and reference. If the records contain information of value to genealogists, the appraiser has one solid variable in favor of acquiring them.

*Influencing Program Directions*

In a period of scarcity, or austerity, as it has been called, the value of a user rises for an institution. This exists, in paradoxical relationship, with the fact that austerity can strangle the delivery of services to the same user whose value is rapidly appreciating. There is no easy avenue out of this dilemma. However, it seems evident by now that institutions with major archival programs will find it necessary to count, and perhaps even to court genealogical users, if for no other reason than their numerical significance. If handled intelligently, these users need not prove to be a tremendous strain on staff time and program development.

In fact, the opposite may result. To return to an earlier metaphor, genealogists tend to patronize the fast-food aspects of an archives. It is not always obvious that a thriving fast-food operation can provide the capital for more ambitious fare within the same building. Put another way, volume of use can provide some margin for services which hinge on quality or complexity of use.

In more concrete terms, the most urgent need confronting the Illinois State Archives is for the development of an archival program for the city of Chicago and Cook County. This area holds nearly half the population of Illinois, yet the governmental records which it produces are poorly controlled by the State Archives, and there now exists no facility where these records can be used. As a group, genealogists can work toward provision of archival services for this area—a goal from which a multiplicity of users will benefit.

**Conclusion**

What relationship does the Illinois State Archives have with its genealogical users? Simply put, the best kind of relationship, one based on mutual need. The State Archives, for its part, can provide genealogists with an array of resources, some of which are truly unique, and all of which are without charge. For those people who have Illinois ancestors, the Illinois State Archives is a logical place to begin, or to continue, one's quest for information.
Genealogists exert a variety of influences on an institution. Most basic is their presence as a factor in the allocation of resources. This presence must be balanced with the needs of other, competing groups of users, so that institutional policies and programs do not become one-sided. Fortunately, the demands made by genealogical users tend to be less complex than those made by other groups. One subtle effect of the presence of large numbers of genealogists is the need to make reference services efficient. Put another way, service that would satisfy an academic researcher would break down when confronted with the volumes of responses required by genealogists. Genealogists do provide a powerful impetus for the modernization of archival access and services. On the part of the State Archives, the implementation of automated access systems was made necessary by the growing volume of use by genealogists.

The numerical strength of genealogists can, when given proper direction, provide a powerful rationale for the development of new programs. In patron-oriented institutions, genealogists can provide the statistics necessary to support smaller, costlier groups of users. In turn, genealogists have a right to expect services from archives which stand to gain from their presence. One illustration of this is the fact that the State Archives purchased the 1910 census for Illinois automatically, as soon as it became available, despite its considerable cost. There can be little doubt that genealogists will receive more consideration from the institutions they frequent. In a period when the concept of user is undergoing study and consequent revision, genealogists constitute a group of real users.

Reference

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In August 1935 the Library of Congress (LC) opened a reading room for American local history and genealogy on deck 47 in the Thomas Jefferson Building. The reading room was to provide improved service for those coming from all parts of the United States to consult LC's exceptionally large and important collections of genealogy and state and local history. Since that time the Local History and Genealogy Reading Room (LH&G), now a section of the General Reading Rooms Division, has had five physical homes, three administrative locations, and various hours of service to patrons.

Tradition of Service

Over the years many prominent genealogists, members of Congress and government officials have used the Local History and Genealogy Reading Room. For example, the National Institute on Genealogical Research, begun in 1950 at the National Archives, has sent many of its participants on orientation tours to LH&G, and Earl Gregg Swem compiled his monumental *Virginia Historical Index*¹ at the Library of Congress in the early 1930s using the library's collections.

A unique and attractive display in the reading room was a gift from the government of Great Britain. Through the Commission of His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom at the New York World's Fair, and for permanent display in the Library of Congress, the United States Government received the George Washington pedigree panel. Originally the panel was prepared for the New York World's Fair of 1939 and 1940 and hung in the British Pavilion. Slightly more than ten feet long and seven feet high, the panel records in gold and white lettering on a field of dark green the lineage of George Washington, not only from King John of England (1199-1216), who granted Magna Carta to his barons, but also from nine to twenty-five barons of Runnymede who became sureties for its execution. On the panel are ninety-two individual coats-of-arms, in colors, representing different allied families during the six centuries from King John to George Washington. The pedigree panel has been on display in the LH&G Reading Room since its receipt in 1941 (see fig. 1).

Current Services

The Library of Congress continues its tradition of service to genealogists. The current staff of the LH&G Reading Room provide reference services in genealogy, local history and related subject areas to users of the library's collections in person, by telephone or by correspondence. The room is located on the northeast side of the second floor of the Thomas Jefferson (LJ) Building. Hours of service are 8:30 A.M. to 9:30 P.M., Monday through Friday, 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. on Saturday and 1 to 5 P.M. on Sunday.

Most telephone and mail inquiries related to genealogical research are referred to the Local History and Genealogy Reading Room Section. LH&G staff do not conduct complicated or lengthy research in response to such inquiries, but they do check catalogs and indexes to the library's collections for specific items, suggest research methods or approaches, give information about the library's policies and genealogical collections, and provide referrals to other libraries and collections when appropriate. If specific information from a particular work is needed, the staff will examine the index to identify the family, individual or fact which is sought. As warranted, the staff will send a limited number of photocopies of relevant material to the requester free of charge. Otherwise, the request will be forwarded or referred to the Library of Congress Photoduplication Service, Washington, D.C., which provide photocopies for a fee.
Fig. 1. Genealogical chart in the Local History and Genealogy Room, Library of Congress showing "The Descent of George Washington from King John..." This display hung in the British Pavilion at the 1939 World's Fair in New York City and was acquired for LC by David C. Mearns as a gift through the British Embassy.
To acquaint readers with the Library of Congress's genealogical resources, the staff of the Local History and Genealogy Reading Room conduct group tours or orientations. Requests for such tours must be made well in advance so that a staff member can be assigned to provide the orientation or tour or can be available to answer questions if a formal tour is not necessary. If possible, the group's leader should conduct a preliminary session on the library's services and collections before the group arrives. Upon request, the library will furnish materials for use in such a session. It is particularly important for the group to know that the bookstacks are closed to the public and that no genealogy or local history books may be borrowed unless they are on microfilm and the library holds a master negative. Anyone who wishes to arrange a tour or who has any questions about the library's services to genealogists should call the head of the Local History and Genealogy Reading Room Section, Judith Austin, at 202/287-1403. Other staff members of the section and the areas in which they can provide specialized assistance are Samuel M. Andrusko (United States and foreign genealogy); Marvin W. Kranz (American history); Sandra M. Lawson (Afro-American genealogy and history); Ardie S. Myers (Afro-American literature); Rosemary Fry Plakas (eighteenth-century American history); Judith P. Reid (United States and British local history and British genealogy); Thomas E. Wilgus (healdry and military history); and Virginia Steele Wood (United States genealogy and naval and maritime history).

It is important for librarians to understand that though LC is rich in collections of manuscripts, microfilms, newspapers, photographs, maps, and, of course, published material, it is not an archive or repository for unpublished or primary source county, state or church records. Keeping this in mind will help the reference librarian assist the reader who is interested in serious research in county records. He or she should be referred to a courthouse in the county of interest, the state archives, a library in the county, or a branch library of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS), all of which could have either the original county records or microform copies of them.

The Library of Congress relies heavily on copyright deposits and gifts for additions to its collections. Genealogical and local historical materials pose a serious problem because many are not copyrighted and the authors may not think to donate copies to LC or to any other library. Many authors who do copyright their works are not aware of the copyright requirements and neglect to send the required two copies to the Copyright Office. Librarians who know or meet authors of genealogies or local histories should encourage them to donate copies to various
libraries around the country and inform them about copyright requirements. Copyright information kits will be sent upon request by the Library of Congress, Copyright Office, Washington, D.C. 20559, telephone 202/287-8700.

The Genealogy Research Process at LC

To do research in genealogy and local history at the Library of Congress, one should begin with the catalogs and reference tools available in LH&G and then use the main catalog, computer catalog, and other LC reading rooms.

LH&G Reference Collection

The reference collection of the Local History and Genealogy Reading Room consists of approximately 9000 volumes; the majority of the works are in the “C” and “F” classifications covering genealogy and local history, although smaller collections of pertinent materials in other classifications are included (in particular, history and bibliography). Standard multivolume genealogical works, published genealogical indexes, and some of the major genealogical and historical periodicals are also shelved in the room.

The vertical files in the Local History and Genealogy Reading Room contain miscellaneous materials relating to specific families; to the states, towns and cities of the United States; and to genealogical research in general. Included are drafts of letters written by LH&G reference librarians in response to queries, pamphlets and other donated materials, magazine and newspaper clippings, genealogical charts and newsletters, and brochures of genealogical interest relating to organizations, and societies and libraries throughout the United States.

Specialized Card Catalogs

There are seven specialized card catalogs in the Local History and Genealogy Reading Room for use by genealogists and local history researchers. The “Family Name Index” is arranged alphabetically by surname and then chronologically by date of publication within each surname. It indexes genealogies held by the Library of Congress and a few family names found in local histories. Entries are generally determined by the family names found on the title page (usually no more than three), although many cards for other family names have been added. It includes genealogies from all over the world and in many languages.
A complete transcript of the "Family Name Index," as of December 1971, was published by the Magna Carta Book Company, 5502 Magnolia Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21215. Entitled *Genealogies in the Library of Congress: A Bibliography*, it lists over 20,000 genealogies. A one-volume supplement, issued by the same publisher in 1977 lists about 3000 works added to the library's collections from January 1972 to July 1976.

The "Analyzed Surname Index" began as a detailed index to selected genealogies published until around 1910. It was later expanded to include the biographical sketches found in approximately 350 county histories. At present very few books are being analyzed and represented in this catalog. The "Analyzed Surname Index" was always selective rather than comprehensive and never attempted to cover every genealogy and/or county history. The last drawer of this index, "Local Histories Indexed," identifies the histories which are covered. It is broken down by state and then name of county or town and enables the reader to determine if the book needed was replaced by microfilm; if it is on reference in LH&G; or if the call number has changed. When one of the above changes occurs, the change is indicated on the cards in this one drawer rather than by changing several hundred entries in the index itself.

The "U.S. Biographical Index" is an alphabetical name index to various biographical collections for the states or regions of the United States. At least one book has been indexed for each state; the index contains a few entries for county histories as well. This catalog is very selective and no new entries are being added. The first drawer, "Books Indexed," identifies the histories which are indexed.

The "Coats-of-Arms Index" indexes illustrations of coats of arms found in books and periodicals in the collections of the library. It is arranged alphabetically by family name and covers British and American families primarily, although other nationalities are included. This file will eventually be weeded and partially replaced by the *Heraldry Index of the St. Louis Public Library*.

The "Subject Catalog to the LH&G Reference Collection" provides subject access to those works which are on reference in the Local History and Genealogy Reading Room. This catalog brings together references to works of genealogical or local historical value in the "C" (genealogy) and "F" (local history) classes as well as others—for example, "Z" (bibliography) or "E" (U.S. history). This is a new catalog, and currently only 60 percent of the reference material is represented in it.

The "U.S. Local History Shelflist" is a card index arranged by the
classification numbers F 1-975 which represent the LC holdings for the states of the United States and their subdivisions (e.g., counties, cities, towns). A large white chart, "Guide to Materials in United States Local History," is located beside this card catalog. The chart lists the range of numbers assigned to each state and serves as a guide to using the catalog, which covers only those books classed in the U.S. local history classification (class F). Many books of a legal, religious or social nature, which may be of value to genealogists or local history researchers, are classed in other categories and are not found by using the "U.S. Local History Shelflist." The catalog was published in book form as United States Local Histories in the Library of Congress.

"Main Entry Catalog for Genealogy, Heraldry, and U.S. Local History" is arranged by the main entry (usually personal author) and covers those materials in the CS (genealogy), CR (heraldry) and F 1-975 (U.S. local history) subclasses. Because current titles are indexed in the library's databases, filing of cards in this catalog was discontinued in 1979.

LC's main catalog was frozen on 1 January 1981; no new cards have been added since that time. Researchers must use the automated catalogs to identify recently published and cataloged material. Although the Local History and Genealogy Reading Room staff have maintained the "Family Name Index" and the "U.S. Local History Shelflist," allowing reasonably current searches for genealogy or U.S. local history material, more comprehensive access to the collection is provided by the computerized catalog.

Computerized Catalogs at LC

The Library of Congress Information System (LOCIS) consists of two systems, SCORPIO and MUMS. SCORPIO (Subject-Content-Oriented-Retriever for Processing Information On-Line) has two files of possible use to genealogists: Library of Congress Computer Catalog (LCCC) and National Referral Center Masterfile (NRCM). LCCC is an automated version of the card catalog listing books by author, title and subject. This online catalog provides access to books written in English and cataloged by the library from 1968 to the present and to books written in various other languages from the mid-1970s. NRCM gives name or subject access to 13,000 organizations that offer services and information.

MUMS (Multiple Use MARC System) contains the same bibliographic information included in LCCC, and in addition, provides keyword searching in the book, map and serial files. There are plans for the two
systems (MUMS and SCORPIO) to be integrated allowing one sign-on and identical searching capabilities.

Eventually almost all of LC's genealogies and local histories will be searchable online. By 1984 Carrollton Press expects to complete converting the 5.2 million records in the shelflist into machine-readable form. In the fall of 1982, using the tapes prepared by Carrollton Press, LC introduced the REMARC (Retrospective Machine Readable Cataloging) database online, and retrospective computer searching became a reality. Two vendors market the Library of Congress databases commercially. REMARC and MARC records are available through Lockheed's DIALOG system, and SDC's LIBCON file includes both MARC records distributed by the Library of Congress and MET (main entry/title) records keyed by 3M from LC's depository card set.

Choice of Terms in the Catalog

There are two basic approaches to genealogical research in any genealogical or historical library: surname and place name. The catalogs in the Local History and Genealogy Reading Room reflect these traditional categories; however, the Library of Congress offers another approach through the use of its main and computerized catalog. Because LC collects materials in all branches of knowledge, the researcher can use a strategy which, for want of a better name, may simply be called the miscellaneous approach. To take this approach, it is necessary to define aspects of an individual's life about which books are written and search for these books under the appropriate subject heading in both the main catalog (located in the Main Reading Room) and the computerized catalog. A few examples of Library of Congress subject headings that illustrate this approach are Educators—Biography; Collisions at Sea; Methodists in Maryland; Navarino, Battle of, 1827; Delta Kappa Epsilon; Gunsmiths—Pennsylvania; and Yale University—Directories. Histories of particular religious groups on the national, state, or local level often contain information of value to genealogists; regimental and battle histories often supply important biographical information which helps personalize the information known for ancestors; alumni directories may contain information of value; and histories of various Masonic or other fraternal organizations may have interesting information about members. Almost none of this material is available through the card catalogs in the Local History and Genealogy Reading Room because it is not classed as genealogy or local history.
Genealogical Research at the Library of Congress

It is also necessary to use the main and computerized catalogs when doing foreign genealogical research using a local history approach. Since the library uses the direct name approach for its subject headings, foreign local histories are scattered throughout the catalog under the names of the towns or cities (e.g., Berlin, Ger; Wiesbaden, Ger.; Hamburg, Ger.) and not under the name of the country. The headings used for countries (e.g., Germany—Genealogy) include only material about either the upper classes or very broad segments of the population and do not identify the published copies of local records in the LC collection. It is important, therefore, to be as specific as possible and search the name of the town, city or county from which the immigrant came.

Generally speaking, there are more genealogy and local history books for western Europe (especially Great Britain and Germany) than for eastern and southern Europe. Readers interested in the latter areas, even though they know the exact place of origin, may find little material at the library because few vital records in those areas have been copied and published. Consequently, patrons doing southern and eastern European research may not be too successful at the Library of Congress and may have to be referred to an LDS branch library or to institutions within the particular country of interest.

Rare Book and Special Collections Division

Many of LC's specialized reading rooms are rich in genealogical resources which cannot be identified by using the general catalogs. Adjacent to LH&G is the Rare Book and Special Collections Division (telephone 202/287-5434). In addition to the published genealogies and local U.S. histories that have been designated rare books, probably the best known genealogical resource is the Charles Edward Banks Manuscript Collection. Composed of fifty-four uncataloged volumes that resemble scrapbooks, this collection includes an assortment of handwritten and typed notes concerning early Pilgrim families in Massachusetts with abstracts of wills, baptismal and marriage records, and family charts. The index volume is divided into three parts: surnames, stray names and places. The Banks collection is also available on microfilm in the Microform Reading Room.

None of the Rare Book and Special Collections Division's holdings are available on interlibrary loan, and there is no photocopying equipment available for readers. Requests for copies can be accommodated through the LC Photoduplication Service, if the physical condition of the original permits. Lockers in the hallway just outside the reading room are available for the storage of coats, briefcases and oversized handbags. Pencils, not ink, must be used in this reading room.

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Microform Reading Room

The Microform Reading Room (telephone 202/287-5471), located just below the LH&G Reading Room on the first floor of the Thomas Jefferson Building, is a facility much used by genealogists. In addition to published family histories and local U.S. histories that have been filmed for preservation, the reading room has other material in microform that warrants attention. The queries and answers appearing in the Boston Evening Transcript genealogy columns during the period 1896-1941 are available on microcard. The index of names is currently being published in The American Genealogical-Biographical Index.

The British Manuscript Project provides a selection of materials covering the ninth through eighteenth centuries and includes manuscripts, archival records and rare printed material from major public and private collections in England and Wales. A printed guide, British Manuscripts Project, a Checklist... compiled by Lester K. Born, is available.

The Challen Typescripts are transcripts of parish registers, predominantly from London and vicinity. Additional parish registers are listed in the genealogical section of the Microform Reading Room card catalog under “Parish Registers.” Research Publication’s “City Directories of the United States” includes directories from selected cities, towns and some states, which were published through the nineteenth century, with a few through 1901. Currently filming is being done through 1910, with some cities being covered into the 1930s. The collection, comprehensive through 1860, is based on Dorothea N. Spear’s Bibliography of American Directories Through 1860. The Hollingsworth Genealogical Card File locates genealogical material concerning particular families in the southern states, particularly Georgia. A printed guide is available in LH&G. Irish genealogical material filmed at the National Library of Ireland spans medieval to modern times. This material includes family histories, pedigrees, and birth and death records. A typed guide is available. Frank W. Leach’s “A Genealogy of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence,” comprising twenty typescript volumes is available on microfilm. A typed index to the signer’s names, indicating the reel and volume number in which each appears, may be consulted at the reference desk in LH&G.

Metropolitan Toronto Central Library biographical scrapbooks cover the period 1911-1967. The collection comprises newspaper clippings containing information about Canadians and people of significance from the Toronto area. A printed guide, Biographical Scrapbooks, Metropolitan Central Library, is available in the Micro-
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form Reading Room. New York City telephone directories, 1878-1959 for the boroughs of New York City, also include selected towns in the surrounding areas of New York and New Jersey. For Westchester, the period covered is 1906-1914; 1923-1955; for Rockland, the period is 1910-1954/55.

“Slave Narratives,” the interviews with former slaves recorded between 1936 to 1938 by the Federal Writers Project, are of special interest to Afro-American genealogists. Copies of the original transcripts, which are in the Manuscript Division, are arranged by state on twelve reels of microfilm. This collection complements the large number of published collective and individual slave narratives which the Library has in its general collection.

The National Society, Daughters of Founders and Patriots of America collection of genealogical material is arranged by state and has a typescript guide. Gerald Paget’s “Genealogies of European Families from Charlemagne to the Present Day (August 1957)” is a comprehensive compilation of typescript material covering 600 European families. It is followed by “An Official Genealogical and Heraldic Baronage of England.” The Barbour Collection is an index of vital records transcribed from pre-1850 records of most Connecticut towns. A typescript index to the names and towns is available. The Microform Reading Room is equipped with microfilm, microfiche and ultrafiche readers as well as reader-printers, all of which may be used by the public.

