



Anchorage Genealogical Society
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January Meeting: Wednesday, 2 January 2002 at 7 p.m. in the conference room of the Z.J. Loussac library, 1st floor. All are welcome. Jim & Kathy Roberts, Nancy Ferko, Merle Carlson & Shirley Howes will provide refreshments. The program will be Bruce Parham giving us information on the 1930 U.S. Census.

December Meeting: There were about 25 members and guests that gathered for a brief meeting and then a gift exchange. The "Ten Most Wanted" book fund increased by \$16.00.

Classes: Starting Saturday the 5th of January 2002, Kathy Roberts will be conducting "Beginning Genealogy" classes at the Anchorage Senior Center. If you are interested contact Kathy at 243-11757 or kroberts@gci.net. The classes are free and pre-registration is suggested. The classes will be from 11:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. each of the four successive Saturdays. Plans are to present a Family Tree Maker Class on the 3rd of February and a class on Computer Research and Genealogy on the 10th of February. To get into either or both of these classes contact Kathy at 243-1757 or email kroberts@gci.net. One of the prerequisites for the FTM and Computer Research computer classes is that you have access to email, as it will be used for part of your class.

Gems: I subscribe to a number of on-line sources among those are Ancestry.com and Everton. Ancestry.com has been advising through the month of December that they continue to add sites, almost daily, of information that they are continue to add to their UK/Ireland database. Ancestry.com also sponsor Eastman's on-line Genealogy Newsletter a copywrited weekly by Richard W. Eastman. His letter of the 16th of December was a review and critique of "GeneWeaver". "GeneWeaver is a program for recording and plotting one's family health history. Such a tool is useful for plotting inherited medical conditions." He stated in the review that it is not a genealogy program as such but could be very helpful in predicting some medical conditions before they arise. The personal information that you are required to enter does not become available to the public, so that's one item that one does not have to be concerned about. Quoting from GeneWeaver's Web site: Tired of sitting in your doctor's office trying to remember all your family operations and illnesses so you can complete that medical history form they shoved at you? Can't remember when you broke your leg as a youngster? Or how old Grandma was when she died? Geneweaver(r) can solve that problem for you! Everton's Family History Newslne for Wednesday the 26th of December has some information that would be valuable to those of you with roots in the Northwest Ohio region. "The Hayes Presidential Center and Network Online of Fremont have just simplified your search for ancestors from Northwest Ohio." You can check at <http://www.rbhayes.org/index>, for 215,000 obituaries. Search is also possible by maiden name and or year.

AGS Quarterly: We still do not have anyone committed to taking over the publication of our quarterly. Pat McClure, who has been doing it the past few years, will work with and support anyone who will take over the job. Through the exchange program with quarterlies from numerous other locations, this has become a valuable research tool both for us and for the ones we exchange with. This is quite often the only place where someone outside would be able to get the information that we can provide them through our publication. Surely there is someone out there who can take this job on and make it work. Please contact Pat at 277-8436 or pmcclure@alaska.com.

February Meeting: Doug McAllister, the Genealogist at the Z.J. Loussac Library, will give a lecture on the use of the ProQuest website to be used through the library for research purposes. Some of this site is available at <http://www.umi.com>

SSDI Updated: Search the most full-featured and up-to-date SSDI search engine on the Internet -- now containing 67,214,037 names. <http://ssdi.genealogy.rootsweb.com>. Want to know more about this U.S. database and how to use it? See "Exploring the SSDI and Railroad Retirement Board Records": <http://rwguide.rootsweb.com/lesson10.htm>. This information was taken from the Rootsweb Review edited by Myra Vanderpool Gormley and published on the web weekly either Thursday or Friday. There is usually quite a bit of information contained in each of these reviews.

Portals to the World: The Library of Congress has launched a new online international guide called Portals to the World, a guide to Internet resources dealing with the countries and regions of the world. "Portals to the World serves as a kind of one-stop shopping for reliable international information," said Carolyn T. Brown, Assistant Librarian for Library Services and Acting Director, Area Studies Collections. "We expect that it will become one of the very first places that librarians, researchers, and the general public turn to for information about the nations of the world." Portals to the World <http://www.loc.gov/rr/international/portals.html> offers links to selective and authoritative electronic resources, arranged by country or geographic regions, with links for each, sorted in a wide range of broad categories. Each country portal is designed to be comprehensive, yet selective, and to cover topics of interest to specialists and the general public alike. Typical categories are business, commerce, economy, culture, education, government, politics, law, history, libraries, and archives, with some categories tailored to subjects of particular importance for the study of individual nations. In some cases, search engines local to that nation or language have also been included, as have links to worldwide organizations, such as the World Bank and UNESCO. To date, links to electronic resources for 41 countries are available, including Afghanistan, Pakistan and other Central Asian nations. When the project is completed in 2003, there will a portal page for every nation of the world. The project was designed by area specialists, librarians, and Web masters in the Area Studies Directorate of the Library of Congress. The links are selected by staff familiar with Internet resources for the individual countries. The standards for selecting sites resemble the same high standards the Library uses in acquiring print materials, with preference given to noncommercial sites, primarily those generated by organizations that can reasonably be expected to maintain them over a period of time. Selected sites are predominantly in English, reflecting the first language of the Library's primary user group, but access to non-English sites is expected to increase. With more than half of the Library's book and serials collections in languages other than English, the Library of Congress is a major international research resource. Its collection of more than 120 million items includes materials in more than 460 languages in all subjects, excluding agriculture and clinical medicine. The Library secures its international materials through a network of dealers and representatives throughout the world. The Library maintains six overseas offices located in Cairo, Islamabad, Jakarta, Nairobi, New Delhi, and Rio de Janeiro in order to acquire materials from regions where the book trade is underdeveloped. Access to the Library's international collections varies by language and type of material. The Library's reading rooms for Africa and the Middle East, Asia, Europe, and the Hispanic world, as well as 17 other reading rooms, are the primary gateways to these resources. In addition to visiting the Library's reading rooms in person or on the Internet <http://www.loc.gov/rr> and the new Portals to the World Web site, access to portions of the Library's international resources is available on the International home page <http://www.loc.gov/rr/international>, and the International Horizons home page featuring digital collections from around the world <http://www.loc.gov/international> . Local History and Genealogy Librarian News Online, Wed./11/7/2001, tkemp@HeritageQuest.com

See You at the Meeting!