



Anchorage Genealogical Society  
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February 2002

**February Meeting:** The meeting will be on 6 February 2002 at 7 P.M., in the first floor conference room of the Z.J. Loussac Library located at 36th and Denali. The meeting is always open to the public, hope to see you there. The program will be Doug McAllister giving us information on UMI.

**January Meeting:** There were 32 members and 11 guests present and Bruce Parham of NARA gave us information on the upcoming 1930 U.S. Federal Census. The guests included Stan & Toni Kurczynski, Julie Setchell, Joyce Erickson, Robert Wilkins, LaVonne Hendricks, & Harry Linckens, and Paul Sandhofer & Judith McDonald all of Anchorage. Two other guests who became members were Shirley Rogers and Jill Galbraith of Anchorage.

**National Archives:** "The Opening of the 1930 Census" workshop will be held at the National Archives, 654 West 3rd Ave., Anchorage, on Wednesday Evenings from 6:30 - 7:30 P.M. on the 27th of February and the 13th and 27th of March, 2002. "Using the 1930 Census" will be presented at 10 A.M. on Wednesdays 3, 10, 17 & 24 April and 15 & 29 May also on the 19th of June, 17th of July, 21st August and 18th of September 2002. You may contact NARA-Pacific Alaska Region (Anchorage) at 271-2443 or email [alaska.archives@nara.gov](mailto:alaska.archives@nara.gov) their website is at <http://www.nara.gov/regional/anchorage.html>. There will also be a NARA exhibit at the LDS Family History Center, 2501 Maplewood Street, Anchorage on 9 March 2002 from 9 A.M. to 4 P.M. during the Spring Genealogy Seminar.

**Access to Pension Records Changes:** Under the new procedures and prices for ordering copies of NARA forms, researchers will have two options for ordering by mail. In the past, pension record orders were available for a straight \$10.00 fee, NARA now offers researchers a choice between reproduction of the complete pension file and a pension documents packet of up to ten pages. An order for the basic pension record, to the extent that these documents are present in the file will include any of the following items available in the file:

1. Declaration of pension
2. Declaration of widow's pension
3. Adjutant General statements of service
4. Questionnaires completed by applicants (numbered forms)
5. Pension dropped cards
6. Marriage certificates
7. Death certificates
8. Discharge certificate

The above information may be ordered on NATF Form 85 for \$14.75. If a researcher wishes to receive the full pension report, it may be ordered on NATF Form for \$37.00. Individuals traveling to the National Archives in Washington DC may request copies of the pension files and copy them themselves - at the cost of \$0.15 per page. Keep in mind that the Revolutionary War files are completely on microfilm and available through many other sources than the National Archives.

Twin Rivers Genealogy Society, Vol. 15, Number 4, January 2002, Page 7.

**From the Desk of Esther Summers:** The Niagara Peninsulas' early settlers' hardships were varying, many to a degree that many of us have never lived through. Have you ever heard of the "HUNGRY YEAR"? From the Ontario Historical Society Vol # 25 page 260. From the time that agricultural operations were first commenced, the settlers had been blessed with favourable (sic) seasons. Some of the winters were so mild that clearing operations were carried on almost without interruption, but in 1788 a great change seemed to come over the climate. Snow lingered late in the spring, rains were heavy and

temperatures abnormally low. Severe frosts cut off the tender grain in June. About midsummer the weather underwent a complete reversal, heat and drought succeeding frosts and rains. The crops shrivelled (sic) in the fields, springs ceased to flow, small streams dried up, game vanished, forest fires broke out and the whole settlement seemed threatened with extermination. Similar conditions prevailed throughout Canada and the adjoining States. The impending peril was early foreseen and the highest officials of state, church and army sent their appeals for governmental aid. Restrictions on the importation of food were relaxed; provisions were loaned from army stores and gratuitous assistance given in the most extreme cases. The grain and potato crops of 1788 yielded practically nothing, so that during the early months of 1789 the settlers were face to face with starvation. Many cattle were sacrificed because of lack of fodder and for food, and no grain was saved for seed. The sufferings of "the Hungry Year" gave rise to a wealth of traditions that will never die out in the old Loyalist settlements of this province. Stamford settlers shared the hardships of that gloomy time, the most extreme cases of want being relieved by the distribution of government stores at "the Landing" under the supervision of the SECORDS and at other points by equally trusty relief officers. NEWSLETTER OF THE, NIAGARA PENINSULA BRANCH, ONTARIO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, BOX 2224, ST.CATHARINES, ONTARIO, CANADA, L2R 7R8, February 1991