Manuscript Division

Across Independence Avenue, in the new James Madison Building, the Manuscript Division (telephone 202/287-5387) has papers of the Preston family of Virginia (1727-1896) deposited by Preston Davie. The collection has information on many Virginia families and is available on interlibrary loan. A typescript manuscript, “Index to Names of Persons and Places,” including several hundred names, may be used only in the reading room. The microfilmed collection of Lyman C. Draper is also available on interlibrary loan. The historical and biographical material that Draper amassed is of particular value to historians and genealogists. The time period covered is 1735 to 1815; geographically, it covers the area east of the Mississippi, from New York State to Charleston, South Carolina. The collection is described in publications of the Wisconsin State Historical Society. For those doing research on the post-Revolutionary War claims of American loyalists, Great Britain’s Audit Office (AO) records (numbers twelve and thirteen) of the Public Record Office are available for study.

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AO twelve in particular consists of entry books and ledgers, testimonials of witnesses, decisions of the Commission, allowances, and so on. A typed name index is included on reel number one. None of the microfilm in this collection is available on interlibrary loan.

Among collections that are of particular interest to descendants of nineteenth-century emigrants from Germany are the sixty-six reels of microfilm listing passengers embarking for America from Hamburg during the period 1850-1873. These are in two series: "Listen Direkt" (direct lists) for passengers going directly from Hamburg to America; and "Listen Indirekt" (indirect lists) for those who embarked on vessels that made voyages to America via some intervening port. The "Listen Direkt," 1850-1854, are arranged alphabetically by family name within each year. There is, however, no list for the first six months of 1853. Both "Listen Direkt" and "Listen Indirekt" are arranged chronologically by date of embarkation, with separate alphabetic indexes. Both lists and indexes are written entirely in nineteenth century German script and are, therefore, extremely difficult to read. Because of the time involved, the staff in the Manuscript Reading Room cannot offer assistance in translating or deciphering these entries. It would be necessary for someone interested in using these lists to either come to the library or hire a researcher to examine the material.

The Manuscript Division also has a large collection, "Alaskan Russian Church Records, 1772-1936" (formerly called "Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic Church in Alaska Records"), which includes clergy dossiers, parish records, and vital statistics. An extensive finding aid and indexes to the vital statistics are available in the reading room. The collection is currently being microfilmed and will be available on interlibrary loan.

In addition to the above mentioned sources, almost all collections of personal papers in the division contain some family data in the form of correspondence, diaries and journals. It is recommended that researchers ascertain what collections are available and what they include by first checking *The National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections*, *Manuscripts on Microfilm: A Checklist of the Holdings in the Manuscript Division*, and *Manuscript Sources in the Library of Congress for Research on the American Revolution*.

All persons using the Manuscript Division's Reading Room are required to furnish appropriate identification—preferably bearing the applicant's photograph—and to complete a reader registration card. No briefcases, notebooks, notepaper, folders, or oversized handbags may be taken into the reading room; all coats must be left in the check room.
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located just inside the main entrance to the building. Both lined paper
and unlined 5 by 8 inch note cards are furnished, without charge, at the
desk; ink may not be used. All readers are required to adhere to the
library's rules for the use of rare materials, and all personal property
brought into the reading room is subject to inspection. Microfilm
readers, a reader-printer and coin-operated photocopiers are available.

Newspaper and Current Periodical Reading Room

The Newspaper and Current Periodical Reading Room (telephone
202/287-5690), also located in the James Madison Building, has a large
collection of U.S. newspapers on microfilm and in hard copy. Most of
the paper copies are in storage, and a one-day advance request is neces-
sary in order to have them delivered to the reading room. In addition to
such well-known titles as the New York Times Index, the reading
room’s reference collection has a number of indexes to newspapers
including marriage and death notices and other data of genealogical
interest abstracted from a wide variety of local newspapers. For exam-
ple, there are bound, typescript carbon copies of an index to Savannah,
Georgia newspapers, 1763-1830. However, LC does not have a com-
plete run of these Savannah papers.

“Early American Newspapers, 1704-1820,” filmed by the Readex
Microprint Corporation in cooperation with the American Antiquar-
ian Society, is available in the microprint edition and is based on
History and Bibliography of American Newspapers, 1690-1820. There
is no comprehensive index to these early newspapers.

All unbound serials are in the stack area of the Newspaper and
Current Periodical Reading Room and must be called for in that room.
Once bound and cataloged, the serials are shelved by their LC classifica-
tion number and must be requested in a general reading room. The
Newspaper and Current Periodical Reading Room is equipped with
microfilm and microfiche readers as well as reader-printers and photocop-
y equipment.

Geography and Map Division

The Geography and Map Division (telephone 202/287-6277), also
located in the James Madison Building, has material which can help
researchers with problems of geographic location. Cities and towns,
particularly in eastern Europe, have undergone numerous changes of
name as well as political affiliation, and gazetteers and atlases can be
useful in identifying these changes and in helping locate the places of
origin of families who immigrated to America in the late nineteenth or
early twentieth centuries.
For those interested in locations in the United States, the collection of county atlases, dating from 1825, is useful for showing land ownership; in addition, the Geography and Map Division has about 1500 county land ownership maps dating from the early nineteenth century. The division also has ward maps, which can be essential in obtaining the ward numbers needed in order to derive data from census schedules in the major cities.

The U.S. Geological Survey Topographical Quadrangles, first issued in the 1880s, are helpful in locating cemeteries as well as boundary lines described on plats and deeds. The Sanborn collection of fire insurance maps, dating from 1867 to the present, is also of interest to researchers. Although they do not show ownership of dwellings, the maps do indicate the size, shape and construction of dwellings because they were designed to assist fire insurance agents. This entire collection, numbering some 700,000 individual sheets, is described by state, city and town in Fire Insurance Maps in the Library of Congress.19

Limited photocopy service is available in the Geography and Map Reading Room. Other requests for photocopies are handled by mail order through the LC Photoduplication Service. Copyright restrictions are enforced.

Conclusion

The Library of Congress has large and diverse holdings available for use by the genealogist or local historian and a staff that is committed to helping provide access to these materials. Researchers should not hesitate to seek assistance from LC by mail, telephone or in person.

References

5. Boston Evening Transcript (vol. 1-112, no. 102). July 1830 to April 1941; and Boston Transcript (Genealogy Columns 1898-1940). [Louisville, Ky.: 195- ]

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Resources of the Large Academic Research Library

DIANE FOXHILL CAROTHERS

Expecting to find virtually unlimited resources and lots of assistance, an amateur genealogist visiting a large academic research library to trace a family tree is soon discouraged. Some librarians, especially those who happen to be personally interested in the subject and are familiar with the collection, do try to provide substantial help, but a more negative approach seems common among reference departments. Responses given to questions about genealogical materials frequently suggest that there are few, if any, such holdings, that the library doesn't buy in this subject, and that such research is better conducted elsewhere. My conversations with acquisitions and/or reference librarians at universities including Harvard, Michigan, Minnesota, North Carolina, Northwestern, Ohio State, Oregon, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin generally support this interpretation.

It is not surprising that many librarians may be unaware of the genealogical riches in their large collections. In addition to the more obvious sources of information—such as county histories, patriotic society lineage books, and ship passenger lists—valuable data may be discovered in old newspapers, collected biographies, church and parish records, organizational yearbooks, land records, and plat books. Many (often, a great many) of these are housed in large academic libraries which, theoretically, do not collect genealogical material. The purpose of this article is to point out emphatically that help usually is available to genealogical patrons of such libraries in all the useful materials.

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"hidden" in the collection. Many of these resources will be mentioned in the appendix to this article entitled "Bibliography: Some Genealogy Resources in Academic Research Libraries."

Acquisition Policies

Few acquisition policies specifically include or exclude genealogical materials; indeed, the term genealogy appears only infrequently in formal statements. One of the few institutions which does provide for such collections is the University of Michigan. Its "Selection Policy Statement" defines genealogy as "the study of family lineage and the methods of investigation, a subsidiary discipline serving sociology, eugenics, history, and law." Its graduate library "holds a working collection of materials selected for their value to students of history and other subjects. No effort is made to acquire a collection specifically useful to persons interested in tracing their own ancestry, but a few introductions to genealogical research are held, and the University Library holds other publications which are useful in genealogical research." This statement also notes that their working collection is "tailored to the needs of a particular constituency."1

A more narrowly delimited approach is used in the Collection Development Policy of the University of Texas-Austin, which reads: "With the exception of a few genealogy handbooks, only those genealogical reference titles of use to historians will be purchased."2 This linkage of genealogy and history is quite common, and the purchase of materials for historical research is accepted more readily than for genealogical research. Genealogy as such is not specified in the University of Illinois "Acquisition Policy Statement,"3 in the expectation that the Illinois State Library and various public libraries around the state will acquire such material.4

Reference departments which follow the practice of purchasing "a few genealogy handbooks" typically have a selection of standard "how-to" books. Examples of some of the more common guides are: Searching for Your Ancestors by Gilbert Doane, The Handy Book for Genealogists by George B. Everton and Gunnar Rasmusson, Genealogy Beginner's Manual published by The Newberry Library, and Tracing Your Ancestors by Anthony J. Camp. These titles offer suggestions for starting research, broadening the scope of investigation, advising where and how to write for records, and so on. Such books are usually cataloged in the 929.1 Dewey classification or CS in the Library of Congress classification. In a library which acquires genealogical material as supplemen-
Resources of the Large Academic Research Library

tary sources for historical, demographic or sociological research, one is likely to find Munsell's *American Ancestry* (twelve volumes), *Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy* by William Wade Hinshaw (seven volumes), the *Abridged Compendium of American Genealogy* and the *Handbook of American Genealogy*, both edited by Frederick Virkus, *Pennsylvania Genealogies* by William Henry Egle, and P. William Filby's *Passenger and Immigration Lists Index* in three volumes. They are variously shelved in reference departments, bookstacks or in specialized libraries. These, too, are cataloged under 929.1 or CS and may be the original or later editions or recent reprints.

Multivolumed indexes and bibliographies serve historians and genealogists equally well. Possibly the largest index of its kind, *The American Genealogical-Biographical Index*, the so-called "Rider Indexes," was begun in 1952 under the editorship of Fremont Rider and currently extends to 121 volumes. The *Genealogical Periodical Annual Index*, first published in 1962, is an author, surname, subject, and location index to over 150 British, Canadian and U.S. periodicals. Thomas Clark's *Travels in the Old South* and *Travels in the New South* (three volumes in the former, and two in the latter) are annotated bibliographies of personal travel accounts, logs and diaries from 1527 to the twentieth century. These and *A Bibliography of Ship Passenger Lists, 1538-1825* by Harold Lancour serve as examples of genealogical materials not cataloged in the usual genealogical classifications, but in the index and bibliography categories 016 and Z.

"Hidden" Genealogy Resources

Most major academic libraries own a variety of less obvious works of genealogical utility. Such "hidden" resources include the *Dictionary of American Biography* and the *National Cyclopedia of American Biography*, both of which provide selected genealogical information. The *Encyclopedia of American History* by Richard Morris can provide the researcher with background information which, for example, may help put family chronicles in better perspective. Many antiquated atlases which show areas no longer bearing the same names may be of key importance in tracing family migration from one place to another. Other examples of excellent sources found in reference collections include *Appleton's Cyclopaedia of American Biography*, *Who was Who During the American Revolution*, *Who was Who in America: Historical Volume, 1607-1896*, and *Biographical Directory of the United States Executive Branch, 1774-1971*.
The card catalog is the fundamental research tool, but it poses unexpected difficulties for the inexperienced user. The subject heading "Genealogy" often indicates "how-to" books—usually not what the patron is seeking. The heading "Vital Records" directs the searcher to "See Recording and Registration, Register of Births, etc., and Slave Records." An online catalog eliminates the problem of cross references, but the user still must be aware that particular subject headings may not describe the material fully. The heading "Family Archives" may guide the user to helpful data, though such records are often limited in scope, but the heading "Family Histories" refers the patron to "See subdivision Genealogy under countries, cities, etc., and individual families." Specific family genealogies must be looked up in the catalog through the family name, but, too frequently, only a few names mentioned in such a book have any kind of catalog entry. The catalog does tell whether the library holds a particular title and provides cataloging classifications for desired areas which can be used as a starting point. On occasion it can be productive to browse through open stacks pursuing a limited but somewhat random search among, say, military registers, specialized membership directories, and organizational yearbooks. These often contain extensive biographical (and genealogical) information. The Thoroughbred Record has the expected photographs and breeding information about horses, but it also has photographs and biographical data about the owners and trainers. A publication such as the Ayrshire Digest publishes biographies of cattle breeders. Volumes of the Transactions of the Illinois State Horticultural Society, incorporated in 1857, lists members, officers, committees, awards granted, and obituaries, some with photographs. Walter Webb's The Texas Rangers tells the story of the formation and activities of this legendary group and has first-hand accounts of the experiences of some who served with it. Public service organizations such as Kiwanis, Lions and Rotary publish monthly magazines with photographs and biographical information about members. The Leatherneck, "magazine of the Marines," has photographs, biographical data, and changes of military assignments—helpful to someone researching a former Marine.

Many art and architecture books available in large academic libraries are also under-utilized sources of genealogical information. Colonial Mansions of Maryland and Delaware by John Hammond has family reminiscences of home owners. The Homes of Our Ancestors in Stonington, Conn. by Grace Wheeler is filled with many genealogical facts, including personal letters. Titles such as Remodeled Farmhouses by Mary Northend, The Manor Houses of England by P.H. Ditchfield,
Country Houses of the Midlands by John Gotch, and The Mansions of England by John Neale contain personal information about the owners and residents of the houses described. They provide similar information about the architects or builders. Such books commonly have photographs of the people who once lived in these houses or were living there at the times the books were written. Drawings, building diagrams, and floor plans often can supplement what is known about an ancestor's life. The WPA (Works Progress Administration) project American Portrait Inventory: 1440 Early American Portrait Artists (1663-1860) offers birth and death dates, places of residence, and, if foreign, where the artists emigrated from and the dates of their arrivals in the United States. Portraits of Jews by Gilbert Stuart and Other Early American Artists compiled by Hannah London physically describes the subjects and their families and has personal anecdotes about them.

Old church and parish records, particularly rich sources of genealogical information, are often found in the bookstacks of large academic research libraries. The University of Illinois, for example, has a wide range of such holdings, including multivolume sets published by the Yorkshire Archeological Society, the Harleian Society of London, the Lancashire Parish Register Society, and the Parish Register Society, London. Additionally, there are the Huguenot Society of London Publications, the Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society, and the Canterbury and York Society series. The Millennial Harbinger, the monthly journal published by Alexander Campbell, a major founder of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the Churches of Christ, contains correspondence, brief biographical records of ministers and church officers, and obituaries. Similar church records from other countries—France, Germany, Italy, and Spain, to name some—are also shelved in the University of Illinois bookstacks. The availability of many of these volumes is widespread since researchers may obtain them through interlibrary loan.

Provincial, state and federal governmental publications provide much data for genealogists. Volume twelve of the Records of the Colony of New Plymouth, in New England describes land deeds from 1620 to 1651. Pennsylvania's Colonial Records (sixteen volumes) and the Pennsylvania Archives (in nine series) contain foreign arrivals, names of foreigners who took the oaths of allegiance to the province and state of Pennsylvania, property rights, provincial commissions, warrantees of land, baptism records, early tax rolls, papers of the governors, military records, and muster rolls. There are six series of federal American Archives published under an act of Congress in 1833 containing courts-
martial records, correspondence, Continental Congress proceedings, and reports. These latter titles are indexed, generally by series, but it is sometimes difficult to ascertain the type of record that will be found by means of the index. The United States Official Postal Guide has been published for over a century and lists every post office in the country. This is an excellent reference tool in trying to locate an extinct post office.

While federal census records are acquired to provide demographic information for researchers in various fields, they can also be vital to someone trying to place an ancestor in a particular place at a particular time. State universities may not have complete federal census records nationally, but they would have those for their own state and perhaps a few neighboring ones. For example, the University of Illinois has a complete set of available federal census records for Illinois plus a handful of Indiana records. Bound volumes of the 1790 census show the names of the heads of the households and other household residents, but little else. Later censuses do provide more information, and libraries are purchasing microfilms of these records.

Old city directories going back to the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries are a bonanza to genealogists. They provide exact street addresses, thus making it easier to search a subsequent federal census schedule which is arranged by ward or areas within a city. The occupations of the residents are shown. They have business listings and advertisements; some identify the directors of companies and corporations. Churches are identified, thereby enabling a researcher to pursue records through denominational sources. Academic libraries may have large holdings pertaining to cities within their own state and elsewhere in the country. The University of Illinois has old directories for Illinois cities such as Alton, Champaign, Chicago, Decatur, Peoria, Rockford, and Springfield plus out-of-state cities such as Albany, Cleveland, New York, and Philadelphia. J. Carlyle Parker recommends in Library Service for Genealogists that libraries should acquire microfilm copies of their city directories for circulation through interlibrary loan. Microfiche directories are also available for some cities. Telephone directories give street addresses of subscribers and business information although these do not go back as far as city directories.

Reference Service Policies

Parker further recommends that "librarians should see that library service to genealogists is as adequate as to any other segment of their
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public. This counsel implicitly acknowledges that genealogists are a less than favorite type of patron. Regardless of the extent of the academic library’s holdings of relevant material, the reference librarian’s willingness to help ranges widely. Some staff members provide as much help as possible, but some others unconsciously or deliberately turn away the genealogist. Reference desks occasionally stock handouts describing genealogical material within the collection, including census records, local histories and biographical volumes. In a few libraries bibliographies of genealogical sources in the collection are available. The University of Illinois Reference Department has in its vertical file a few guides for locating genealogical holdings which have been compiled by the library staff and interested genealogists. Also available for the Illinois patron are specialized bibliographies such as lists of English parish records and registers of soldiers in the American Revolution as well as brief guides to genealogical materials in the bookstacks.

In the event that sought-after material is not part of the academic library’s collection, the librarian usually directs the in-person patron to another repository such as the local public library, the local genealogical society, the state archives, or a historical society library. Ohio State University librarians make genealogical referrals to the Ohio State Library and the State Historical Society, both in Columbus. The University of Pennsylvania reference staff direct phone and in-person patrons to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and the Free Library of Philadelphia, both located a short distance from the Penn campus. The Widener Library staff at Harvard refer patrons to the New England Historic Genealogical Society located in nearby Boston. Referrals are also made by academic librarians to the local branch genealogical library of the LDS Church, the largest such repository in the world. University of Michigan patrons interested in extensive genealogical materials are referred to the Michigan State Library in Lansing and the Burton Historical Collection in the Detroit Public Library for family histories and for Michigan local history and records. University of Michigan librarians also refer their patrons to Chicago’s Newberry Library.

Mail queries to academic research libraries are sometimes answered by a brief form letter offering helpful suggestions for alternate research sources. Some furnish lists of competent researchers who will work for a fee. The University of Pennsylvania library sends a letter recommending the writer contact county and local historical societies described in the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission’s Directory of Pennsylvania Historical Organizations and Museums. This letter also
suggests other titles helpful to genealogists and makes referrals to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and the Genealogy Section of the Pennsylvania State Library in Harrisburg. Harvard's form letter suggests that the inquirer examine the *National Union Catalog* and other national bibliographies of the published catalogs and shelf-lists of the Harvard system available at many research libraries throughout the United States. The desired material can then be requested through interlibrary loan or photoduplication from the appropriate Harvard library since the actual library facilities are primarily restricted to members of the Harvard community. The form letter may have a personal postscript which suggests other sources as well. The Southern Historical Collection and Manuscripts Department of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill sends out information about the material found in its own collection and that of the University of North Carolina Archives. In addition, the library staff encloses information about accommodations for visitors to Chapel Hill, transportation suggestions, and a map of the campus with public parking areas clearly marked.

