



WHO are you?

GENEALOGY ·N·E·W·S·



NOVEMBER 2017



A medley of programming on...

November 8, 2017

◆ **4:30–4:45 -- Chat Catchup**

Your chance to catch up with your contemporaries to see how they have progressed with research.

◆ **4:45-5:30 – Making genealogical Charts in Microsoft Word software with Grayce**

The issue came up during our program with Jennifer Shaker that you could make your own charts in Microsoft Word. Doing this gives you the opportunity to color code names or container boxes or choose ovals instead of rectangles and set up the relatives as you would like. There is an assumption for this class that you are a BeginnerPlus student with MSWord and have had some experience with tools on the ribbon.

◆ **5:30 Emblems on Gravestones with Beth**

Don't miss this program, if you did not catch it last time. Beth's powerpoint shows lots of things that you could find in a cemetery.

Upcoming Program

December 13, 2017

4:30 Gather for goodies

5:30 Noted Author and Historian Robert Geake

Colonial New England curiosities: remarkable occurrences, miracles and madness – *more info page 4*

"Piglet noticed that even though he had a Very Small Heart, it could hold a rather large amount of Gratitude."

~ A.A. Milne, Winnie-the-Pooh



Parisian French Ancestry – NOT French Canadian?

LDS Director Elaine Vivenzio lead me through some fascinating French databases that go back to the 18th century. Anyone need this help?

Mohr Library Genealogy Group

2nd Wednesday, 4:30
Special Program times vary

Library Hours

Mon – Thurs 9-8
Friday 9 – 6 • Saturday 9 -5

This newsletter is created
and written by
Grayce Moorehead, MILS

Note about the Library at the Family History Center, Warwick



1000 Narragansett Parkway, Warwick

CALL before you go!

The Library at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints offers numerous databases that are only available at the facility. However, while the Library may be open, if you need specific help, be sure to check if the Library Director will be in residence that day and time to help you. There are others who are in the library, but they may not have the expertise of Library Director, Elaine Vivenzio.

Phone: 401-463-8150

Beth Hurd

Family Search makes Indexing Easy

◆ In August, our Mohr Library Genealogy Group paid another visit to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Family History Center in Warwick, during which time Elaine talked about researching and also mentioned opportunities for indexing records which are not yet searchable. I checked it out – it does require that you sign up for a free account – which also allows you to enter your own genealogy online.

◆ I use this site and these records daily in my research, and thought that I should be helping out, if I could.

◆ There are different kinds of records that can be indexed – from all over the world and in many different languages. Early indexing seemed to require downloading a special desktop application (which the site says will eventually be phased out), but I chose “web indexing” (no software download necessary, but does require an



Internet connection) and looked at the list of records. I was thinking I'd try something with Rhode Island records, since the names and places would be more familiar to me, or try something from Ireland, where most of my ancestors hail from.

◆ I also noted that there were different levels of difficulty... beginning, intermediate and advanced. To try it out, I chose beginning level, records in English, location: US; you can also choose a time period. For an overview and “guided tour”: www.familysearch.org/indexing/

◆ More than 1,300,000,000 records have already been indexed by volunteers (that's billion, with a B!), some by church members who are required to do indexing as part of their service to the church, and others by genealogy enthusiasts. **Almost 63,000,000 records were indexed by more than 81,000 volunteers in 2017 to date.**

◆ I started with something easy – World War II draft registration cards. Since the latest census available is 1940, the records that date from 1940 to 1947 can provide newer information. They list name, date of birth, residence, place of birth, “person who will always know your address” - usually next of kin; employer, race, height, weight, color of eyes and hair, distinguishing features, etc.

◆ The images are arranged in batches – usually 10. Each appears on the screen with a form-like side bar to type in the info you see on the

(Continued on Page 3)



FAMILYSEARCH
INDEXING

In 30 minutes
you can help people
find their ancestors!

Veteran's Day

Saturday November 11



Thanks

Library CLOSED

image. Type-written images are easiest to transcribe; hand-written ones can be a challenge. Once you finish a “batch,” it is submitted and another volunteer who has more experience reviews each batch before the information is put online.

- ◆ Seeing how easy it is to make typos, I can see how easily errors can be found in the indexed records. If you rely on this research, it is best to look at the original image and check for errors and see if there is additional info not included in the index fields – extra nuggets so to speak.

I’ve indexed almost 6,000 of these WWII registration cards on my home computer since I started in early October, and hope to continue as time allows.

- ◆ Sometimes the record lists the name of the high school of the 18-year old who registered for the draft; I’ve also seen men who filled out the form on the same day they were released from prison – you never know what you’ll find!