**Support:** We are passing this on to you, our members, and asking for your support if you agree. Dear all, The Anchorage Daily News has decided to discontinue my popular column 'Tracing Your Roots' because I would not agree to sign the freelance contract they sent me. The contract stipulated that my column would go out on the McClatchy wire service, which means it could be picked up by newspapers all over the country. However, I would only be paid a flat fee of 35 dollars per column for this, which is nonsensical for a professional journalist. I am happy to write the column for the Daily News for my initial fee of 10 dollars per column - i.e. next to nothing - as long as it doesn't appear elsewhere. In the future I would like to sell the column to out-of-state newspapers on an individual basis. Pat Dougherty, the editor of the Daily News, has told me it would be impractical to withdraw me from the wire service and therefore the only option is to stop the column altogether. This is absurd when I am getting positive responses almost every day and doing this to serve the local community. Please write to Pat Dougherty <pdougherty@adn.com>, and ask him to reinstate my column. Thank you, Sarah Hurst

**Research Help:** Backfile of New York Times Going on the Internet. The ProQuest Historical Newspapers (TM) is offering a complete Entire Backfile of the New York Times (along with other newspapers) from the first issue in 1851 through 1998, more than 3.5 million pages. Cover to cover, every page digitized, every word searchable, even the ads. Of key interest, all of the birth & marriage announcements and obituaries will be instantly retrievable. At a click genealogists can see the references in the digital images of the actual paper. Genealogical research just became a whole lot easier. This award-winning ProQuest® online information system features a user-friendly interface that allows beginners to pinpoint highly specific information (a photograph of John D. Rockefeller, for instance, or an eyewitness account of McKinley's assassination) or conduct in-depth longitudinal research (on topics like the changing status of African-Americans from antebellum days through the recent past). The interface is familiar to many; it is currently available to millions of higher education, K-12, and public library users globally.

Demo of Heritage Quest Online (TM) Librarians were impressed with the new demo of Heritage Quest Online (TM). Highlights included the easy search steps; clear, readable census images that appear in a full readable size from the first click, and a great new linking feature that allows genealogists to click from their online census entry to the related Sanborn Fire Insurance Map for that town.

Another special feature is the presence of thousands of key local and genealogical histories, comprising the central core of this kind of material. Researchers may download copies of these documents. They can copy a single page from a book, a chapter or the entire book. ProQuest is adding over 1,000 new books to

Heritage Quest Online (TM) every week. Librarians were quick to comment that HeritageQuest Online is clearly a cut above other online services, noting that it is available by remote access; available to libraries at reasonable, low subscription costs and that every citation includes the digital image of the original source document cited. HQ Online (TM) includes the entire US Census, 1790-1920; 25,000 books (digital images of every page of every book); the entire Canadian Census; complete Freedman's Bank Records; American Revolutionary War Pension & Bounty Land Warrant Applications; obituaries from more than 150 newspapers across America and lot's more. Enhanced digital images of every page and new census indexing provide even the smallest library with the most requested resources for genealogists and local historians.

One librarian expressed surprise, saying, "I thought that HeritageQuest Online (TM) was going to be the same as Gale/Ancestry Plus. I can see that it's a whole lot more! Remote access, over 20,000 more "databases" and each citation includes the digital image of the document or page. Wow! This is great! I don't have to go and find that full document. I've got it every time I do a search." The collection of 25,000 published genealogies and local histories includes: family genealogies, county & town histories, church histories, maps, atlases, vital records and over 200 genealogical journals. As HeritageQuest Online(tm) grows; it will include not only the census images and indexes, but also a wide range of original documents and published materials in a digital format. New content is added weekly. Librarians can obtain more information about starting a library subscription and free online trials to HeritageQuest Online or ProQuest Historical Newspapers (TM) by contacting: ProQuest sales at, 800-521-0600, ext. 3183 or 3452 or by writing Local History & Genealogy Librarian News Online From ProQuest Company Copyright 2001 ProQuest Information and Learning Company. All rights reserved. HeritageQuest is a trademark of ProQuest Information and Learning Company. Reprinted by permission.

#### **HUMOR: What is a Genealogist?**

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Thanks to Andrew Billinghamurst who says he saw it on the "KENT-L@rootsweb.com mailing list

#### **WHAT IS A GENEALOGIST?**

A full-time detective  
A thorough historian  
An inveterate snoop  
A confirmed diplomat  
A keen observer  
A hardened skeptic  
An apt biographer  
A qualified linguist  
A part-time lawyer  
A studious sociologist  
An accurate reporter  
A hieroglyphics expert,  
AND . . .  
A complete nut!

**See you at the Meeting!**