The librarians of the Immigration History Research Center (IHRC) Collection of the University of Minnesota (Twin Cities) Libraries have prepared a series of form letters to help them respond to patrons' questions. The collection is limited to immigration from eastern, central and southern Europe, and the Near East, and the letters recommend basic and specialized sources for Polish, Italian, Finnish, or Czechoslovak family research. The staff have prepared handouts of sources such as passenger and immigration lists, Norwegian-American historical collections, and genealogical institutions and societies in Minnesota. Genealogical researchers are encouraged to visit the IHRC where they can obtain special assistance. It also contains manuscript or microfilm records of several ethnic fraternal organizations, interviews, and family histories prepared by the Minnesota Finnish-American Family History Project. The center expects to acquire a microfilm edition of Italian emigration records. The librarians call this material to the attention of researchers tracing people from the appropriate ethnic groups and make it equally available to genealogists and academic historians. For extended inquiries the center charges for assistance provided by student hourly workers.

The library staff of the University of Wisconsin—Madison is able to offer assistance to its genealogical patrons with minimal involvement. This is due in large part to the close working (and spatial) relationship it shares with the Wisconsin State Historical Society Library directly
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across the street. In practice, a reference librarian at the university will describe the genealogical resources available in Memorial Library, but generally will not pursue the search further. However, the reference department distributes handouts explaining the basics of genealogical research and others listing periodicals, bibliographies, atlases, special collections, and guides to bookstacks materials on Denmark, England, France, Germany, Ireland, Norway, and Sweden, along with directions for writing to foreign sources for information. Most of this material is furnished by the state historical society whose library of more than 1 million items—one of the largest genealogical collections in the country—complements the university's own general collection of more than 4 million volumes. The historical society's library attempts to acquire all available historical and genealogical materials relating to the United States and Canada. In effect, it also functions as the North American history resource library for the University of Wisconsin. Without a need to purchase in this subject area, the latter institution can concentrate on foreign works.

The University of Wisconsin Memorial Library catalog contains cards for the Wisconsin State Historical Society Library as well as its own, and the distribution between the two libraries' collections of foreign and domestic material is readily apparent. Of approximately 140 cards under the subject heading "Genealogy—Periodicals," only twenty titles were held by the university and, of these, fourteen were in foreign languages. Nearly all the titles held by the Historical Society Library are in English. University holdings under the subject heading "Genealogy" show titles in Croatian, Danish, Flemish, French, German, Italian, Norwegian, Portuguese, and Swedish. The society's genealogy books are almost all in English.

As sources of genealogical information, newspapers are often important and sometimes indispensable. One of the best-known collections of newspaper files belongs to the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. Writing in *Genealogical Research*, James Hansen says it has "the second largest collection of newspapers in the United States, surpassed only by that of the Library of Congress." This collection covers newspapers published north of the Rio Grande, and has titles from all fifty states, U.S. possessions, and Canada. It contains 4000 titles, including about 1600 from Wisconsin.

The originals of the Draper manuscripts are also part of the historical society's collection. They were part of the personal research collection of Lyman Copeland Draper, the society's first corresponding secretary. The five hundred volumes of this collection have been micro-
DIANE CAROTHERS

filmed and may now be found in many large academic research libraries. A new guide and index to these papers has been published.\(^{20}\) The society library also maintains an extensive collection of other records such as birth, baptismal, marriage, death, burial, cemetery, probate, and tax records.\(^{21}\)

The University of North Carolina—Chapel Hill has among its extensive holdings two specialized collections of particular interest to genealogists. The North Carolina Collection, housed in its own specially designed quarters in the main Wilson Library, contains publications and reports of governmental agencies, businesses, religious bodies, fraternal groups, and professional organizations relating to North Carolina and/or written by North Carolinians. This material includes diaries, scrapbooks, associational volumes (i.e., books belonging to North Carolinians before about 1870), textbooks, broadsides, maps, pictures, recordings, and more than 100,000 mounted newspaper clippings arranged alphabetically by subject. It serves as the repository for printed materials issued by the university and maintains files of departmental publications and reports of various organizations on campus. The North Carolina Collection has been called the “Conscience of North Carolina” because “it seeks to preserve for present and future generations all that is published about the state and its localities and people or by North Carolinians, regardless of subject.” The collection is primarily a research facility, and most materials may be used only in its reading room. Author and title cards are filed in the university library’s catalog.\(^{22}\)

The second specialized collection, designated the Southern Historical Collection, is the manuscript department of the library. Its holdings consist of manuscripts of North Carolinians and other Southerners— basically the private papers of individuals, families and institutions. Accumulated primarily to serve historical research, this material includes some compiled family histories. The staff of the manuscript department will not undertake genealogical research for correspondents; however, patrons are given the names of personnel who will undertake such research for a fee.\(^{23}\)

As noted earlier, the University of Michigan—Ann Arbor library makes no effort to acquire materials specifically useful to research in family history. That its holdings of over 5 million volumes\(^{24}\) include much of genealogical value may be attributed in large measure to a broad spectrum of historical research acquisitions. Among the materials of particular relevance are *The Greenlaw Index of the New England Historic Genealogical Society*, *The American
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Genealogical-Biographical Index described previously, and all thirteen volumes of The Mereness Calendar of federal documents in the Upper Mississippi Valley. Shelved in the graduate library's open bookstacks are such useful source materials as The Genealogical Index of the Newberry Library and the New York Public Library's Dictionary Catalog of the Local History and Genealogy Division which includes approximately 26,000 family histories. Genealogists will be particularly interested in two books primarily about Michiganders: Tracing Your Ancestors in Michigan by Ethel Williams and Polly Bender and Genealogy in Michigan: What, When, Where by Alloa Anderson and Polly Bender.

One unit of the university's library system is the Clements Library which specializes in Americana up to 1850 and includes much material dealing with the history of exploration. There are maps, manuscripts and colonial newspapers which may be of particular interest to the family historian. The material in this collection does not circulate, but researchers are welcome to use it in the reading room of the library.

The Bentley Library on the university's north campus houses the Michigan Historical Collections. Its goal is to "collect, preserve and make available for research primary source materials documenting the history of the people and the institutions of the state of Michigan." It collects important archives and manuscripts relating to all aspects of Michigan's history. The collection was established in 1935 and now has over 30,000 published items and more than 15,000 feet of manuscript material as part of its noncirculating, closed-stack research facilities. The printed Guide to Manuscripts in the Bentley Historical Library describes the manuscript collections. These consist of records of Michigan churches (particularly Episcopal, Congregational, Presbyterian, and Baptist) and manuscripts from educational and relief organizations, athletic groups, national historical societies, and musical organizations as well as publishing companies and personal records of Michigan residents. There are territorial or state census records for 1827, 1845, 1884, and 1894 plus a few federal census records. In addition to the manuscripts, there is an extensive collection of published materials about Michigan in the Bentley Library. Among these items are city, county and state histories, gazetteers, land ownership maps, and atlases. Another of its excellent resources is the Record of Service of Michigan Volunteers in the Civil War which is a compilation in forty-six volumes of the service records of Michigan Civil War veterans. Bentley also has city and county directories and nineteenth-century newspapers. There are items relating to the Dutch settlement in Western
Michigan and records of early labor societies and temperance materials. The information is primarily in the form of photographs, broadsides, newspapers, sound tapes, and manuscripts. It is available to in-person researchers, and the staff is extremely helpful and knowledgeable.

Case Study: Collections at UIUC

The library of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) includes a broad spectrum of genealogically important holdings in an overall collection exceeding 6 million volumes. The total assemblage is housed in the main bookstacks and over thirty-five departmental libraries and specialized collections. The repositories containing the materials of most interest to genealogists—i.e., the main bookstacks, the Illinois Historical Survey, the University Archives, the Lincoln Room of the History and Philosophy Library, the Map and Geography Library, and the Newspaper Library—are all located in the main library building. In general, the materials in three of the specialized collections— the Illinois Historical Survey, the University Archives, and the Lincoln Room—do not circulate, nor are they available through interlibrary loan, although researchers are welcome to work with them in the library. Volumes in the bookstacks and the other departmental libraries do circulate for various periods or are available for interlibrary loan unless they are part of the individual reference collections or on reserve for course readings.

Among the various departmental libraries and special collections, the Illinois Historical Survey Library is a treasure-trove for Illinois genealogical research. Its collection numbers over 7500 books covering the last three centuries and contains published and manuscript materials on the history of Illinois and the Old Northwest. A fairly complete collection of county histories is supplemented by town and organizational histories as well as maps, town and city directories, plat books, eighteenth-century atlases, and geographies. There is a vertical file of over 2000 miscellaneous items ranging from pamphlets, brochures, and newspapers to photographs and letters. The manuscript collection has both printed and handwritten documents, some with guides. There are family papers as well as business records of companies throughout Illinois and the Midwest. This collection is in the form of journals, diaries, letters, notebooks, ledgers, account books, newspaper clippings, dispatches, photographs, and transcripts in a variety of formats such as photocopies, microfilms, original documents, and machine reproductions. Departing somewhat from the university library's general pol-
policy of not specifically collecting genealogical materials, the survey's acquisition program has been broadened to include works which will be of direct interest to genealogists. Recently it has begun receiving genealogical society newsletters and quarterlies published in Illinois. In addition, the University of Illinois Library Friends organization has donated a subscription to the National Genealogical Society Quarterly to supplement the library's collection of *Special Publications* of that society. A very recent gift has been *George Hendricks, Illinois Pioneer and His Descendants* by Josephine Moeller.

The University Archives is a specialized collection consisting primarily of official records, publications and personal papers of present and former faculty, students, alumni, and staff of the University of Illinois. Its Alumni Morgue has folders on deceased faculty, alumni and former students, including many photographs. University publications such as the student yearbook (*Illio*) from 1895, the Board of Trustees' *Reports*, staff directories from 1867, and commencement programs, together with clippings about the university from nonuniversity sources can be located through various finding aids. The archives contain a particularly useful aid in the extensive file of directories to collections in other archives. Copies of books, including some genealogical studies, by and about faculty and staff members are also located in this collection.

The Lincoln Room, housed in a special suite, is part of the History and Philosophy Library and is devoted to material related to Abraham Lincoln. There are various books and photographs as well as a large number of unpublished documents and manuscripts. Special titles relating to the Lincoln genealogy include: *The Hanks Family Legacy, 1643-1889*; *Nancy Hanks, of "Undistinguished Families"*; and *Nancy Hanks, the Destined Mother of a President*, all by Adin Baber; *The Lineage of Lincoln* and *The Paternity of Abraham Lincoln* by William E. Barton; *The Descendants of the Presidents* by R. Whitney Tucker; and *Abe Lincoln's Other Mother, the Story of Sarah Bush Lincoln* by Bernadine Bailey. In addition to Lincoln memorabilia, the Lincoln Room has scattered issues of newspapers published during the Civil War, some Confederate records—e.g., *The Military Annals of Tennessee* by John Lindsley, histories of Virginia counties, such as *The Years of Anguish, Fauquier County, Va., 1861-1865* compiled by Emily G. Ramey, *A History of Rockingham County, Virginia* by John Wayland and a few Civil War regimental histories of Illinois and Indiana.

To the family chronicler the historical map collection in the Map and Geography Library is another rich resource. This repository includes many old maps of the entire country plus maps of western
Europe, England and Ireland dating back to the 1500s. Some of its maps of New England were drawn in the 1600s and show the general locations of the first settlements. There are maps of all the American colonies at the time of the Revolution, together with a map of Pennsylvania from the 1770s and a 1796 Vermont map that shows communities which have long since gone out of existence. This library is also a depository for all United States and Canadian topographic maps beginning in the 1880s and for other foreign countries from the nineteenth century to the present. Depending on the scale, a given topographic map may show precise locations of all houses and major outbuildings in the region. If a needed topographic map is not already in the collection, the staff can usually determine where it can be located and how a copy or relevant information can be obtained.

Beginning with 1890 the U.S. Department of Agriculture produced soil maps of individual counties. These show old towns; roads; locations of school houses, churches and cemeteries; and defunct railroad lines. To supplement what is known about a family, a researcher might refer to the Sanborn fire maps of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. These maps describe each structure in many towns throughout the country, thus enabling one to determine the type of ancestral housing—i.e., whether the dwelling was brick, stone or wood; had a porch or not; or was of one, two or three stories. These maps also show the location of each business, commercial building, church, school, movie house, and other buildings.

Not only are the maps in this library helpful to genealogists, but the book collection has much useful material. There is an extensive collection of county atlases for the whole country which show land ownership. A bibliography of these atlases is presently being prepared. There is an early nineteenth-century gazetteer which lists place names, and a sizable collection of other books providing information about locations and histories of various towns and villages and place name derivations. Another useful reference tool is Bullinger's Postal and Shippers Guide, begun in 1871 though no longer published, which shows the various railroad shipping points closest to then-existing post offices. Several sets such as Mapping the Transmississippi West, 1540-1861 by Carl Wheat (five volumes), the British Museum Catalogue of Printed Maps, Charts and Plans, and the Catalog of Maps, Ships' Papers and Logbooks, a bibliography published by the Mariners' Museum, New Port News, Virginia, can also provide helpful information.

The Newspaper Library has an extensive collection of both recent and old holdings. It currently subscribes to nearly 550 United States and foreign papers, including at least one daily from most major metropoli-
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tan areas. For Illinois, titles are presently being received from seventy-four of its 102 counties. There is also a large number of pre-1900 newspapers from such Illinois cities as Alton, Champaign, Chicago, Danville, Peoria, Rock Island, and Springfield. The microfilm collection includes copies of old papers such as the Indianapolis Freeman (1866-1920), the Denver Rocky Mountain News (1860-1900 and 1959-73), the Washington (D.C.) National Intelligencer (1800-69), the New York Tribune (1841-1924), and the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin from 1847 until its demise on January 29, 1982. Continuing large city papers in the collection are the New Orleans Times-Picayune from 1837, the New York Times from 1851, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch from 1878, and the San Francisco Chronicle from 1865. Old foreign-language papers from the United States include the Gemeinnitzige Philadelphische Correspondenz (1781-90), the Neue Philadelphische Correspondenz (1790-1800), and Sokol Sojedinenija (American Russian Falcon) (1922-26), published in Homestead, Pennsylvania. Current or defunct ethnic or racial newspapers include New York's Irish World (1879-81), Chicago's Wassaia (1916-19 and isolated issues in 1920, 1921 and 1922), Bilalian News (formerly, Muhammad Speaks) from 1961 on, New York's Novoe Russkoe Slovo from 1961 on, and Washington's Colored American from 1898 to 1904.

In addition, there are issues of Confederate papers such as the Charleston Daily Courier from 1852 to 1872 and the Milledgeville (Georgia) Southern Recorder from 1820 through isolated issues until 1872. Other pre-Civil War titles include the Woodville (Mississippi) Republican (1823-48) and the Huntsville (Alabama) Southern Advocate (1825-61). There are isolated issues and short runs of old newspapers such as the Springfield (Illinois) Record in 1910, the Nauvoo (Illinois) Neighbor from 1843 to 1845, the New Orleans Times-Democrat (1890-92), and the Richmond (Virginia) Planet from January 5, 1895 to September 29, 1900.

The microfilm holdings of the Newspaper Library are listed in Newspapers in Microform—available in many research libraries—and may be obtained through interlibrary loan. In addition, the staff can determine what newspapers are held at other repositories such as the Library of Congress, the Center for Research Libraries, and the Illinois State Historical Library at Springfield.

Finally, there are the bookstacks, whose ten decks house the bulk of the University of Illinois' collection, including most of the genealogically significant holdings. Some of these—e.g., the classifications for bibliography, art, religion, biography, and history—have already received brief mention in this article. Many of the foreign family histo-
ries in the bookstacks are in French, German, Italian, or Spanish; for example, *Primeiras Famílias do Rio de Janeiro* and *Les Familles Nobles du Forez au XIIIe Siècle*. Long runs of serials such as *Enciclopedia Heráldica y Genealógica Hispano-Americana*, published in Madrid (eighty-eight volumes), the Italian *Giornale Araldico-Genealogica Diplomatico* (twenty-nine volumes), and *Beiträge zur Namenforschung* (more than thirty volumes in two series and supplements) are shelved on the same bookstacks deck as the *Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society* going back to 1791, and *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, currently in 136 volumes. Items of regional interest, such as *Maryland Revolutionary Records*, the two-volume *Swem's Virginia Historical Index*, and the *Revolutionary War Memoir and Selected Correspondence of Philip Van Cortlandt* are also part of the University of Illinois collection of early non-Midwest materials.

**Conclusion**

From the foregoing, it is evident that the large academic research library contains much of genealogical value, whether or not such material was intentionally acquired for the purpose. Indeed, it seems axiomatic that a rich genealogical component is inherent in every large academic library as a function of the magnitude and characteristic diversity of such collections. The university library as a major resource for investigations in family history has heretofore been largely unappreciated by all but experienced researchers. The research of such patrons can be advanced with little effort on the part of the reference department. In some cases referral may be the most appropriate help a librarian can give, but in others the information sought may be at hand in the collection. The approaches followed by several, rather arbitrarily selected academic libraries in dealing with genealogical patrons, together with numerous references to resource material, are offered as background for the reference staff in the hope that it will help them serve the needs of their sometimes "problem patron"—the genealogist.

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Appendix

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A Commitment to Excellence in Genealogy:
How the Public Library Became the
Only Tourist Attraction in Fort Wayne, Indiana

RICK J. ASHTON

The wisdom concerning genealogy in public libraries is conventional. Good professional practice, distilled in a stream of articles in state and national journals, has produced two major tenets. The first is that a public library should attempt to serve the needs of genealogists, even though the prospect may be distasteful to the library staff, because genealogists are taxpayers too. The second tenet is that the genealogy collection in a public library should focus on the immediate locale or the state in which the library is located, because financial limitations and bibliographic difficulties are very great.

I have no quarrel with the conventional wisdom. It has produced positive results in many public libraries in the United States. However, it has also limited the scope of genealogical activity and achievement in many public libraries. Strange methods and violations of the conventional wisdom, as the history of genealogy at the Fort Wayne Public Library (reorganized as the Allen County Public Library in 1980) demonstrates, can generate excellent library service, important individual achievement and national institutional recognition. Stated most broadly, the way everybody else does it may not necessarily be the way to do it when librarians make a commitment to excellence. Idiosyncratic practices, along with the conventional wisdom, can shape outstanding institutions and services.

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A History of Heterodoxy

A tradition of heterodoxy in the Fort Wayne-Allen County approach to public library service goes back at least to 1935. Early in that year, Rex M. Potterf, a well-educated high school history teacher, became chief librarian of the public library. In professional library circles the appointment of a man who lacked library training and library experience was greeted with dismay. Milton J. Ferguson lamented in *Library Journal*:

> The question immediately arises: was he such a failure in a job he had been trained for that he was eager to get one he knows nothing about? It would put a humane glow over the picture if the appointee had been taken from the breadline; charity excuses many faults. But the man had a job, for which presumably he was qualified; so under the circumstances the Fort Wayne Board cannot be credited with either heart or head.\(^5\)

Although Potterf eventually legitimized himself in the eyes of the library world by earning a library degree at the University of Illinois, he maintained both a unique personal approach to his work and a healthy disrespect for conventional wisdom. He solved problems with whatever means were available. His methods often seemed as strange to his contemporaries as they do to onlookers nearly half a century later. When the library needed printed material, he set up a print shop. When the library needed new furniture, he set up a carpentry shop. When the library needed space outside the walls of its bursting Carnegie building, he bought houses, gas stations and stores, and filled them with books.\(^4\)

Characteristically, Potterf followed his own judgment in personnel matters. Early in 1935 he appointed 24-year old Fred J. Reynolds to head the Allen County department of the Fort Wayne Public Library. This appointment was no more acceptable to Milton Ferguson than Potterf’s own. In an editorial in *Library Journal*, Ferguson wrote:

> A high school boy who made good as a page and then was promoted to the place behind the wheel of the city book truck has now been elevated to the post of county department head. This young discoverer, who surely must know his way around, will at once undertake the reorganization of the rural library service.\(^5\)

“What has all this,” the reader asks, “to do with genealogy?” The unique Potterf approach to library collection development generated as one of its by-products the basis of an important genealogy collection. Lacking sufficient funds for new book purchasing in the 1930s, Potterf decided to fill the depleted shelves of the Fort Wayne Public Library with used books. Over a period of about fifteen years, Potterf and
Reynolds scoured the second-hand bookstores of the middle third of the United States. They bought thousands of copies of standard works of fiction and nonfiction, children's books and recent popular titles from the dusty shelves of the bookstores. In addition, they gathered many of the books which later formed the heart of the genealogy collection in the early 1960s. Both Potterf and Reynolds had strong interests in the local history of the Fort Wayne area. They expanded upon these interests as they travelled from city to city. The shelves of the Fort Wayne Public Library received the results. Late nineteenth-century county histories, for example, could be had during the 1940s for a dollar or two. Reynolds and Potterf acquired many of these books, not just for Fort Wayne or Indiana. Similarly, they bought long runs of standard nineteenth-century historical and genealogical-periodicals which eventually found their way into the genealogy collection.