- ◆ **Familysearch held a world-wide indexing event last weekend, and I participated. The numbers are in: more than 7,900 volunteers indexed more than 7 million records in a three day period. Wow!**



Speaking of Indexing



Our long hidden catalog (off the floor for at least 10 years) that indexes names, places, businesses and associations is currently housed next to my desk in the Library. It looks like a catalog of yesteryear – a box of long drawers with file card-size entries. Here you will find index cards related to the Special Collection books. It is my understanding that a Librarian – quite a few years ago – undertook a project to index information sources by “reading” each of the books. And as you may guess, it was long before computer stuff. As you know from our Genealogy programs, you can find many books online in pdf format that are very easy to search with a finding tool in the software. If you would like to take a quick look to see if we have anything in our Special Collection relating to your research, I will be glad to be of help. The catalog also lists books in the Ralph Mohr Collection [RSMC] and the Italian Language books – fiction and non-fiction.



Joy
Homestead's
Colonial Christmas
Open House
Sunday, 1-4pm
December 3rd 2017

Cranston Historical Society
Joy Homestead
156 Scituate Avenue Cranston, RI
Free Admission



Happy
Thanksgiving

In the Magazines this Month ...

Family Tree Magazine has a slew of fascinating articles.

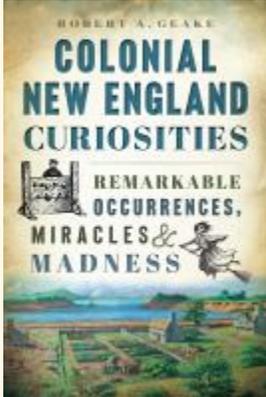
October/ November 2017 Volume 18, issue 6, pages 20-27

Say Ciao to Your Italian Roots: Church Keys by Melanie D. Holtz is an extensive article that delves into details of Roman Catholic Church records and those of other faith traditions. You may find just one more tip under one of the headings: Baptismal records, Confirmation records, Marriage records, Death and Burial records or State of Souls records. There are also websites listed – free, or \$\$\$\$. You never can tell when or where you will find a tidbit of importance as all of us know, and hope for....

May/ June 2017 Volume 18, issue 3, pages 26-32

Keeping it Civil by Claire Santry has to do with records from Ireland. “Many Irish records have been lost to fire and time, but a crucial group survives: civil registrations. Learn how to find and use these official records of your ancestors’ births, marriages and deaths.”

December Program



Wednesday
December 13
5:30pm

While we are continuing to learn more and more about how to make the story of our ancestors, I have asked *Historian Robert Geake* to join us during our holiday month of December to speak about New England and what life was like here.

Bob Geake is a local historian and the author of eight books on Rhode Island and New England history. His latest book is *From Slaves to Soldiers: The First Rhode Island Regiment in the American Revolution*. Other books include *A History of the Narragansett Tribe: Keepers of the Bay*, *Native and New Americans*, *Historic Taverns of Rhode Island*, *A History of the Providence River*, *The New England Mariner Tradition*, and *Colonial New England Curiosities*. Mr. Geake was the events coordinator for the Brown Bookstore for many years. Currently, he is an archivist at the Warwick Historical Society and also serves as a board member of the Warwick Historical Society. He is a docent at Smith's Castle in Wickford, and serves on its educational planning committee.



From <http://smallstatebighistory.com/author/robertg/>



At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person.

~ Albert Schweitzer

Cultivate the habit of being grateful for every good thing that comes to you, and to give thanks continuously. And because all things have contributed to your advancement, you should include all things in your gratitude.

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

In the Magazines this Month...

Internet Genealogy has an article title: **The Catholic Heritage Archive**. The article, written by Joe Grandinetti focuses on a new database of the same name on www.findmypast.com/catholicrecords. There are samples of records and details of which dioceses will be/ are covered. This is definitely worth checking out.

Early Cape Cod Residents



The Spring 2017 American Ancestors magazine by the New England Historic Genealogical Society [NEHGS] featured articles on the settlement of Cape Cod and the genealogy of those inhabitants.

The introduction by **Henry David Thoreau** is worth noting:

“Cape Cod is the bared and bended arm of Massachusetts: the shoulder is at Buzzard’s Bay; the elbow or crazy-bone, At Cape Mallebarre; the wrist at Truro; and the sandy fist at Provincetown, -- behind which the State stands on her guard.”



Marian J. Mohr Memorial Library

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■ fax: 401-231-4984 ■ website: <http://www.mohrlibrary.org>

