



WHO are you?

GENEALOGY ·N·E·W·S·



FEBRUARY 2019

Tuesday February 12th 3PM

Field Trip to Rhode Island Historical Society

Library: Mary Elizabeth Robinson Research Center

Limited to 15 participants – Sign up with Grayce. More info below.

Wednesday February 13th 4:30 PM

Discussion: What did you learn about Rhode Island or historical societies in general from our Tuesday trip to RIHS.



The great thing about getting older is that you don't lose all the other ages you've been.

~ Madeleine L'Engle (author of A Wrinkle in Time)

Saint Valentine

Catholic Education Resource Center (CERC) has a fairly extensive article on the 3 saints called Valentine. For further details check the site: [www.catholiceducation.org]. To paraphrase, at least 2 saints were beheaded on or around February 14th and CERC summarizes by stating "each showed heroic love for the Lord and His Church."



RIHS Tour Limited to 15 patrons

While the **Rhode Island Historical Society** has a variety of properties, our tour is at the **Library** which is located at:

121 Hope Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02906

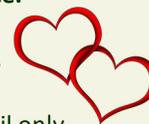
There is no official transportation from Mohr Library to Providence.

We will meet for our tour at 3pm sharp.

It is important that you familiarize yourself with the Library Policies

[<http://www.rihs.org/library/library-policies/>]

which include leaving most items in a locker as well as using a pencil only.



Read about RIHS (from the website: www.rihs.org)

"Founded in 1822, the RIHS is the fourth-oldest state historical society in the United States. It is a private organization, founded and supported by its membership. The RIHS holds the largest and most important historical collections relating to Rhode Island. These collections include 25,000 museum objects, more than 100,000 printed books, 110,000 photographs, 3,400 sound recordings (including oral histories and music), 9 million feet of moving picture film, over 1,100 manuscript collections (measuring over 7,000 linear feet), 3,400 maps, 20,000 prints, 16,000 pieces of ephemera, 15,000 architectural drawings, and several smaller, miscellaneous categories of historical holdings. These collections grow every year, due to gifts and purchases."

Mohr Library Genealogy Group

2nd Wednesday, 4:30 Special Program times vary

LIBRARY Hours

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

A few tidbits about Valentine's Day...

Vinegar Valentines?

The word "vinegar" related to sweet valentines was new to me, but when you view the images along with the content, vinegar is certainly the appropriate word, or the cards are sometimes called "penny dreadfuls." Patricia R. Martinelli wrote an intriguing article, "How Don't I Love Thee? Vinegar Valentines Count the Ways" for Antiques & Collecting Magazine, Vol. 112 Issue 12, p30-35 February 2008. Apparently the fad began in the early 1800's, and continued through the mid- 1900's (perhaps one reason was due to printing becoming cheaper). One might argue that facebook and online social media bullying is quite similar, just another media format! A Valentine aimed at a Spinster:



*"Miss Grey hairs and wrinkles, don't look quite so cold.
Don't let it surprise you to find yourself old.
The old family record with truth on its page
Tells a horrible fact about your present age.
Your Pa or your Ma may have said you look young,
Some 20 years since but now you're among
The 'old maids' of this world, without chance for a beau,
For Cupid's grown gray since he cut you, you know."*

**from Martinelli article*



Verona and Juliet

Verona Italy is known as the "town of love." The **Juliet Club** receives thousands of letters every year from all over the world and they strive to answer each and every one, according to their website [www.julietclub.com/en/]. The tradition is based on Ettore Solimani who was the guardian of **Juliet's Tomb** in the 1930's. He gathered letters from the tomb – a 13th century sarcophagus inside the monastery of San Francesco al Corso, where it is believed the tragedy occurred. It is unclear if Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet" was based on this true story or was simply fabricated 200 years later.



Here are some words from one →
of the "Vinegar Valentines."*

**from Martinelli article*

The Devils darling sure are you.
That all Your Friends well know,
And you like all the Old Maid Tribe,
To hell this way must go ---

*A rather tame version
compared to some...*



"23 and Me" and the Drug companies

*Genealogy Sleuths take note!
Apologies to "Wired" for
reprinting. They say it best!*

"Since the launch of its DNA testing service in 2007, genomics giant 23andMe has convinced more than 5 million people to fill a plastic tube with half a teaspoon of saliva. In return for all that spit (and some cash too), customers get insights into their biological inheritance, from the superficial—do you have dry earwax or wet?—to mutations associated with disease. What 23andMe gets is an ever-expanding supply of valuable behavioral, health, and genetic information from the 80 percent of its customers who consent to having their data used for research. So last week's announcement that one of the world's biggest drugmakers, GlaxoSmithKline, is gaining exclusive rights to mine 23andMe's customer data for drug targets should come as no surprise. (Neither should GSK's \$300 million investment in the company). 23andMe has been sharing insights gleaned from consented customer data with GSK and at least six other pharmaceutical and biotechnology firms for the past three and a half years. And offering access to customer information in the service of science has been 23andMe's business plan all along, as WIRED noted when it first began covering the company more than a decade ago."

Megan Molteni 08.03.18 03:28 pm

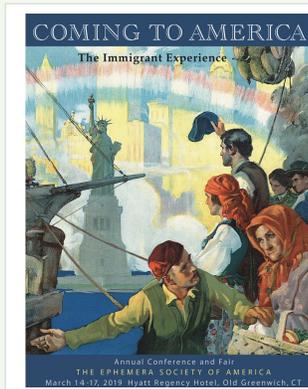
Engaging Conference! Ephemera 39: Coming to America, the Immigrant Experience

March 14 – 17, Hyatt Regency Hotel
Old Greenwich, Connecticut

According to Merriam-Webster Dictionary:

Ephemera = paper items (such as posters, broadsides, and tickets) that were originally meant to be discarded after use but have since become collectibles.

The theme is perfect for genealogical sleuths for this conference. Some of the highlight programs include "How Immigration Shaped American Cuisine" – menus and related culinary papers that describe food customs of the day as well as "What Irishmen have Done" speaking to perpetuating demeaning stereotypes, trade cards mocking the accent, and drinking habits.



Marian J. Mohr Memorial Library

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