The emphasis on travel and purchase of used books faded in the late 1940s and early 1950s as the gradual demise of the second-hand book trade and the extensive buying of duplicates made the effort less fruitful. The impact of the effort remained. A tradition of unorthodox methods of collection development was well established. Thousands of important and useful books had been added to the library collection. The Heckman Bindery, a struggling family business in the early 1930s, had grown to stability and prosperity, at least partially as the result of the business of binding many of the books which Potterf and Reynolds bought. Picaresque adventures of all kinds had enlivened the enterprise. Reynolds summarized these adventures in a talk to the Indiana Library Association in 1977. He called his talk “Reflections on Hoosier Bookdom,” but he might also have called it “A Bowdlerized Account of Life on the Road with Rex.” Clerks at the venerable Acres of Books store in Cincinnati still raise their eyebrows at the mere mention of the Fort Wayne Public Library.

Rex Potterf retired from the library at the end of 1959. His successor, Fred Reynolds, had been his closest associate for one quarter of a century. Reynolds had progressed from his first job as the Fort Wayne Public Library's first bookmobile driver in 1930 to appointment as its third chief executive in 1960. Along the way, he had earned a college degree in history from Indiana University and a library degree from Western Reserve University. The slings and arrows of Library Journal had never dampened his enthusiasm for the library enterprise.

Reynolds brought great energy and direction to his new job. During his nineteen years as head librarian, the Fort Wayne Public Library experienced rapid growth and development in all areas. In 1963 Reynolds secured legislative changes which allowed the Fort Wayne Public
Library to embark on an ambitious building program. The 1904 Carnegie library building was replaced by a dramatically expanded main library building which opened to the public in 1968. Several small storefront branches were replaced by new modern branch buildings and adaptively renovated commercial structures. Collections, services and public use all grew rapidly.

**Focusing the Collection on Genealogy**

None of this growth and change was unique, for many library systems in the United States experienced similar transformations during the 1960s and 1970s. The unusual development at Fort Wayne during the administration of Fred Reynolds was the creation and enhancement of collections and services specifically tailored for genealogists.

Although he still avers that he had nothing large or spectacular in mind at the time, Fred Reynolds set about the development of collections and services for genealogists early in the 1960s in a fashion which ran contrary to both present-day tenets of the conventional wisdom. From the beginning, he did not seek to justify the library's service to genealogists on the usual ground that genealogists are taxpayers just like everyone else. Rather, he based the commitment on the idea that genealogy was a field worthy of pursuit by the public library, and that excellent collections and services would attract users, even though genealogy in the early 1960s had nothing like the popularity which it enjoys today.

The original genealogy department began operations in January 1961 in a corner of the old Carnegie building. It had about 400 books, a gift from the local Daughters of the American Revolution chapter, as its original collection, and one staff member, Dorothy M. Lower.

The early 1960s were a low period for genealogical activity in public libraries. Even The Newberry Library, which had for more than half a century been one of the major local and family history research centers in the country, was reconsidering its longstanding commitments in the field. Nevertheless, the Fort Wayne Public Library forged ahead. By 1965 Reynolds had gathered from other parts of the library all the local history and genealogy materials, most of which had a Midwestern and Northeastern focus, into the genealogy department. He had purchased all the available United States Census microfilm from the National Archives. The national scope of the collection was taking shape.
As the scope expanded, the ingenuity of the search for materials intensified. In 1965 Reynolds secured approval of an arrangement with R.L. Polk and Company and the American Association of Directory Publishers. The arrangement, which still continues, provides for the annual deposit by Polk and other directory publishers of one copy of the previous year's city directory for hundreds of American cities. The library pays only the cost of shipping. This arrangement brings in between 1000 and 1500 directories per year.9

The most important collection development device used by Reynolds was also a unique, unorthodox success. The method involved both the Fort Wayne Public Library and The Newberry Library in Chicago. By the mid-1960s the local and family history collection of The Newberry Library was in perilous physical condition. Hundreds of books, printed on acidic nineteenth-century paper, had become so brittle through chemical deterioration, poor environmental conditions and heavy public use, that they had been withdrawn from use. Tied up with string, they rested on back-area shelves. The floor was littered with what Joseph C. Wolf, curator of the local and family history collection during the period, called "cornflakes," the bits of paper chipped off the margins of the high-acid pages. So bad was the condition of the collection that the future of genealogy and local history at The Newberry Library was in doubt.10

At the same time, Reynolds was encountering considerable difficulty and frustration in acquiring for Fort Wayne the many nineteenth- and early twentieth-century books which were necessary for a genealogy and local history collection which was increasingly national, not just regional or local, in its scope. The great era of Bicentennial-inspired reprinting of county histories, Bible records, and similar books had not yet begun. When Reynolds could find the desired volumes in a catalog or antiquarian bookstore, they were expensive and fragile.

Reynolds and Wolf found each other. They developed a solution to both their problems. The solution both preserved the contents of the major portion of The Newberry Library's local and family history collection for research use and provided thousands of additional titles for the Fort Wayne collection. The method was simple. Wolf provided to Reynolds a photocopy of the entire Newberry Library shelf list for the appropriate parts of the collection. Reynolds and his colleagues selected from this list thousands of books which Fort Wayne lacked. These books were transported to Fort Wayne from Chicago in Fort Wayne Public Library station wagons in batches over a period of several years. When the books arrived in Fort Wayne, Fort Wayne staff produced two high-quality photocopies, on acid-free paper, of each book. The resulting
photocopied volumes were bound by a commercial library binder and put into use. One copy was at The Newberry Library and the other was at Fort Wayne. The originals went back into storage at The Newberry Library, where they continued to deteriorate at a less rapid rate.\textsuperscript{11}

Neither library kept good records about this process. It is apparent, however, from the shelves of both libraries, that at least 15,000, and perhaps as many as 30,000, volumes were treated in this way. The photocopied volumes are sturdy, serviceable creatures which do not preserve the physical character of the original books. Reynolds and Wolf early decided that photocopies were preferable to microfilm for this purpose. Genealogical researchers do not read a book from front to back in the scroll-like fashion required of microfilm. Rather, they search a book's indexes, lists of names and contents columns in ways which are extremely cumbersome on microfilm. The codex form of the book aids genealogical research, even though highly motivated genealogists will endure the most dismal microfilm-reading conditions in pursuit of their ancestors.

The success of the cooperative collection development project with The Newberry Library encouraged Reynolds to expand the arrangement to include a number of other public libraries, historical societies, state libraries, and other repositories of local history and genealogy information across the country. This activity still continues, although on a much smaller scale than in the mid-1970s. The Allen County Public Library makes two photocopies of the item supplied by an individual or a cooperating library. One copy stays on the shelves in Fort Wayne, and the supplier of the material receives a photocopy.

Success bred success. By late 1976 it was apparent that the new building, opened in 1968, would soon be outgrown. As the last major undertaking of his professional career, Reynolds launched the building of an addition. The second floor of the addition, which opened to the public in January 1981, more than two years after Reynolds's retirement, contains seating at tables for ninety-six researchers, twenty-four microfilm readers and shelf space for substantial expansion of the genealogy collection, which now exceeds 120,000 volumes and 30,000 rolls of microfilm.

The Funding was Conventional

Although many elements of the approach to genealogy followed by the Allen County Public Library have been unorthodox, the financing of the program has not been. Despite published reports that some form
A Commitment to Excellence in Genealogy

of special financial support has existed, the entire development has
taken place within the normal operating and capital budgets of the
library.''

Public interest and use have never disappointed the builders of the
genealogy collections and services. Almost from the beginning, the
local genealogists have competed for seats with people from a radius of
about 150 miles. In addition to intense local and regional use, the
department attracts researchers from all over the United States. It is Fort
Wayne's only bonafide tourist attraction. The demolition of the only
cheap downtown motel a few years ago was a serious blow, but the
genealogists still keep coming from all over the United States. They
spend tourist dollars for lodging, meals, parking, gasoline, and photocopies. They do not provide tax support, but they are beginning to
provide support to the Friends of the Allen County Public Library.

When Fred Reynolds started a genealogy department in 1961, no one knew that *Roots* would be published. No one knew that genealogy
would become a consuming major national pastime. No one knew of
the demands for services and collections in genealogy which public
libraries all over the nation would experience. Dorothy Lower, the first
employee of the department, did not know that she would still head a
major national-level research resource twenty-two years later. As she has
often said, "If I had known it was going to be this big I probably never
would have asked for it."13

So, a combination of tradition, circumstance, individual and insti-
tutional decisions, and national developments has generated excellent
results. If there is any lesson to be learned from this history, it is that
excellent library service can flow from seemingly unconventional fool-
lishness as well as from conventional wisdom.

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9. Ibid.


11. Ibid., pp. 158-59.


A Survey of Genealogists at The Newberry Library

PEGGY TUCK SINKO
SCOTT N. PETERS

Introduction

During the past fifteen years, and particularly since the Bicentennial and the television showing of Roots in 1977, genealogists have become increasingly numerous and visible library users. Rather than ignoring them and hoping they will go away, librarians have, most commendably, been quite interested in attempting to find ways to cope with the requests and needs of this particular group of library users. Examples of this interest are very much in evidence. The 1978 ALA Yearbook devoted a major article to the subject of genealogy and libraries. Special sessions at recent ALA meetings have dealt with genealogy, and an entire book has been written on the subject—J. Carlyle Parker’s Library Service for Genealogists. At the local level, genealogy workshops for librarians are quite popular and very well attended. Most of these meetings and articles have focused on methods for coping with genealogical queries, and determining what libraries can legitimately be expected to do for these patrons. These topics are clearly of concern to all libraries—from the small public library with a few how-to-do-it genealogy books, to a large genealogical research institution.

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Rationale for the Survey of Genealogists

One question that seems to have been overlooked in all this, however, is “Who are the people doing genealogical research in libraries today?”. While most librarians who deal with genealogists have wondered about this question, it has received little serious study. A profile of genealogists was of particular interest to The Newberry Library, which houses one of the country’s largest collections on genealogy and local history. Although thousands of people use the Newberry’s collection each year, little was actually known about those individuals. It was felt that if the Newberry staff knew more about the interests, abilities and concerns of the genealogy readers (patrons at the Newberry are known as readers), they would be better able to assist those readers in making the best use of the library’s collections and of their own time.

There were three specific areas in which it was thought that increased knowledge of genealogy readers would assist the Newberry’s staff:

1. Evaluating reference services. The Local and Family History staff handles inquiries made at the reference desk, over the telephone, and through the mail. Were these inquiries being handled satisfactorily, or did the staff need to improve the methods by which it responded to genealogical queries? Was a change in emphasis needed? Given the small staff in Local and Family History Section, we wanted to be sure that those tasks that were being done were the ones that were most needed.

2. Preparing for educational activities. Each year Local and Family History sponsors, often in cooperation with a local genealogical society, a special all-day advanced genealogy program. From time to time adult education classes have also been offered by the library. By all accounts these programs have been quite successful, but a reader survey would enable us to learn whether or not readers wish to attend such programs, and what subjects they would find most useful and interesting. By knowing something of the ability levels of our readers, in terms of formal education and experience in genealogy, we could avoid planning programs either too elementary or too advanced for the majority of our potential audience.

3. Improving orientation and reader access to the Local and Family History collection. The Newberry is not an easy library to use. First-time users, whether beginners or experienced genealogists, must spend some time getting acquainted with the arrangement and organization of materials and the procedures used to locate and
obtain them. A certain amount of time spent on orientation is unavoidable, but we wondered whether things could be done to lessen the feeling of confusion and helplessness many first-time readers have.

One idea that the staff had seriously considered was the development of a brief (five- to ten-minute) self-operated, audiovisual introduction to genealogy at The Newberry Library. However, before going to the effort and expense of developing such a presentation, it seemed wise to determine whether readers thought such an introduction would be viewed. Although the library serves a few thousand first-time users each year, a significant number of readers use the library more than once. Another question to be answered was whether we were meeting the needs of people who had advanced beyond the beginner stage and would need to make more intensive use of the collections.

In addition to addressing these three concerns of the Local and Family History Section, it was thought that a profile of the Newberry's genealogy readers might have a broader significance. It would promote a more general awareness of the type of person doing genealogical work at the library, which would be useful for all Newberry staff members. It might also do something to alter some of the "little old lady in tennis shoes" stereotype with which genealogists are often saddled. The results of the survey would only illustrate the characteristics of genealogists who use The Newberry Library. There are no similar surveys available for comparison, so it cannot be determined whether genealogy readers at the Newberry are representative of genealogists as a whole, or even of genealogists who use libraries. Even so, it was thought that these findings would suggest certain characteristics which would be true of users of medium- and large-size genealogical library collections.

Genealogy at The Newberry Library

Before describing the survey and the sampling procedure used, a brief description of the Local and Family History Section, the Main Reading Room at the Newberry, and the procedures used to obtain books and other services is needed.

The Newberry Library is a private, independent research library in history and the humanities. Local and Family History, which makes up only one part of the Newberry's total holdings, contains approximately 150,000 volumes, plus several thousand reels of microfilm. The collection covers all parts of the United States, Canada and the British Isles.
but its particular strengths are the Midwest, New England, the states of the original thirteen colonies, and Great Britain. In 1981, 4840 genealogy reader cards were issued. Local and Family History tallied 10,920 reader days in 1981.

The Local and Family History Section consists of two full-time staff members: the Curator, and the Local and Family History reference librarian. Volunteers in the section work about fifteen to eighteen hours per week. The staff assists readers, answers telephone and mail queries, works on book selection and collection development, and undertakes special projects such as developing finding aids and reference tools.

The physical arrangement of the Newberry's Main Reading Room and bookstack building, the facilities available to aid readers, and the method by which the reading room is staffed, all affect how genealogists view the library in terms of ease of access to material and the availability of knowledgeable reference assistance. Genealogists work in the library's Main Reading Room, along with all other daily users, including college faculty members, students, and professional and lay researchers. There is no separate "Genealogy Reading Room" nor is there a separate card catalog for genealogy and local history. Cards for all books at the Newberry, regardless of subject, are filed in one dictionary catalog. The Newberry is a closed-stack library, and readers fill out request slips for books, which are paged from the new bookstack building, and brought to the reader's seat. The new bookstack, which is connected to the main building, is designed to provide the best possible environment for the Newberry's collections. The windowless building is temperature- and humidity-controlled, and since it is only used for storage, the need to make compromises between what is best for books and what is comfortable for people is eliminated. The stack building is ten stories tall and contains 173,000 linear feet or thirty-two miles of shelving.

One reference attendant is always on duty in the Main Reading Room. About half the time the reference attendant is a professional librarian, the other half, a paraprofessional. This person, in addition to aiding genealogists, must also answer telephone reference calls, do card catalog checks, and assist nongenealogist readers, long-term academic fellows, and library staff members. The reference post is covered by the Local and Family History Reference Librarian only a few hours each week. Reference attendants are trained to answer simple genealogical queries, and to refer questions they cannot answer to the Local and Family History staff, whose offices adjoin the Main Reading Room.
The Survey Methodology

This survey had two principal objectives: (1) to profile genealogical users of the Newberry with regard to demographic characteristics, as well as involvement with genealogy; and (2) to determine how these users view the services provided by the Newberry. In a recent article, Meredith Butler and Bonnie Gratch described the process of planning a library user study, and their procedure was used in organizing this study. In preparing this study, the library and genealogy literatures were surveyed. No previous surveys, such as the one we were contemplating, were found. Early in the formation of the study, it was decided that we should focus on the current Newberry readers, and leave other topics, such as the question of users versus nonusers and the evaluation of the collection, to later studies. The staff of the Newberry is presently more interested in providing better service to the genealogists who already use the library, rather than in greatly expanding that already large number. Although the evaluation of the genealogy collection was left for later study, some useful information on this subject was gleaned from the comments of those surveyed.

Keeping in mind the two principal objectives, a preliminary draft of the survey was prepared and distributed to selected Newberry staff members. They suggested several questions which were added to the survey. Several genealogists were also asked to comment on the survey to determine whether or not the questions and directions were clear, unambiguous and reasonably easy to answer, and whether or not they thought the survey was too long. In its final version, the survey numbered thirty-one questions, some with multiple parts. A place for comments was also included.

The survey could either have been distributed at the library, or mailed to Newberry genealogists. Handing out the survey at the library would have biased the sample in favor of frequent users of the library. This method was determined to be unsatisfactory, since one of the factors we wished to examine was whether frequent users require different levels or types of service than infrequent users. All persons using the Newberry must fill out a registration form with their name, address and the subject of their research. Different cards are issued for genealogical and nongenealogical users; these cards are valid for one year. A systematic sample was drawn from the 4840 genealogy registration forms completed in 1981. Every ninth form was pulled, so that 536 surveys were mailed. Thus, frequent and infrequent users had an equal chance of being included in the sample. Of the surveys mailed, 254 were returned. Four of these were unusable, leaving 250, or 46.6 percent of the
Findings: A Profile of Newberry Genealogists

The myth that genealogists are overwhelmingly female and elderly seems clearly to be untrue. Females did outnumber males 58.6 percent to 41.4 percent in this survey, but this is hardly overwhelming. Readers ranged in age from fifteen to eighty-four (children are not admitted to the Newberry), with the average age being 47.9 years. There was no statistically significant difference in the average age of men and women in the sample.

We were curious to know whether the television showing of Roots and/or the Bicentennial were the catalysts that started people on their genealogical quests. Figure 1 indicates that the Bicentennial had little impact, but there was a sharp increase in the number of people who began their genealogical work in 1977 when Roots was first shown. Indeed, 1977 is the beginning of increased participation in genealogy that has continued to the present. Of the genealogists in the sample, 58.6 percent had begun their research since 1977.

We found that the vast majority of Newberry genealogists could be classified as casual hobbyists who find genealogical research interesting and fun, but who do not have a deep ongoing involvement with the subject. Attempts to organize genealogists have met with mixed results. Our survey suggests that many genealogists are highly independent and still work outside the mainstream of organized genealogy. The survey indicated that 93 percent have never presented a program on genealogy and 87.2 percent have never written any work of a genealogical nature, including family histories, periodical articles, indexes, or transcriptions of genealogical materials. Nearly half (47.6 percent) belonged to no genealogical society, 32 percent belonged to one or two. In the year prior to the survey, 62.8 percent attended no special genealogical programs.

One would expect a decrease in the number of respondents falling into each category measuring degree of involvement in genealogy toward the upper end of each scale. However, it was found that the number of respondents in the highest category for these questions was higher than the number in the intermediate categories. This "tail"includes: the 7 percent who have given presentations at genealogical conferences, the 12.8 percent who have published genealogical material, the 8 percent who belong to six or more genealogical societies, the 8.8 percent who attended three or more genealogical programs in the last
year, and the 8 percent who have taught genealogy classes. This suggests there is a group, which seems to number about 10 percent of Newberry genealogy readers, who are extremely active in the field of genealogical research.
Our results on the average level of formal education were inconclusive. The respondent was to fill in the number of years of schooling completed. One-third of the surveys recorded figures between seventeen and twenty-two, which would mean the respondent had done one to six years of graduate work. While there are certainly people in the survey group who fall into this category, we think many people put down the age at which they left school, rather than the years of schooling they had completed. There is no way to determine from the surveys who did and did not answer the question correctly.

In order to get some sense of the minimum levels of education, a working assumption was made that all respondents reporting seventeen to twenty-two years of school were, in fact, reporting their age when they left school. Using this assumption, the values of seventeen to twenty-two were recoded—e.g., seventeen converted to eleven years of school, eighteen converted to twelve years of school. To the extent that there were people in the sample with some graduate education, the average amount of education indicated by this conservative interpretation of the data would be lower than is actually the case. Analysis of the recoded data shows that 26.6 percent of the respondents had college degrees, and another 31.4 percent had some college training. While Newberry genealogists may indeed have more schooling than this, it is probable that at least 58 percent of them have some college training.

Despite the emphasis in recent years on genealogical education, most genealogists using the Newberry are still self-taught. When asked to rate the importance of six methods of learning genealogical research techniques, 69.4 percent rated self-instruction as a very important means by which they learned genealogical research, and how-to-do-it books were rated very important by 25.5 percent. None of the other methods for learning genealogical research—from friends, a librarian, a class, or workshops—were rated very important by more than 20 percent of the respondents. Genealogy classes were considered to be of little or no importance to 69.1 percent of the respondents, and workshops or programs were of little or no importance to 63.8 percent of the respondents. This seems to indicate that education programs and classes have so far had little impact on genealogists. It is also clear that programs, classes and workshops are not of interest to all genealogists. When asked to indicate what kinds of programs would be of interest to them, 16 percent of the sample did not respond, probably indicating they were not interested in programs. The most popular subjects were those dealing with particular types of research sources (e.g., probate records, naturalizations, maps), which were of interest to 60.4 percent of those
Survey of Genealogists at The Newberry Library

surveyed, and programs on specific geographical areas of the United States, which were of interest to 53.6 percent. Of the respondents, 45 to 50 percent were interested in programs on research in foreign countries, history and historical background, and record keeping, computers, and publishing. Only 26 percent expressed interest in programs on ethnic, racial or religious groups. Programs, seminars and classes do serve an important educational function in genealogy, but they presently do not reach, or are not of interest to, many genealogists. They must be viewed as only one component in an educational process that might include such things as instructional books and articles and personal assistance offered to genealogists at institutions holding research materials.

The survey attempted to learn what types of institutions are most heavily used by genealogists, and respondents were asked to name the one institution they considered their primary resource for genealogical research. It appears to be very difficult for genealogists to single out one institution and suggests that they are very much aware that genealogical research draws on many different resources. The difficulty respondents had in naming a single institution as their primary resource is illustrated by the fact that 30.4 percent of them wrote down two or more institutions. In all, fifty-six different institutions were named as the primary resource for individuals' genealogical work. Survey respondents mentioned specific institutions 224 times, but only seven institutions were named three or more times. These were the Newberry, the National Archives and its branches, the Genealogical Department of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and its branch library system, the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne (Indiana), the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, the State Historical Society of Iowa, and the New England Historic Genealogical Society. While these are all first-rate institutions, this list does not necessarily represent the seven best or most popular genealogical repositories in the country; obviously the sample is biased toward the Newberry and other Midwestern institutions. The distribution of other types of institutions was fairly even. In addition to the National Archives and the Latter-day Saints Genealogical Department, eighteen public libraries were listed, sixteen historical societies, ten state libraries or archives, five colleges or universities, plus five miscellaneous institutions. Clearly genealogists do not confine their research to a single institution or type of institution.

All thorough genealogists know that genealogical research involves much more than simply visiting libraries. Much work is done outside libraries, for example, at county record offices, cemeteries and through relatives. Much of this research involves correspondence. The
genealogists who use the Newberry write a surprisingly high number of letters per year. Relatives are the most frequent recipients of genealogical correspondence; followed by government offices and agencies; libraries, archives and historical societies; and last by other researchers. Of those responding, 37 percent write more than ten letters to relatives, 28 percent write ten or more to government agencies, and 20 percent write more than ten to libraries, archives and historical societies. While letters are written to other researchers (nonrelatives), there is less of this type of correspondence; 56 percent write such letters less than three times each year. It is important to keep in mind that not only do genealogists tend to use several libraries in their research, but also that they use many other institutions and sources of information.

In many public libraries today, genealogists are still considered to be nuisances who make unreasonable and time-consuming demands on the staff. We wished to learn how extensive this purported use is, and whether or not people who used public libraries for genealogical purposes also used libraries for nongenealogical purposes. Nearly half of the respondents (47.2 percent) use public libraries for nongenealogical purposes monthly or more frequently. Only 9.2 percent reported they never use their public library for nongenealogical purposes. Compared with the results of a 1978 Gallup poll which indicated that "more than half of all Americans age 18 or over have visited a public library within the last year," the respondents to this survey used their public libraries far more than the national average. While one-third (33.7 percent) of the respondents used their public libraries for genealogical purposes monthly or more frequently, two-thirds (66.3 percent) used them for genealogical purposes ten times a year or less. If this is true of genealogists as a whole, librarians and public libraries should treat genealogical queries not as annoyances, but as one type of use of libraries by a group of people who also make heavy use of public libraries for other purposes.

**Genealogical Use of The Newberry Library**

The 536 surveys were sent to people in thirty-four states and Canada. States with eight or more representatives were Illinois (374), Indiana (27), Michigan (15), Iowa (14), Wisconsin (14), Missouri (10), Florida (9), and California (8). The Newberry Library staff was not surprised to learn that 52.8 percent of the library’s genealogy readers live within fifty miles of the library. This area encompasses Chicago and its suburbs, northwest Indiana and southeastern Wisconsin. Although we
Survey of Genealogists at The Newberry Library

know the Newberry enjoys a national reputation among genealogists and is conveniently located along several major travel routes, we were still surprised to learn of the large number of users who live a considerable distance from the library. Of the readers surveyed, 22.8 percent reported living over 300 miles away. Although they would certainly account for less than 22.8 percent of the reader days, we now definitely know that the Newberry does serve a national clientele.

Because staff members become acquainted with frequent users of the library, there is a tendency to think frequent users represent a larger portion of the total readership than they in fact do. Only 8.2 percent use the Newberry twice a month or more. Frequent readers—whom we define as those who use the Newberry five or more times a year—make up 23.3 percent of the total respondents; 46.9 percent use the library one to four times each year; and 29.8 percent had only used the Newberry once. For most Newberry readers, a trip to the library is not a regular activity.

In general, readers were satisfied with the reference services provided for them: 69.2 percent rated the service good or very good, 14.8 percent fair, 4.8 percent rated it poor, and 11.2 percent either did not know or did not answer. When a tally of written comments was made, compliments outweighed complaints five to one. Although frequent users represent less than one-quarter of Newberry genealogists, the staff wanted to know if their evaluation of reference services was different from those of infrequent users. Frequent users do appear to find the service at least satisfactory. None rated it poor, although slightly fewer (63.6 percent) rated it good or very good compared with the total sample. Infrequent users offered a more extreme range of opinions. Higher percentages of infrequent users rated the service both poor (6 percent) and good to very good (72.8 percent) than the total sample. This may indicate the wide range of experience found among infrequent users who can range from the very experienced out-of-town genealogist who only comes to Chicago once a year, to the complete novice who comes to the library totally unprepared.

The idea of supplementing reference service with a brief audiovisual introduction to genealogy at the Newberry was well received by genealogists: 82.4 percent thought first-time users would be likely to view such a presentation, and 90 percent indicated they would personally like to view such a presentation. There was even strong sentiment for requiring first-time library users to view the presentation, with 58.8 percent saying it should be required, and 22.4 percent saying it should not.
Mail and telephone reference are major activities of the Local and Family History staff, and genealogists' opinions of these services are of interest to us. We found that the overwhelming majority of Newberry genealogists had never written or telephoned us. Of the 17.6 percent of the respondents who had telephoned, 88.6 percent thought the response was good or very good. Of the 11.6 percent who had written, 79.3 percent rated the reply good or very good. While these figures are encouraging to the Local and Family History staff, the sample size was too small to make any conclusive statements.

Conclusion

For the majority of genealogists using The Newberry Library, genealogy is an avocation, although there is a core of very involved people working in the field. For the most part, genealogists are infrequent users of the Newberry but appear to be interested in learning to make better use of the facilities. Despite efforts to draw genealogists into organized activities, genealogists today are still highly independent. And although genealogists appear to be quite well educated, efforts to help them increase their knowledge of genealogy must take several forms.

After studying the survey results, the Local and Family History staff at the Newberry can see several areas that warrant attention. Although most readers expressed satisfaction with the reference service, more thought should be given to serving the needs of infrequent users. An audiovisual introduction would be very helpful in acquainting readers with the library and freeing reference staff to deal with more specific questions. In addition, we believe serious thought should be given to preparing a detailed, in-depth guide to the Local and Family History collection. This might even take the form of a publication which would be available to libraries and individuals. Genealogists could then begin their orientation before they come to the library. Such a work would be of use to both experienced and inexperienced genealogists, and frequent and infrequent readers. Many readers realize that they are not fully exploiting the collection, and information gleaned from such a guide would provide them with additional research possibilities.

Educational programs should continue at the Newberry, but we must be aware of the limited audience for adult education classes and special programs. We now do have a better idea of the program topics that most appeal to genealogists. Perhaps the most important thing we learned was that genealogists are a diverse lot and cannot be neatly
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described and packaged. Genealogy attracts all kinds of people with different degrees of interest and different needs. As librarians we need to resist the temptation to treat all genealogists as if they were cast from the same mold, and rather treat each of them as individuals.

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The Genealogical Library of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

DAVID M. MAYFIELD

Patrons of the Genealogical Library in Salt Lake City have a unique opportunity to identify and learn about their forefathers. Perhaps nowhere can they find greater evidence of family ties between this generation and preceding ones than in the library’s 1.25 million reels of microfilmed records from throughout the world—records that identify over a billion people, dating back several centuries from more than a hundred different countries. Providing resources and services that help strengthen these family ties is fundamental to the library’s purpose.

Members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (commonly called the Mormons, and hereafter referred to as the LDS Church) trace their ancestry as a solemn duty. The LDS Church funds, administers and operates the Genealogical Library to assist its members in accomplishing their genealogical research, to further the writing of personal and family histories, and to support a worldwide record-gathering and preservation program.

The tremendous upsurge of interest in genealogical and family history research during the past decade is evidenced by the library’s 1982 statistical report. Over a twelve month period approximately 565,000 patrons visited the main library. The staff responded to more than 44,000 letters, answered 70,000 telephone inquiries and filled 33,000 written requests for searches of the library’s genealogical indexes. Moreover, the main library circulated 229,000 reels of microfilm to its branch libraries, which in turn accommodated an additional 700,000

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patron visits. The library has made significant strides in expanding its collections, upgrading its staff and developing major new computer systems to meet the growing needs of the LDS Church and the genealogical community as a whole.

This paper provides a description of the collections, research tools, services, special uses, and future plans of the Genealogical Library and its branches. For the interested reader, a brief explanation of why Mormons do genealogical research is also given.

Historical Background

The Genealogical Library was established in November 1894 as part of the Genealogical Society of Utah. It began with just over 300 books, obtained mostly from the personal collection of the society's first president, Franklin D. Richards. The purchase of additional books depended upon membership fees and donations, which initially were slow in coming. Nevertheless, by the end of 1919 the library had acquired over 5000 volumes, including a large shipment of books that agents of the society had been accumulating in England during World War I. Since most LDS Church members of that time traced their ancestry into the British Isles and Europe, a concerted effort was made to obtain published materials from those areas. By the end of 1937, the library contained over 19,000 books, including several thousand volumes from Scandinavia, Germany and Great Britain.

Despite this impressive growth, the expanding book collections were not adequate to enable the society to meet its objectives. A means was needed to provide members with convenient access to genealogical source documents from throughout the world. A solution emerged with the improvements made in microphotography in the 1930s. The new technology made it possible for the society to obtain copies of records while leaving the originals in the possession of their owners. Prospects for facilitating genealogical research were enormous. When the society began microfilming early LDS Church records in 1938, it entered a new era. World War II temporarily slowed filming, but it also increased the demand for microfilm technology, thus spurring the improvement and availability of microfilm equipment and supplies.\textsuperscript{1} In 1946 society representatives began negotiating for filming projects in historical societies, archives and libraries throughout the eastern states. A year later the negotiations were extended into the British Isles and Europe. By the end of the decade, the library had acquired more than 50,000 reels of microfilm. Thirty years later that number grew to over a million.
Collection Development Guidelines

The Genealogical Library microfilms and preserves records that uniquely identify individuals and their family relationships. In general, an attempt is made to acquire at least one source for each country and time period identifying the greatest proportion of the historical population. Additional sources are acquired to fill in major gaps. Rights of privacy generally limit microfilming to records of deceased persons. The cutoff date for most projects is about 1900.

The criteria used in selecting records include the suitability of the records source for ancestral research (constructing pedigrees); the extent to which the records source covers the historical population; the accuracy and authenticity of the records source; the rate of duplication of information within the records source; and confidentiality or other legal restrictions placed upon the records.

Several steps are involved in selecting the specific records to microfilm. Field operations personnel first conduct preliminary surveys in a country to determine the existence, location and availability of records meeting the above criteria. Next, they negotiate with the record holders for permission to microfilm or purchase copies of the selected materials. After obtaining approval, they prepare annotated lists of the documents and collections which are compared against the library's catalog to avoid duplication. Finally, camera operators are assigned to the approved area based on available budget and current priorities.

In return for permission to microfilm records, participating archives may obtain at cost a positive copy of all materials microfilmed. These copies are often used by them so that the original documents can be protected from damage or loss. The Genealogical Library stores a master copy of the microfilm and provides subsequent copies at cost when the donor's copy is lost or destroyed.

Breadth of the Microfilm Collections

British Isles and Europe

Large-scale microfilming of British and European records began in the mid-1940s. To date over 573,000 reels, or nearly half the library's total microfilm collection, have been obtained from this area.

The library's major sources from the British Isles and Europe for the nineteenth century include civil registration of vital events, censuses, emigration-immigration records, and passenger lists. For the
seventeenth and eighteenth centuries the primary source is the ecclesiastical registers, containing entries of baptisms, marriages and burials. Other sources dating back to as early as the thirteenth century include citizen registers, tax lists, wills, guild registers, contract books, legal records, notarial and court registers, various forms of land records, academic matriculation lists, and military records. In isolated cases the library has acquired edited collections of sources dating as early as the tenth century. Camera operators presently assigned to the British Isles and Europe produce nearly 17,000 reels of additional records each year.

United States and Canada

The North American collection comprises 390,000 reels or about 33 percent of the library's total microfilm collection. Filming has been most extensive in the states east of the Mississippi River, with particular emphasis on those which attained statehood before 1815. Due to the separation of church and state, there is no single genealogical source for the United States prior to 1850 that covers a large percentage of the total population. Hence the library's holdings are composed of a variety of record types, including federal and state censuses, land records—deeds, mortgages, and tax records; church records from many different denominations; probate records, especially for the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries; municipal and county records; cemetery records; and naturalization papers from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The library has also acquired some atypical records, such as its present collection of personal diaries from Kentucky archives and Department of Defense records (invaluable for studying the Revolutionary War) from the New Jersey State Library. Camera operators presently assigned to the United States and Canada produce nearly 5500 reels of additional records each year.

Latin America

Microfilming of Latin American records began in Mexico in 1958. Presently, the collection includes 172,000 reels, two-thirds of which are from Mexico. The documents most represented are the parish registers, which list baptisms, marriages, burials, and, in some instances, confirmations. Most also indicate where the individuals lived. Second in volume to parish registers are civil records, most of which, however, did not begin until the 1860s. Other materials of interest include land- and water-rights records dating back to the sixteenth century; wills and estate records; and for Mexico, a collection of inquisition records. Camera operators presently assigned to Latin America produce about 2500 reels of additional records each year.
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Asia and the Pacific Area

Microfilming in the Far East and Pacific areas began quite recently. The library's 30,100 reels from that area comprise only 3 percent of the total holdings, but they represent one of the most significant collections of its type in the Western world.

Filming in Japan began in 1967. It includes selected household registers (from 1872-1901), death registers dating back as far as the thirteenth century, census-surveillance records from the seventeenth through the nineteenth centuries, and compiled family sources.

In 1971 the library began acquiring microfilm copies of Chinese records from several of the world's leading East Asian collections—e.g., the Harvard-Yenching Library in Boston, the National Diet Library in Tokyo, Fung Ping Shan Library in Hong Kong, and the Central National Library in Seoul, Korea. Most of the microfilmed genealogies are printed books, averaging ten volumes per title. A genealogy listing the descendants of Confucius is the largest in the collection, containing some 150 volumes. It includes families of nearly every province of China.

Among the library's other notable records from the Far East are the Korean and Chinese civil service examination registers, covering a period of over 400 years; Indonesian records, dating back to as early as the sixteenth century; and oral genealogies that trace families into the twelfth or thirteenth centuries from selected South Pacific islands. Camera operators presently assigned to the Asian and Pacific areas produce approximately 1500 reels of additional records each year.

Other Major Source Materials

Secondary Sources

While not as prominent as microfilmed source documents, the library's more than 155,000 books and other published items are significant support materials. Of particular interest are the vast holdings of family and local histories, collected biographies, genealogical periodicals, handbooks and manuals, inventories, census indexes, cemetery inscriptions, oral history tapes, language dictionaries, and a variety of other reference sources including a large selection of maps, atlases and gazetteers. The library's published materials include many rare and hard-to-find books, particularly notable in their international scope. These materials are not only helpful as research aids but also as tools for interpreting the microfilm collections.
Family Group Records Collection

The Family Group Records Collection contains more than 8 million family reconstitution sheets, compiled over the past fifty years by members of the LDS Church and other library patrons from throughout the world. Each family group record form contains information on three generations. The forms are filed alphabetically by the husband's name.

The collection is helpful as a starting point for genealogical research, because it frequently enables the beginning researcher to tie into work already done on his ancestral line. Inasmuch as most family group record forms include the name and address of the compiler, it is sometimes possible to contact other individuals doing research on the same pedigree problem. However, the Family Group Records Collection does have limitations. The records have not been verified by the Genealogical Library staff and many are known to be inaccurate and incomplete.

Records Storage and Preservation

By the late 1950s when the Genealogical Library’s microfilm collection approached 200,000 reels, there was a pressing need to construct a permanent storage facility for master negative copies of the microfilm. The Granite Mountain Records Vault, near Salt Lake City, was built to meet that need. The protection this facility affords against both natural and man-made disasters cannot easily be surpassed. Seven hundred feet of solid granite cover six huge vault storage rooms. The total vault capacity of approximately 5.3 million 100-foot rolls of 35 mm microfilm can be expanded if necessary through further excavation.

The natural temperature in the storage areas is fifty-seven to fifty-eight degrees Fahrenheit year round, regardless of conditions outside the mountain. The natural humidity is maintained at between 40 and 50 percent. These conditions are ideal for microfilm storage. Protection of master negative copies of the microfilm is not only of importance to the Genealogical Library; archivists from around the world who have made their records available for microfilming are assured their records are safe and readily available when needed.

International Genealogical Index

One of the most valuable sources of genealogical data is the computerized International Genealogical Index (IGI). The 1981 edition of the
IGI includes more than 68 million names extracted from selected records of births/christenings, marriages and other vital sources from over ninety countries. Through methodical use of the IGI, it may be possible to compile a pedigree for several generations. The index contains names of deceased persons only, dating back as far as the early 1500s.

The IGI is arranged by geographic locality of the event extracted (e.g., birth, christening or marriage) and then alphabetically by surname. The information given on each entry varies, depending on the type of record indexed, but generally includes: (1) the surname and up to two given names, (2) names of either the parents or spouse, (3) type of the event, (4) date of the event, (5) a reference number that can be traced to the original source used for input, and (6) LDS Church ordinance data. For filing purposes and to facilitate genealogical research, some surnames can be accessed both by actual and standardized spellings.

The IGI is published on microfiche at a reduction of 48X. Each IGI microfiche contains 357 pages of up to sixty-two names each, or a total of over 22,000 names. The IGI is updated and reprinted periodically. Currently it is growing at a rate of about 7 million names per year, but plans are also being made to convert to the IGI an existing manual index of 30 million names, and to extract an additional 50 million names from the 1880 U.S. census records.

Users of the IGI should also be aware of its limitations. The information has been extracted or provided by lay members and volunteers of varying research backgrounds and skills. Some data has been inadvertently omitted or incorrectly transcribed. In other cases, the transcriptions were correct but the sources contained inaccurate data. When using the IGI it is always wise to verify the information by checking the original sources and other available records. The IGI is available for searching at the main library in Salt Lake City and at most of its branches.

Genealogical Library Catalog

The Genealogical Library began converting its card catalog to an automated system in January 1979. The new system is designed to encompass and eventually integrate all major library functions (acquisitions, serials control, cataloging, circulation, and public access). The automated system was developed in-house to meet the unique needs of genealogical researchers.

Because most of the records acquired by the Genealogical Library
are manuscript in nature and list vital events over various time periods, much of the catalog descriptions require detailed content notes. The average record length of a given catalog entry is nearly 2500 characters. The detailed descriptions will reduce disappointment and expense of researchers who request microfilm circulation in branch libraries, by enabling them more precisely to select the records they need.

The Genealogical Library Catalog (GLC) is printed on microfiche for efficient and inexpensive distribution to branch libraries and other repositories requesting copies. The microfiche appear in four sections: (1) author/title, (2) locality, (3) surname, and (4) subject. This arrangement has eliminated much of the former complexity of using the dictionary card catalog. Genealogists generally look for source material first by the locality of a vital event in their ancestors’ lives. Hence the locality section of the microfiche is the most heavily used. It is arranged by indirect locality headings—i.e., first by country or state, then by county, then by city or town—and finally by type of record or subject. Each entry provides a detailed description of the record, designates the format—e.g., microfilm, book, map—and specifies the location of each item.

The process of converting the manual card catalog is not simply a matter of entering the previous descriptions into machine-readable form. In order to bring the entire catalog up to current national standards, nearly 50 percent of the previous entries must be completely recataloged. That involves actually reexamining the microfilm or hard copy of the source material. Moreover, the remaining 50 percent is being reformatted or otherwise modified to accommodate AACR2 provisions. The result is more detailed, better quality and more accurate catalog entries. This not only improves the researchers’ chances of finding what they need, it also saves them a considerable amount of time. Editing capabilities are also built into the system to minimize introducing human inaccuracies into the new catalog.

The computer-generated Genealogical Library Catalog has many unique features. For example, it is designed to eventually become a union listing, not only of the library’s holdings, but also of significant genealogical sources in other institutions. This will aid users in proximity to these institutions and others who may wish to write for assistance. The system provides online, interactive authority control for authors, uniform titles, series titles, localities, surnames, and other subject headings, including selected subheadings in sixteen different languages. The system also carries descriptions and subject headings of non-English records (Roman alphabets only) in the language of the
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country of origin. This enables branch library users in foreign countries readily to identify and use their own records. Concurrently, as an aid to all English-language patrons, the system automatically generates English subject headings, and adds English content notes to the entries for foreign language records.

Research Papers and Other Finding Aids

In addition to the catalog and the IGI, the library prepares various written aids to help its users understand genealogical research methods and sources. Nearly 500 different items are now available. This material includes:

Reference Aids

These are typescript items designed to help patrons use the main library more effectively. They include indexes and registers of call numbers, and vary in length from one to approximately one hundred pages. Examples of reference aids are the "1801 Census Index of Norway" and the "Listing of Irish Non-Catholic Parish Registers."

Research Outlines

These are not more than six pages and are used to help patrons in the library and to answer a broad range of inquiries through correspondence. Examples of research outlines are "Outline for Genealogical Research in New Jersey" and "Outline for Jewish Genealogical Research."

Genealogical Research Papers

These are larger published items of between twelve and fifty pages. Most of the papers are designed to help patrons do genealogical research in a particular geographic area. Examples are Records of Genealogical Value for Poland and Major Genealogical Record Sources in Mexico. Other research papers describe the records of a particular province or county within a country, explain a particular type of record, present maps of a particular area, or treat genealogically-related subjects, such as paleography, migration, history, naming customs, and boundary changes. Examples of these papers are The Church Records of Germany, County Formations and Minor Civil Divisions of the State of New York, and Basic Portuguese Paleography.

These written aids enable patrons to use the resources of the library more effectively, reduce the demand for direct reference service, relieve the need for detailed instructions in answering correspondence, and
provide a medium for sharing the knowledge of the Genealogical Library staff with a wide audience. The library's research publications coordinating committee determines needs and priorities for new research papers, submits recommendations to appropriate management, and monitors production of the papers to ensure they are as brief as practical, are written in clear, crisp language, and are readily understandable to the general public.

**Ancestral File**

The Genealogical Library is developing a computerized system known as the Ancestral File. Its purposes are to record the known genealogies of mankind, reduce duplicate genealogical research, provide new users with a starting point for their research by showing them what has already been done on their ancestral lines, and establish a registry of family organizations to help users coordinate their research with one another.

The file will be lineage-linked; that is, it will include a pointer system that refers an individual's record to the records of his parents, siblings, spouse, former spouses, and children. The user will be able to locate an ancestor's record in the file by name and other identifiers. Once found, all the genealogical data will be listed as one entry. The user will be able to trace the ascent or descent of that ancestor insofar as either is registered in the file and privacy regulations permit. Some of the expected computer outputs of the system will be pedigree charts, family group record forms, indexes to the main file, and ad hoc searches on varying parameters. Presently, the Ancestral File computer system is only in the design phase. It will be developed over several years.

**Reference and Correspondence Services**

The main library occupies the west wing of the LDS Church Office Building in Salt Lake City. It is open seventy-one hours each week, Mondays through Saturdays. The present facility seats approximately 900 people, provides 550 microform readers and offers reference assistance on three floors. The library's collections and reference services are arranged by areas of geographic specialty: United States and Canada, British Isles, Europe, Scandinavia, Latin America, and Asia/Africa/Oceania. Specialists are available to assist patrons with languages, history, paleography, and unique genealogical research problems of each area.
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The library's correspondence sections are also organized geographically. One unit answers correspondence from the eastern hemisphere and another from the western hemisphere. A third unit answers letters pertaining to LDS Church records and the Ancestral File. Because of the thousands of letters received each month, the staff is not in a position to provide a research service. Nevertheless, they assist patrons by providing pertinent research aids and suggesting sources that should be searched for genealogical information in a specific area.

The library also offers at no charge a large selection of classes covering various aspects of genealogical research and use of the library. During a given month for example, the library may hold classes on "Tracing French Huguenot Ancestors," "Ohio Genealogical Sources," "U.S. Immigration Records," "Beginning Polish Research," "Old English Handwriting," "Using the Genealogical Library Catalog," and a dozen other topics. An average of twenty patrons attends each class. This enables the staff to be more efficient and thorough in meeting reference needs of individual library users.

Expertise of the Staff

The breadth and quality of the library's services are largely a reflection of the specialized training and commitment of the staff. There are 210 employees, 40 full-time volunteers, and nearly 300 part-time volunteers. The staff includes a cross section of professionals in library science, genealogical research, languages, family and local history, and archives administration. Over half are college graduates and nearly one-fourth hold advanced degrees. Forty-eight are accredited genealogists, representing twenty broad areas of geographic specialization. In order to catalog and provide consultation on records from more than a hundred foreign countries, the staff also has proficiency in thirty-two languages, ranging from Afrikaans and Arabic to Tongan and Tagalog.

Because new librarians do not generally bring with them the specialized skills and genealogical experience required for professional-level service, the library administers a certification program for its reference consultants, correspondence specialists, and catalogers. In-depth training for certification is offered on the job and usually takes between six months and a year beyond the M.A. or M.L.S. The library is also willing to provide limited training to selected staff members from other institutions who wish to enhance their genealogical reference skills.
Accreditation Program

As a public service, the Genealogical Library also administers an accreditation program for professional genealogists. Candidates for accreditation must have at least 1000 hours of genealogical research experience with the records of a given geographical area, demonstrate a working knowledge of the paleography and language of those records, sign an agreement that they are willing to adhere to specified ethical standards of research, and pass both written and oral examinations pertaining to their areas of specialization.

Accreditation examinations are offered for specific regions of the United States, Canada and Latin America, and individual countries in Africa, the British Isles, continental Europe, the Pacific area, and Scandinavia. Accreditation is not limited to members of the LDS Church, nor is any fee assessed to those who wish to become accredited. Candidates who successfully meet the requirements are permitted to use the initials A.G. (Accredited Genealogist) after their names.

The accreditation program assists patrons who wish to hire a qualified genealogist to do their research. A list of the accredited genealogists, arranged by geographical area of specialization and updated quarterly, is furnished to all persons requesting genealogical assistance. The library staff, however, does not make specific recommendations or endorsement regarding the qualifications of any given accredited genealogist. Moreover, the library is not responsible for the accredited genealogist’s performance or for transactions between these genealogists and their clients.

Branch Genealogical Libraries

The Branch Genealogical Library System (BGL) was established to make available the research holdings of the main library in Salt Lake City to LDS Church members throughout the world. More than 400 branch libraries are distributed widely throughout the United States and a dozen foreign countries. Generally they are located in LDS Church meetinghouses, although some are in separate buildings. Each branch library receives a copy of the computer-produced Genealogical Library Catalog, the International Genealogical Index, a basic reference collection on microfilm, and other selected sources on microfiche.

A branch genealogical library may be established in any LDS stake (a large ecclesiastical jurisdiction composed of about seven local congregations) at the request of its priesthood leaders. The request involves a fairly strong commitment from local church members because they
must administer and operate the facility. Branch library staff members
are asked to serve without pay. Generally two staff members are expected
to be on duty during library hours. A total of about ten staff members is
normally needed. The library should be open a sufficient number of
hours and at appropriate times to allow patrons to view microfilm from
the main library during the prescribed loan period. A new facility is
couraged to have four microfilm readers, two microfiche readers, a
microfilm storage cabinet that will hold about 1000 rolls, and other
minor equipment.

While branch libraries are administered and operated locally, the
main library in Salt Lake City provides considerable support, including
recommended standards and procedures, operating manuals, training
to staff members through development and distribution of instructional
materials and technical information, and efficient access to the main
library’s major bibliographic tools, reference aids, and microfilm col-
lections. Steps are being taken to strengthen branch libraries by making
available for circulation more of the main library’s research materials.
For example, in 1982 the 1880 and 1900 U.S. censuses and soundexes
were added to the circulation collection. Moreover, plans are underway
to make available to the branch libraries on microfiche thousands of the
main library’s most heavily used books—e.g., census indexes, registers,
research papers, and gazetteers.

By consulting the Genealogical Library Catalog, patrons are able
to select records from the main library’s circulation collection that may
be helpful for their research. The patron completes a Microfilm Request
Form and pays a moderate loan fee to cover part of the circulation costs.
Both two-week and six-month loans are available. When the film
arrives, the patron is notified either by telephone or postcard. After the
loan period, the film is returned to Salt Lake City (or a microfilm
ordering center in foreign countries) for circulation to other branch
libraries. The main library’s circulation collection consists of over
285,000 rolls of film, about 40 percent of which are duplicates. During
1983 it is projected the main library will circulate to the branches
267,000 rolls of film.

The use of branch libraries is not limited to LDS Church members.
Nonmembers are welcome insofar as space is available. Of the more
than 700,000 patron visits to branch libraries last year, about half were
from nonmembers.
Center for Historical Population Studies

In 1977 the University of Utah established The Center for Historical Population Studies to facilitate scholarly use of the Genealogical Library's collections. The center concentrates its efforts on preparing and publishing finding aids, promoting specific research projects, and sponsoring seminars, colloquia and conferences.

The center's finding aids series is designed to provide scholars with more detailed information than they would normally find in the library's catalog on issues such as demography, migration, mortality, aging, changing family structure, and other historical, social and medical concerns. Registers have been prepared outlining the library's holdings from England, France, Guatemala, Germany, Mexico, New Hampshire, and New York state. Plans are also being made to prepare registers for other national and regional areas. In addition, the center publishes a newsletter, alerting scholars to new acquisitions as they become available and listing projects underway that use the Genealogical Library's collections.

The center's activities have contributed to research on such diverse topics as the influence of English, Scottish, Welsh, and Irish courts upon the extensive judicial reforms of the early nineteenth century, the causes and consequences of changing mortality rates in North America between 1650 and 1910, and the role of women in Mexican society from approximately 1650 to 1810.

Utah Resource for Genetic and Epidemiologic Research

Investigators at the University of Utah's College of Medicine have established a computer resource to study inherited diseases among Utah descendants of early Mormon pioneers. In 1975 they obtained funding from the National Institutes of Health to computerize more than 170,000 family group records. Each record listed at least one person who was born or died in Utah along the pioneer trail. The medical researchers have combined basic genealogical data with significant sources of medical information, including death certificates and records from the Utah Cancer Registry. With the combined information, the computer can identify families in which certain diseases seem to cluster.

In 1982 the governor of Utah created the Utah Resource for Genetic and Epidemiologic Research (RGE) to formalize the resource, merge it with the Department of Health, and bring it under the protection of
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state laws on data privacy and confidentiality. The resource is contributing to a greater understanding of coronary heart disease, various forms of cancer, hemochromatosis, strokes, and other medical problems.

World Conference on Records

In 1969 and again in 1980 the Genealogical Library helped sponsor the World Conference on Records in Salt Lake City. The theme of the 1969 conference was "Records Preservation in an Uncertain World." International specialists in the areas of genealogy and records preservation delivered papers on various aspects of this theme as they pertained to individual countries. The 1980 conference theme was "Preserving Our Heritage." This conference attracted more than 11,500 participants, including 240 speakers, numerous international guests, and students of family history, genealogy, demography, and related disciplines with a broad continuum of expertise. Genealogical Library staff members assisted in all phases of planning and conducting these conferences, as well as in lecturing, hosting and providing resource materials. The published proceedings of both conferences are available in hard copy and on microfilm.

Why Mormons do Genealogical Research

Mormons believe that man is eternal; that is, life did not begin at birth nor does it end at death. They believe everyone existed prior to earth life as spirit beings, individuals who lived as children of God in a premortal society. As part of earth life they obtain a mortal body, join a family and lose recollection of their previous existence. This life is a test, a probationary state, to determine the extent to which they will obey God by faith. When their mortal bodies die, they enter the spirit world where they continue associations begun during earth life and await the resurrection and final judgment.

Mormons also believe that the fullness of the gospel of Jesus Christ, which affords man the opportunity for eternal progression and the greatest happiness, was restored to the earth through a modern-day prophet. Mormons share the restored gospel with others through a worldwide missionary program. Moreover, they believe that the fullness of the gospel is also presently being taught in the spirit world to everyone who has lived on earth. Hence all mankind will have the opportunity to accept or reject the gospel.

Mormons further believe that the family unit can continue into the
eternities, not to be dissolved at death, but to endure forever—provided that certain sacred ordinances are performed in temples of the Church. Couples married in Mormon temples are sealed eternally as husband and wife by authority of the priesthood of God. Their children also become part of this eternal family unit. Of course the efficacy of the sealing is predicated on individual righteousness. The sealing of families is to be extended back as far as they can be traced, generation upon generation. Mormons explain that since the gospel and sealing authority were not restored until the nineteenth century, most people have not had the opportunity in this life to take part in these temple ordinances. They believe they have a divine injunction to do this ordinance work by proxy in the temples in behalf of their kindred dead, thereby enabling them to obtain the same blessings as those who accept the gospel during this life.

It should be noted, Mormons believe that those deceased ancestors for whom vicarious temple ordinances are performed are in no way bound in the spirit world to accept the gospel or the family sealing ordinances. As in earth life, each has his or her free agency to accept or reject these opportunities.

In order to accurately and fully identify their ancestors so that this vicarious work can be accomplished, Mormons undertake genealogical research in the libraries established by the Church for that purpose. They also invite all people of good will, regardless of their religious persuasion, race or creed to use these facilities for their own ancestral research.

Prospects for the Future

There is tremendous excitement at the Genealogical Library regarding prospects for expanded and improved services. Construction is underway on a new 136,000 square foot library building on the block west of Temple Square in Salt Lake City. The estimated completion date is early 1985. The new building will have five floors initially and sufficient structural capacity to accommodate three more, when needed. Moreover, a 6000 square foot underground storage facility adjacent to the new building will house high density, mobile storage shelves for lesser-used microfilm and the growing book collections.

The new building will well meet a number of critical environmental needs. Humidity control and specially equipped lighting fixtures will prolong the life of the library's collections. Heat and smoke sensors, electronic detection equipment, and a twenty-four-hour-a-day central
security system will provide excellent protection for both the facilities and patrons. Importantly, the building will also accommodate future developments in technology. An in-floor electrical distribution system, for example, will allow for easy placement and movement of telephones, computer terminals, printers, and other electronic equipment anywhere in the building.

The Genealogical Library has also embarked on a challenging long-range plan designed to stimulate interest in and accelerate the pace of effective genealogical research. The plan includes several computer development projects such as those previously mentioned, improved distribution access to the main library's services and holdings, and an aggressive collection development program. Steps are being taken to enhance instructional services for library patrons through video disk presentations and satellite transmission to selected LDS Church meetinghouse facilities.

Rapid technological change and a strong institutional commitment offer the Genealogical Library unparalleled opportunities to better meet the needs of its user community. The library's aim is to provide genealogists and family historians with the most complete and easily accessible research tools available anywhere.

References

The New England Historic Genealogical Society

RALPH J. CRANDALL

THE NEW ENGLAND Historic Genealogical Society was founded in 1845 for the purpose of "collecting, preserving, and...publishing genealogical and historic materials relating to New England families...." Its formation can be explained as a cultural response to a changing New England population and society. The outmigration of Yankee sons, massive influx of Irish, and rapid emergence of industrial centers seemed to foreshadow the disintegration of the old order and ways in New England. Preservation became a cherished ideal. Ancient towns and families, then numbering seven and eight generations in America, were to be remembered as they had existed in the preindustrial past. Such a conservative mentality generated a great outpouring of New England genealogies and local histories in the nineteenth century.

Guided by this mentality for the first 100 years of its existence, the society has, in recent years, enlarged its vision. Now identified as "A National Center for Family and Local History," it intends to serve the genealogical interests of anyone with New England ancestry, regardless of national origin or time of arrival in America.

The Membership

For many years available by invitation only, society membership is now open to anyone who shares its interest. Membership fees range

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from $10 for students to $300 for patrons; most join as “individual members” at a cost of $40 annually.

Membership entitles one to access to the main research library at the New England Historic Genealogical Society House at 101 Newbury Street, Boston, Massachusetts; a subscription (not included in the reduced student rate) to the New England Historical and Genealogical Register, the oldest continuously published quarterly journal in America; free research assistance from the reference librarians (and for a fee, extensive assistance from the Director of Research); use of the 40,000 volume lending library, from which members may request and receive up to three books by mail for one-month use; attendance at Society lectures; and a discount on Society publications.

Membership has increased steadily during the past decade, growing from 3500 in the early seventies to more than 6000 today. This increase can be attributed in large part to the burgeoning interest in genealogy and local history generated by the Bicentennial celebrations and the popularizing of family history by Alex Haley’s bestseller Roots. A majority of the Society members are middle-aged (forty-five years or older); female—about 55 percent well educated (high school graduate or higher); and white collar. More than half live outside New England (mid-Atlantic, 12 percent; Southeast 10 percent; Midwest, 14 percent; Southwest, 5 percent; West, 18 percent; Canadian and foreign, 2 percent). Whether residing outside or within New England, a majority have Yankee ancestry.

During the last five years, the society has served 15,000 individuals annually in its main library and has processed 10,000 book requests yearly through its lending library. Many members are engaged in traditional colonial New England genealogical and local history research. They wish to discover where their families originated in Europe (usually the British Isles), what life in colonial New England was like and where else early ancestors may have lived in the original thirteen English colonies. Some hope to locate family connections in Canada, or to trace more recent generations as they migrated westward to New York, Ohio, Michigan, or California.

As a result of genealogical interests generated by Roots, the society has gained many members in search of ethnic family origins. These recent members have found a growing number of published and primary resources in the library which have helped them to identify their immigrant ancestors in New England.
The Research Library

The research library numbers more than 300,000 volumes and divides into three major subject categories: genealogy, local history and related reference works. The genealogical collections include approximately 100,000 titles and contain much unpublished genealogical work not available elsewhere. Certainly of unparalleled strength for New England families, it also ranks among the four or five best collections in the United States for American families in general. Similarly, it has an outstanding collection of New England local history including town, county and state histories; institutional histories; collections of vital, probate and land records; court and town meeting records; military records; and the works of local historical societies. In addition to New England genealogy and local history, the library has major holdings in English local history and genealogy, the Canadian Maritimes, and other regions in the United States with significant populations of transplanted New Englanders. Finally, over the years the society has collected a group of useful reference works designed specifically for the genealogist and local historian. It includes valuable specialized regional bibliographies such as John D. Haskell’s *Massachusetts, A Bibliography of its History*, a how-to work such as Timothy Field Beard’s *How to Find Your Family Roots*, and numerous biographical compendia—e.g., *The Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy*, Sibley’s *Harvard Graduates*, and many other types of reference materials.

A recent acquisition by the Society is the International Genealogical Index (IGI). Compiled by the Genealogical Society of the Mormon Church in Salt Lake City, this microfiche contains vital records for about 68 million people from around the world.

In brief, a researcher might expect to find in the library the following types of publications:

—basic reference works in genealogy and local history;
—family histories and genealogies;
—local histories, including the state, county, and local levels;
—vital records, church records, town records, probate records, and gravestone inscriptions;
—U.S. Census materials for Massachusetts and Maine for 1795 to 1850, with indexes for other states available;
—military records including the colonial wars; the Revolution; the War of 1812; and the Civil War;
—major genealogical journals for the United States with selected
examples from Canada, Australia, Great Britain, and Europe; selected family journals; family association newsletters; and ethnic and hereditary societies' publications;
—The Boston Transcript to 1912 (on microfilm) and local newspaper indexes;
—three specialized resources: New England Marriages Before 1700, The U.S. Direct Tax Census for Maine and Massachusetts for 1798, and The Greenlaw Index of the New England Historic Genealogical Society; and
—significant collections of city directories and college class-books.

Today the library is utilized most frequently by the individual doing basic genealogical research on colonial or nineteenth-century New England families. This may be a person engaged in personal family research, an independent professional genealogist working for a client, someone employed by a genealogical research service, such as Yankee Genealogical Service, or a college student assigned the task of writing a generational analysis of his or her family. The Society also serves a steady stream of persons preparing town or regional studies for their communities. Often these antiquarian scholars are funded by their local historical commissions. Academic scholars are also attracted to the library, especially since the emergence during the past twenty years of the “new social history.” Their work utilizes the genealogical holdings as a basis for writing analytical community and family history studies.

The Lending Library

Because so many of its members live a great distance from Boston, the society, very early in its history, instituted a book loan service. Duplicate copies of titles in the main research library are circulated by the mail book loan department at a nominal fee and a maximum of three titles may be borrowed during any one month. Numbering nearly 30,000 volumes, the lending library includes representative holdings from each of the major collection areas in the permanent library. Pre-1840 imprints and manuscripts do not circulate. A published four-volume Catalogue to the Circulating Collection, along with annual supplements, provides information for ordering books. The book loan librarian and staff process more than 1000 volumes per month and offer a unique service by making works available to researchers that are often impossible to obtain through other interlibrary loan systems.
The Manuscript Department

The Society received its first gift of manuscripts, some Revolutionary War muster rolls, on 15 April 1845. Since then, the collection has been enriched by many gifts and deposits and is now the repository of 5100 linear feet of New England related genealogical and historical papers.

In the late 1970s, the Manuscript Department, with the help of a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, began a program devoted to greater bibliographic control of its holdings. Formal inventories are prepared as each collection is processed, and holdings are now reported for entry in the National Union Catalogue of Manuscript Collections. In addition, special collections are selected for microfilming for wider dissemination.

The greater variety of materials and collections housed in the Manuscript Department include:

1. genealogical papers, as varied as those of Walter Corbin's transcripts of vital records and epitaphial information; Winifred Lovering Holman's studies of 1200 early New England families; Clarence Amon Torrey's massive twelve-volume index of seventeenth century “New England marriages”; Fred E. Crowell's study of “New England marriages in Nova Scotia”;
2. archives of organizations including the Old South Meetinghouse Association Archives, Trinity Church Archives from 1728, and Scot's Charitable Society Archives from the seventeenth century;
3. personal papers from the seventeenth century to the present reflecting personalities and professions as diverse as Coert du Boise, a forester, soldier and diplomat, and Thomas F. Fayerweather, a merchant;
4. family papers from the seventeenth century to the present with major papers including those of the Hayward and Quincy families;
5. business papers, such as the important eighteenth-century Hancock collection; and
6. manuscripts that range from the seventeenth century, including a 1798 census, literary works, diaries, autographs, marine records, bible records, charts, gravestone inscriptions, town records, and unpublished local histories.

Rare Book Collection

All pre-1840 imprints are classified by the society as rare books and are housed separately from the main library holdings. Certain areas of
the rare book collection are notable for their completeness. These include:

1. New England general history, biography, local history, and gazetteers;
2. published sermons which reflect the early religious history of New England;
3. basic sources of American religious and political history in their original editions;
4. Gentleman's Magazine, one of the first magazines in the English language (this collection, consisting of almost two hundred copies, covers the years 1700-1800);
5. English county histories;
6. English and continental heraldry and genealogy; and
7. an almanac collection, beginning in 1735, which is one of the largest in New England.
8. Recently the Society was given one of the largest private libraries in the country—that of John Hutchinson Cook of Bordentown, New Jersey. This magnificent gift, probably the largest in the Society's history, consists of 10,000 books on British and Continental nobility and gentry.

"The Catalogue of the Rare Book Collection" is in the reading room, where requests for materials may be made. Use of rare books is reserved for members.

Publications

The publications of the society have long been known for their high standard of quality. The New England Historical and Genealogical Register, the quarterly journal of the society, first published in January 1847, is the oldest continuously published historical journal of its kind in the United States. Genealogists and those interested in New England history find a wealth of information within its pages. Featured in the journal are genealogies of families which originated in New England, narrative accounts of New England subjects, book reviews, listings of recently received books, and genealogical inquiries. Contributors include leading authorities in the fields of New England studies and genealogy. Monograph publications by the editorial office include genealogies, source books, local histories, military records, and reference works, with some reprints. The office publishes from three to eight works annually. Collaborative works with other institutions include
such major efforts as the multi-volume series on the French and Indian Wars, published in conjunction with the Society of Colonial Wars in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Recent publications by the society include:

1. microfilm edition of Torrey's work on New England Marriages (seven reels—a printed version is underway by the Genealogical Publishing Company);
2. Walter E. Corbin Collection of vital and other records for central and western Massachusetts (fifty-five reels);
3. the "1798 Maine and Massachusetts Direct Tax" (eighteen reels);
4. Fred E. Crowell's "New Englanders in Nova Scotia" (one reel);
5. The Pedigree of Fletcher Garrison Hall;
6. The Jaquith Family in America;
7. eight volumes of lists of colonial soldiers and Revolutionary towns;
8. The Greenlaw Index of the New England Historic Genealogical Society; and

Future publications now underway include a consolidated index to the Register, volumes 1-135; transcriptions of various Massachusetts primary sources—to date, the Charlestown (Massachusetts) Vital Records and early Middlesex County Massachusetts Wills (completed); the third edition of P. William Filby's American and British Genealogy and Heraldry; several series of article extracts from the Register to be published by the Genealogical Publishing Company. The first of two sets will be Genealogies of Connecticut Families (completed) and English Origins of New England Families; additional volumes of abstracts of Elizabethan and early seventeenth century wills of the county of Essex, England; lastly a volume entitled Genealogical Research in New England (completed) consolidating the six Register articles of the last several years on genealogical research in the six New England states.

Educational Programs

The society's educational programs are designed to acquaint individuals with methods and resources for the study of genealogy and local history. A National Lecture Program, cosponsored by local and regional genealogical societies, is conducted annually throughout the United States, and is open to the general public. Staff members lead these programs which cover such topics as the use of census, military, and church records; origins and uses of first names and surnames; the
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exploration of migration patterns; and compiling and writing genealogies. The Society sponsors research tours to such places as the Public Office and the British Library in London, and to the Library of the Church of Latter-day Saints in Salt Lake City. Participants have the opportunity to attend lectures by noted authorities and to pursue personal research in these outstanding facilities. A series of afternoon lectures is given during the autumn, winter and spring months and features leading university and professional historians and genealogists. These talks focus on areas of topical interest, new methods, current research, and publications in the field. The Society also holds fall and spring Saturday morning lecture series. These presentations are aimed at the advanced genealogist and include in-depth discussions of repositories and research techniques.

Collection Development Committee

A collection development committee has been established at the Society to formulate a comprehensive collecting policy and to institute a more aggressive acquisitions program. During its preliminary investigations, the committee learned that since its inception in 1845, the Society has depended upon the bequests of "private libraries," formerly owned by leading scholars or collectors, as the basic building blocks of the collection. These large gifts, in some cases numbering 5000 volumes or more, now make up as much as 50 percent of the current library.

Another major source has been individual gifts of one or two books, usually privately printed genealogies or local histories donated with the expectation that they would be listed in the card catalog and mentioned in the bibliographic "Recent Books" section of the Register. To date, a relatively small percentage of the collection has been purchased outright. Not knowing fully how comprehensive the collections were as a result of these passive acquisitions practices, the committee instituted a program for evaluating the strength of the library, and it also established desired goals for different subject areas.

Setting Present and Future Collection Goals

The committee, chaired by James C. Agnew, agreed that the society should seek "comprehensive" levels for New England genealogy and local history. For reference works directly useful to the genealogist, the library would maintain strong holdings (at least 60 percent of known titles and all major works) in English genealogy and local history, the Canadian Maritimes, and the original thirteen English colonies.
“Representative” holdings (the best available genealogies and local histories) would be acquired for those regions and states beyond New England with substantial numbers of emigrant New Englanders. Most importantly, it decided that the society should eliminate its traditional cutoff date of 1870 for American genealogies. This immediately introduced much broader collecting parameters. Now any family history, especially those that focus on ethnic families arriving in the second half of the nineteenth century, are sought for the library.

Measuring the Comprehensiveness of the Collection

To evaluate the Society’s main library holdings and determine retrospective needs, the committee began a program of bibliographical analysis. This project, now in the beginning stages, employs the standard and most comprehensive bibliographies available in the field, especially P. William Filby’s *American and British Genealogy and Heraldry* and Marion J. Kaminkow’s *Genealogies in the Library of Congress*, and *United States Local Histories in the Library of Congress*. For works published more recently, lists are developed from key genealogical and historical journals. For areas where comprehensiveness is desired, an item-for-item check is done against the society’s holdings. Where strong or representative holdings are the goal, a sampling technique is employed. When a major gap appears, we revert to comprehensive checking.

Implementing a Successful Acquisitions Policy

The committee realized that a most challenging assignment would be to implement a successful acquisitions policy, since only limited monies have been available in the past for book purchasing. However, realizing that some 350,000 volumes had been acquired largely by gift, the committee decided to emphasize and streamline this traditional method of acquiring books.

The first step was to place more emphasis on the “Recent Books” section of the *Register* as a source of gifts. To accomplish this, the committee prepared an “appeal letter” which was sent to authors, explaining the advantages of a citation in “Recent Books” (especially the fact that librarians use the list for acquisitions purposes), and inviting them to donate a copy of their work. This is a change from past practice when books were not actively solicited, but only acknowledged as they arrived.

Second, the committee initiated an exchange program with several publishing houses. This appeal takes two forms. We offer advertising
space in the *Register* in return for selected genealogical and local history publications donated to the society by publishing houses. We also offer to exchange our publications for the works of other houses. Both approaches have been most successful.

Finally, the committee would like to encourage more individuals to bequeath their private libraries to the society. Toward that end, it has begun the task of identifying members and friends of the society with major genealogical and local history collections. And, it has encouraged the giving of these libraries through the society's *Newsletter*.

**Conclusion**

Since 1845 the New England Historic Genealogical Society has been dedicated to its goal of collecting and disseminating information on New England families. In doing so, it has acquired the nation’s largest library and manuscript collection on the subject. Now it must look ahead to the twenty-first century and take the necessary steps to expand its interests. With a wider net, both New England's most ancient and its most recent families will be well represented in the Society's collections, publications and activities.

**References**


3. The categories of membership include Patron ($300), Sustaining ($150), Contributing ($100), Family ($60), Annual ($40), and Student ($10).

The terms Genealogy and family history will be used interchangeably in this discussion. Even though patrons we assisted generally ask for help on their family history, librarians may not use family history as often as the term genealogy. The basic differences between the two are details and perspective. When asking for assistance with genealogy, the patron usually means names and dates to be charted on a family tree or pedigree chart. Family history demands more details—How did my family make a living? What did houses look like in 1895? When did my great-grandfather migrate from Alabama to Oklahoma?

The narrative family history approach is the option taken by most of the public using Atlanta Public Library. Through discussions at local, state and national conferences and through the correspondence we exchange, we are witnessing a tremendous increase in the demand for the narrative approach to family history. General reference librarians can handle some genealogy/family history questions as a regular part of public services instead of referring this type of request to historical societies, state archives and regional branches of the National Archives.

More individuals who come into the Atlanta Public Library are aware of a wider variety of sources. Five years ago few patrons had a genealogy vocabulary; even a smaller number realized the similarities.

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and differences between researching Anglo lineage and African-American family history.

Recently, popular magazines such as *Ebony*, *Essence* and *People* have exposed a larger segment of the community to Black family history and community history sagas. Articles describing research efforts in Black genealogical research were confined to scholarly journals and specialized historical books until the mid-1970s and the publication of *Roots*.


This article is divided into six sections. The first section reviews the reference interview, with emphasis on getting the Black researcher to gather personal information that will assist the librarian in utilizing in-house sources available. The second section looks at standard reference sources with the Black researcher as a patron. Librarians are becoming involved in developing sources that will help the researcher and this is stressed in describing the use of vertical files. The third section discusses referrals as an integral part of providing reference service to the Black family history researcher, while the fourth section covers the documentation beyond the family history. This is the fun part—deciding on what format to present the researcher to family members or the public. The fifth section covers future trends of Black family history research. The final section is a bibliography of sources that have been useful in developing an awareness of where information can be located.

**The Genealogy Reference Interview**

A patron comes in and states "I want to locate my 'roots'" or "I have an assignment to find out about my family." These two statements are generally the first indication that a Black person is beginning the family research. The reference librarian would then begin the reference interview. Some questions that need to be asked are the purpose of the research; how much is known about the family; how long has the family lived in the state; what state and county did the majority of the relatives live; who is the oldest living member of the family; and how much time is being devoted to the research?
Requests for assistance may involve three reasons for developing Black family history or performing genealogical research. A person may want to record the accomplishments of the family for a younger generation. Second, a person may have agreed to produce a family history for the family reunion. Finally, more and more students in high schools and colleges are being required to write a family history in order to better understand world history. As reference librarians, the initial interview should identify which reason a person has for doing family research. By identifying the purpose, the librarian can infer the time element involved in producing a history or a historical sketch.

Not all persons want to go back to pre-Civil War history. With the current reverse migration pattern from north to south, many patrons are attempting to identify relatives with whom they have lost contact. Cousins, uncles or even fathers may be researched through using standard sources such as indexes and city directories. Some patrons are looking for "meat for the bones"—they want details. The popular southern question "who are your people?" and the command "make me know you" often spark the interest of migrants. Experience over the past several years has been that often people want to understand the flavor of the times through newspapers and pictures.

After deciding the purpose of the research, an inquiry into how much is known about the mother, father, grandparents, and other relatives is appropriate. At different times during the twentieth century, Black people have migrated to different parts of the country for economic reasons. It is important to get the person back to an ancestor who was counted in the 1910 Census and the location of the family origin. A handout or book on finding and collecting information from living relatives is introduced into the interview. The general introduction to genealogical research chapters on forms to record information is useful. The difficulty begins in recording the actual relationships of different members of the family and recording the name changes and possible variations in spelling. For the student, this may be as much as he/she can accomplish during the time allowed for the project.

The librarian may suggest to a student that the information collected on the family may be written in relation to world events. Information about where and what was the family doing—when the hostages were captured in Iran; when Nixon resigned; when the Vietnam War ended; at the time of the Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King assassinations; the John F. Kennedy assassination; the March on Washington; the Montgomery bus boycott; the Korean War;
World War II; the Depression; World War I; etc., can be accomplished through using the oral interview technique. The book, *Oral History: From Tape to Type*,4 is invaluable in explaining the oral interviewing technique to high school students and resolving questions on transcribing tapes.

To assist patrons in formulating questions for oral history interviews two pamphlets have been used, "Suggestions and Items to Consider in Writing Your Personal History"5 by Everton Publishers and "Comprehensive Interview Schedule"6 developed by the African-American Family History Association for its "Homecoming Exhibit." The difference in the two forms can be seen at a glance. The Everton form is more structural and formal while the African-American Family History Association form uses the subject approach and gives specific topics. A researcher can take one topic like childhood and ask questions on all aspects of the topic. This approach transmits the flavor, the sense of individual uniqueness, and shows the formation of values from one generation to the next.

The librarian should encourage the patron to write out questions and important points before the oral interview. If the family being researched is in the community served by the library, the librarian should ask the patron if he/she will donate the interview tapes or a copy of the research to the library.

**Standard Reference Sources**

Researching standard reference sources for material on Blacks can be problematic. Yet, *Magazine Index, Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature, Library Literature* and DIALOG (online databases)7 can be used in establishing a framework for the development of Black family history research. What word is used as a descriptor or subject heading? Indexes reflect terms in use at the time materials were indexed so that the term most acceptable during the time period being researched is the term that is used in the index and in titles of materials. Over the years, such terms as "coloured," "colored," "Negro," "Black," "Afro-American," and "African-American" have all been used to list information on the Afro-American or African-American, which are the current terms. These different terms should be searched in each index.

People writing and collecting materials for articles and dissertations often label the material to fit their own needs, not those of the researcher. So, information useful in identifying ancestors may be found in materials labeled oral, local and community history as well as genealogy.
Approaches to Black Family History

Searching this topic on DIALOG, the best database is American History and Life. A search strategy using: (1) Afro with American, or coloured, or colored, or Black, or Negro; and (2) oral or local family or community; and (3) combining the results of these two sets of descriptors with genealogy or history produced the most hits. Such a broad search strategy always retrieves citations unrelated to the subject, but it also picks up material that is otherwise inaccessible.

The following is a sample of material located on DIALOG and shows the wide variety of primary and secondary sources indexed:


The Index to Periodical Articles By and About Blacks and its earlier title, Index to Periodical Articles By and About Negroes, contain scholarly articles and research from the 1940s. This index continues to reference articles today about Blacks. Prior to the late 1960s, this index is the primary tool for finding articles in *Ebony, Jet, Sepia,* and *Negro Digest.*

City directories have used two ways of listing information about people in Black communities. Alphabetical order by last name with a small letter “c” set off by commas, or in italics, was one method of identifying Blacks; the other method provided a separate section for Blacks. The city directory is an extremely important source because it lists the occupation of each person and verifies a given family’s location, which would lead the researcher to a census search for other names. Considering the northern migration patterns, the city directory might be the only lead to the 1910 census. Augmenting information available
from city directories are county histories. These generally list historic churches, businesses, and cemeteries which have kept records.

Providing leads to local resources could be accomplished through a minor letter-writing program. The letters could be written to local Black organizations, churches, trade unions, newspapers, or social groups to find out what records are available for research. The letters and responses could be put in the vertical files in the reference department and could serve to provide supplemental sources to augment a limited print collection on Black family history.

The *Black Resource Guide*, 1982 edition, lists many of the organizations that may have local chapters or regional offices in your community. Information on the local leaders of these organizations also may be useful as vertical file material.

Photocopied articles maintained at the reference desk could serve as a guide for the beginning researcher. If resources are limited, getting photocopies of some of the articles listed under primary sources in the bibliography section of this article is one way to build a vertical file. Collecting bibliographies prepared by libraries—e.g., Atlanta Public Library’s “Black Genealogy” or Birmingham Public Library’s “Research in Black History”—is another way of developing resources. Attendance at workshops, conferences and seminars and by requesting programs on researching Black family history, provides information which can be collected for the vertical files.

A sample form from our biographical notebook is included as appendix A. The biographical notebook is an example of a valuable reference source developed in-house. The biographical notebook project was begun in 1969 by Atlanta Librarian Bertha Campbell and has served as a resource for newspaper reporters and students seeking community and family history.

The local newspaper is another standard source that can be used and many localities have newspapers that have existed nearly as long as the communities. Black people’s social events and obituaries were reported in newspapers. *The Negro Newspaper* by Vishnu V. Oak and *The Afro-American Periodical Press, 1838-1909* by Penelope L. Bullock are sources of such publications. The Bullock book has a finding list for the newspapers. When referring a patron to a Black newspaper, the librarian should keep in mind that the newspapers often covered large areas for gathering and publishing articles. For example, the *Memo Digest* published in Meridian, Mississippi, covers news in seven Mississippi and Alabama counties.

A word about interlibrary loan. Libraries as a rule do not lend
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reference books. The Atlanta Public Library Special Collections Department, which includes the African-American and Genealogy collections, does not interlibrary loan. The interlibrary loan department photocopies requests for specific pages from specific publications for patrons. As of this writing, requests for Black family history material go through regular interlibrary loan procedures.

Hundreds of letters have been received each year from around the country requesting answers to family history questions: in 1982 about one-third of the requests concerned Black families. Increasingly we suggest that the writer contact the library or archive in his/her area. Suggestions on what to ask the librarian in his/her town are often forwarded with photocopies and bibliographic citations.

Referrals

Referral must be used as an integral component of reference service delivery, and this is particularly true of Black family history research. A rolodex or similar file of local and national addresses and telephone numbers of organizations is an important resource tool. Data contained in our rolodex includes information such as the fact that the Savannah (Yamacraw) chapter of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History is documenting the history of the Negro community in Savannah and the nearby area. College research libraries, such as Fisk University, Tuskegee Institute, Atlanta University, and Howard University, should be listed as well as the library's policy concerning nonstudent access to such resources. Black museums and local history societies should also be included.

Some professional genealogists have developed expertise in doing Black family history research. The Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society might be consulted for suggested genealogists.

One of the most extensive collections of Black records are from the military services, with which Blacks have had an extensive level of involvement since the War of Independence. Almost every Black family can cite a number of relatives and ancestors who have served in the armed forces. Enlistment records, pension and retirement lists are readily available sources for the documentation of these accounts, although in the absence of complete records in-house at the libraries, it may be necessary to refer the researcher to state or national archives. There are a number of sources which give background information and these should be available at most libraries or through interlibrary loan.

Several examples are: The Black Presence in the Era of the American Revolution, published by the Smithsonian Institution, is taken
from a major exhibition presented by the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C. History of the Tenth Cavalry, 1866-1921,17 edited by E.L.N. Glass, documents the post-Civil War period. More recently, Lonely Eagles18 by Robert A. Rose describes the history of the Tuskegee Airmen during World War II.

Beyond books and the limited government document collections housed at most libraries, it is often appropriate to refer a researcher to governmental agencies. Regional archives of the National Archives, state archives, bureaus of vital statistics, state libraries, and public school systems help to augment materials available at the public library. A current example is a project recently launched by the Atlanta Board of Education to document a history of public education in Atlanta through newspapers. Transcribers recorded everything—even basketball scores. A researcher with relatives or ancestors who worked in the field of education might find this a valuable, but little-known source.19

Oral Interviews: Sources and Referrals

Family reunions, as Alex Haley said, remain the best opportunity to clarify questions about Black family history. "How do I organize a family reunion?" is a much-asked reference question.

The African-American Family History Association, established in 1977 with library staff among the charter members, has held several workshops that address Black family research questions. The fall 1982 workshop on family reunions was taped with the idea of using the tape to assist patrons. The detailed description of organizing family reunions was given by three reunion organizers—Madie Revere, organizer of the Revere and Cook family of Barnesville reunions, which have been held since the early 1960s; Laura Quaye, organizer of reunions of the descendants of Zachariah and Jody Fuller of Laurens, South Carolina, which have been held for about twenty years; and Casper L. Jordan of reunions of the descendants of Collin and Mary Roberts of Monticello, Georgia, which have occurred every year since 1906. Each speaker contributed to an understanding of how reunions are organized and how they may be helpful from a historical point of view. The tape, "How to do Family Reunions," 20 was made at the association meeting, and is being used constantly by library patrons.

Asking the right questions to get full, truthful answers is difficult to do among the chatting and dining at family reunions, but oral history techniques can be employed if built on trust. Getting family members to talk about painful subjects such as interracial relationships, abandonment or forced northern migration demands that the person being
Interviewed believes the interviewer has a noble purpose. Librarians should suggest to the patron that a truthful history of the family must be stressed to obtain the desired information. Oral history techniques can be shared with the patron by reviewing with him/her the oral history process from tape to type.

We have assisted patrons in designing questionnaires to be used in oral history interviews and as mail correspondence. Two questionnaires from personal research have been used as examples to assist reunion planners and community historians in designing an information gathering tool. The Meridian History Questionnaire was designed as part of an ongoing project, "The Black Community in Meridian, Mississippi." The Rufus J. White family and allied families of Liberty community, Kemper County, Mississippi was created by a family member, Dr. Mildred White Barksdale of Urbana, Illinois. Both have proven to be effective guides for assisting those who are seeking to concentrate on the details of their family histories (seen appendixes B and C).

Family records may be unknown to the patron seeking to do Black family history. The reference librarian can suggest that the individual ask family members about specific sources. Often the patron has assumed there is no material in the possession of family members.

The most important source is the oral interview in beginning family research. This is especially true for Black research. When asked, Mr. Rodney Poitier, a Morehouse College graduate stated:

> The members of your family must consider the magnitude of the task they are about to engage. The family members must agree that a family history is warranted and necessary and that they are willing to assist the principal researcher in gathering the information. They agree on a plan of action or as we say in the field, research strategy. The family members are assigned responsibilities of determining what records are available with the different family members. The information you have at your disposal must now be placed in some order; it is important that the names, dates, and events are grouped in chronological order. Thoughts must now be given on how to fill the gaps.

> "I could not have researched the written records without first obtaining the oral history," writes Joann Dye, president of the African-American Family History Association, Inc., in Atlanta, Georgia. "When it comes to Black genealogy, well-kept oral history is without question the best source." Such statements reinforce the theory that oral history is the only way to begin a family history project.

The oral history interview is basic when the name changes in a family have to be documented. During slavery, one person may have had
several surname changes. After emancipation, the adoption of surnames was widespread. Applications for a pension, family Bibles, and oral history may help solve the name-change dilemma. Often children in a family will have several last names. This presents a serious research problem. Sets of children are commonly described in the community. For instance, the mother may have had three children who “go under” Johnson, two under Smith, and her name may be Clark. Often all children may be known at some point by one or all names. Oral history interviews may uncover the details of name variations if handled carefully. Birth certificates do not always exist, and if they do, the name could be different from the surname the individual was popularly called.

Informal adoption also activates name change. Oral history again plays a major role. A recurring example of informal adoption is that of an uncle being raised as a brother in a family. Through death or illness, it is not uncommon for a sister or brother to rear the child of a sibling as his/her own. Also, “cousin” is loosely used in the Black community: many persons known as cousins share no actual blood relationship.

In addition to asking questions to clarify names, oral interviewers can use questions to uncover prize possessions. These may be a doll, a cup, a cane, a chair, a quilt, or a bottle that has been passed along from one generation to another in a family. The cherished item may be a photograph. Photographs of artifacts and old pictures can be taken with close-up shots (using a zoom lens). This is ideal if a person sees an item at a family reunion like the family Bible and wants to get the information and lacks access to a photocopy machine. For family history research depending on the use of old and fragile photographs, the librarian will want to have another entry on the roledex file of referrals to the names of photograph restorers.

In Atlanta, there is highway construction and rapid transit construction. Because of federal historic preservation laws, archaeological, historical and architectural surveys have to be commissioned when federally-funded construction is being done. Johnsontown, a Black community, has been demolished for the rapid transit system, but the oral community history has been saved and the artifacts are a part of the Atlanta University Center, Robert W. Woodruff Library. When the next chapter of Atlanta’s history is written covering the 1980s, Johnsontown will be a part of city and county history.

The Negro Church is the only social institution of the Negroes which started in the African forest and survived slavery; under the leadership of priest and medicine man, afterward of the Christian pastor, the
Approaches to Black Family History

Church preserved in itself the remnants of African tribal life and became after emancipation the center of Negro social life. W. E. B. Du Bois made that statement in 1898 in a report of the Third Atlanta Conference and indicates the importance of church records, especially in researching Black genealogy.

Family ancestors who were founding and supporting members of Black churches can be found in church records. African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Churches have excellent records. Jualynne E. Dodson, Dean of Seminary Life at Union Theological Seminary in New York and the author of *To Define Black Womanhood*, has completed extensive research on the Black woman and the AME Church. She has also brought to the surface a wealth of information, not previously considered or used by patrons researching their family history. The Dodson research has stated that denominational histories do exist but perhaps not always in book format. Periodicals figure prominently and denominations have kept other documents. Calls and visits to the family homeplace may be necessary to obtain some church information, since a person or family may have kept records in their home. This can be particularly true in rural settings. Most denominations have periodicals, and biographical sketches are often included in these publications. A partial listing of church periodicals is included in the *Yearbook of Negro Churches*, 1939-1940 edition.

Church history projects are underway at Black churches all across America including from Kemper County, Mississippi, to Savannah, Georgia. At the Atlanta Public Library, the collection of church anniversary programs—many of which list founding members—has been undertaken.

The Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) offers a course in church history which has resulted in students using the Atlanta Public Library as a resource. The connected families within a church have been brought to our attention by excited theologians.

Family history details can be drawn from materials that accompany exhibits. Two recent exhibits, "Homecoming" in Atlanta and "Birmingham" in Birmingham, Alabama, illustrate this approach. *The Homecoming Catalogue*, developed in conjunction with the African-American Family History Association and the National Endowment for the Humanities exhibit, "Homecoming, African-American Family Life in Georgia," is an example of a source which includes details of individual families. "The photographs, oral testimony, written records, and artifacts of Black families in Georgia document a rich, diverse and distinctive tradition." "Birmingham," also supported by a grant from...
the National Endowment for the Humanities, is "a major exhibit of photographs and other historical documents on the history of the Birmingham black community."26

Fraternities, sororities and secret societies have national and local chapters that will assist researchers. For example, the Prince Hall Masons will research their records for a specific name.

Format of the Family History

After all the research is completed, a decision must be made on the format. A traditional pedigree chart may or may not work according to the family relationships. Dotted lines may be needed to show extended family. Some charting may not be possible because information is being withheld.

Even though it takes longer, the narrative approach is best. If the presentation is being done at a family reunion, a copy of the research should be available for each family member. This could be printed on a program or in a pamphlet or booklet. The family can pay to have the history published privately. A more creative way of publishing family history is to write material and sell it to a commercial publisher as a biography, autobiography or family history. Material can be used to compile a cookbook, as for example, *Spoonbread and Strawberry Wine*,27 or incidents can be used to create a fictional work based on fact, such as the *Chaneysville Incident*28 or *Sally Hemings*.29 Information gathered for school assignments may be the basis for a doctoral dissertation as was *The Saga of Coe Ridge*.30 The format decided on should be the one with which the patron feels most comfortable. The librarian should ask the patron if he/she would donate a copy of the family history to the library.

Future Trends

In the introduction to this article, mention was made of articles appearing in scholarly Black journals. *Roots*31 made Black family history and genealogy chic. The trend in the future will be to write about groups or a group family history to show the development of a community or a neighborhood. With the National Endowment for the Humanities funding community projects, there will be more exhibits, museums and doctoral research into Black contributions in the development of cities. Research into Black families in rural settings and membership in secret societies is almost untouched. The format for
individual family histories will follow the trend to technology by using videocassettes and audiocassettes. Family reunions may be arranged by members of the family gathering at different cable television stations with public access channels and recording their history. Interviews may be done using telecommunications equipment. (There is also a trend toward photographic family histories and calendars.) Instead of gathering at one location for the family reunion picnic, everyone will go to a library meeting room to watch a historic tour of family birthplaces and surrounding communities produced by the family research committee. These predictions will become reality sooner than many librarians now expect.
Appendix A

Biographical Notebook—Special Collections Department
Atlanta Public Library

Name________________________ Address __________________________

1. Did your parents live in this community? _____________
2. Were you born in Atlanta? _______________  
3. How long have you lived in this community? _____________
4. Did your parents attend Happy Days School? _____________
5. Did you attend Happy Days School? ________________
6. Would you be willing to be interviewed? _____________
7. Would you be willing to talk to our class and share some of your experiences?  
   _____________
8. Do you know any older persons living near you? _____________
9. Do you think they would be willing to talk to our class about how things  
   were in our community a long time ago? _____________
10. If the answer to number 9 is yes, please list their names below.  
    _____________
    _____________
11. Do you have anything which is not used today that you could share with us?  
   _____________
12. Is a historic landmark near your home? _____________
13. Are there any very, very old houses or buildings near your home? _____
14. Are any streets, buildings or parks named for members of your family or  
   people whom you know? _______
15. If the answer to number 14 is yes, please list them below.  
    _____________
    _____________
Appendix B
Meridian History Questionnaire

Name ________________________________
Address ________________________________
Telephone ________________________________
Place of Birth (city, county, date, year) ________________________________
Parents: Father ________________________________
Mother ________________________________
Marital Status _____ Spouse _______ Maiden Name _______
Children (names) ________________________________

Educational Preparations ________________________________

Name of Your Church ________________________________
When did you become a member? ________________________________
Organizational memberships (past and current) ________________________________

Honors/Awards ________________________________
Past Employment ________________________________
Present Employment ________________________________

Have you lived in Meridian all of your life? ______
If not when did you move there? ________________________________

What are some of your most memorable experiences in Meridian (positive or negative)? ________________________________

List the names of Black individuals who you feel have contributed to the development of Meridian (living or deceased). Tell how they made their contributions. ________________________________

List events (examples: church conferences, cultural events, court trials, conventions) that you remember taking place in Meridian's Black community throughout the years.

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List the names and locations of places that you feel are historically important in Meridian's Black community (examples: schools, churches, stores).

Suggest other individuals I should contact who are familiar with the history of Meridian.

Additional Comments
Approaches to Black Family History

Appendix C

Rufus J. White Family and Allied Families of Liberty Community Questionnaire

Your Full Name __________________________________________________________

Your Parents:
Father's Name ___________ Year Born and Birthplace ____________
Mother's Maiden Name _________ Year Born and Birthplace ________

Your Father's Parents:
His Father's Name __________ Year and Birthplace ______________
His Mother's Name __________ Year and Birthplace ______________

Your Mother's Parents:
Her Father's Name __________ Year and Birthplace ______________
Her Mother's Name __________ Year and Birthplace ______________

Your Great-grandparents:
Your Father's Side:
Great-grandfather __________ Year and Birthplace ____________
Great-grandfather __________ Year and Birthplace ____________
Great-grandmother __________ Year and Birthplace ____________
Great-grandmother __________ Year and Birthplace ____________

Your Mother's Side:
Great-grandfather __________ Year and Birthplace ____________
Great-grandfather __________ Year and Birthplace ____________
Great-grandmother __________ Year and Birthplace ____________
Great-grandmother __________ Year and Birthplace ____________

Names and Addresses of Your Sisters:
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

Names and Addresses of Your Brothers:
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

Names and Addresses of Your Children:
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

What were the names of the first members of your family to live in Liberty?
____________________________________________________________________

Approximately what year did they settle there? ____________________________

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Where did they live before moving to Liberty (name of community, county or state)? ____________________________

Did your parents own land in Liberty? ________ How many acres? ____________

Did they inherit it? ____________ If Yes, from whom? _____________________________

When did they buy their land? ____________ From whom? __________________________

If sold, to whom was the land sold? ____________ When was it sold? ________

Did your father's parents own land in Liberty? ________ How many acres? ____________

Did they inherit it? ____________ From whom? _____________________________

When did they buy it? ____________ From whom? _____________________________

If sold, to whom was it sold? ____________ When? _____________________________

Did your mother's parents own land in Liberty? ________ How many acres? ________

Did they inherit it? _____ From whom? _____________________________

When did they buy it? _____ From whom? _____________________________

If sold, to whom was it sold? _____________________________ When? ________

Give any information you may recall about land ownership by your great-grandparents.

__________________________________________________________

What was the highest level of education completed by:

Yourself _____________________________

Your father _____________________________

Your mother _____________________________

Your father's father _____________________________

Your father's mother _____________________________

Your mother's father _____________________________

Your mother's mother _____________________________

Give any information you have about the education of your great-grandparents.

__________________________________________________________

Your memories of Liberty church and school:

Teacher's names _____________________________

Preacher's names _____________________________

School programs and activities _____________________________

Church programs and activities _____________________________

What exciting stories do you recall about events at church? ________

__________________________________________________________
Approaches to Black Family History

Your memories of the community

Who were the community leaders?

What did you like most about living in Liberty?

What did you like least about living there?

What kinds of racial conflicts in the community do you recall?

When did you leave Liberty? Where did you go?

Why did you leave?

When did you last go to Liberty? Why?

Will you help me by sharing:
   Old letters — Bible accounts of family —
   Old pictures — Interesting stories —

Will you help by exchanging letters about my project?

If I were able to visit you, would you be willing for me to tape our conversation about Liberty?

Your comments about this project will be welcomed in the space below.
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5. “Suggestions and Items to Consider in Writing Your Personal History.” (Pamphlet available through Everton Publishers, Inc., P.O. Box 568, Logan, Utah 84321.)
19. Walter Bell, historian, Atlanta Public Schools, Atlanta, Georgia, to the authors, personal communication, Dec. 1982.
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Forthcoming numbers are as follows:

Fall 1983, *Current Problems in Copyright*. Editors: Walter C. Allen, Associate Professor, and Jerome K. Miller, Assistant Professor, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Winter 1984, *Information Policy and Social Change Dynamics*. Editor: Peter Neenan, Assistant Professor, School of Library Science, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Spring 1984, *Information Practice—Atypical Careers and Innovative Services in Library and Information Science*. Editors: Walter C. Allen, Associate Professor, and Lawrence W.S. Auld, Assistant Dean, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.