



## Anchorage Genealogical Society

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**February Meeting:** 7 p.m., 5 February 2003 in the conference room, ground level, of the Z.J. Loussac Library located at 36<sup>th</sup> and Denali. Refreshments will be provided by Peg Hubbard, Wilma Rookus, and Cindy Cupp, juice by Emily Lamoreaux. The subject for discussion will be the Gazetteer; G. Mike Naumann will give a talk on the use of the gazetteer as he used it for researching Wisconsin. The same information should apply for any area.

**January Meeting:** The meeting was convened by Pres. Kathy Roberts who received the officers reports and then turned the meeting over to Pres. Llana Markey and the new officers. There were 27 members present; John Burkholder gave a presentation covering some of their research in Ohio last summer. There were no door prizes for the drawing so \$5.00 was taken from the "10 Most Wanted" donation and give to the lucky recipient.

**Classes:** Beginning Genealogy classes will start Saturday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February 2003 at the Senior Center, under the direction of Kathy Roberts. These classes are free and include a trip to the National Archives on the 27<sup>th</sup> of February and a tour through the genealogy section at the Loussac Library. There are still some openings for the four weekly classes contact Kathy Roberts at 243-1757 or [kroberts@gci.net](mailto:kroberts@gci.net).

**Genetic Genealogy:** The latest trend in genealogy research is DNA testing. Family historians will pay big bucks to discover what ancestral information their genes hold. If you've been tested, you might be wondering if others who share your surname have been tested. And you're probably curious about how many long-lost relatives you have, just waiting to be found. DNA Heritage's **Ybase** ([www.ybase.org](http://www.ybase.org)) provides free search and submission capabilities anyone can use. It doesn't matter what company conducted your DNA test, either. Search the Y-chromosome database by inputting up to 36 Y-chromosome markers. Search results will include exact matches or near misses. You can also search by surname, surname variants and ancestral information. If you'd like to create a record, submit your Y-chromosome genetic markers, surname, information on your direct paternal line and your e-mail address. Once you've completed the submission process, you're given a record identification number and a password. Return to the site any time to edit your record. *Reprinted with permission from Family Tree Magazine Email Update, copyright 2003 F&W Publications Inc. To subscribe to this free weekly e-mail newsletter, go to <<http://www.familytreemagazine.com/newsletter.asp>>. For a free sample copy of the print Family Tree Magazine, America's #1 family history magazine, go to <http://www.familytreemagazine.com/specialoffers.asp?FAMfreeissue>*

**Ancestor News, Preserving Priceless Family Treasures:** A few days before Christmas, my cousin arrived at my house with a priceless treasure—my grandmother's wedding dress. The dress has ivory lace with a gathered satin band around the waist. Originally, it would have had an undergarment of some kind.

For being 90 years old, the dress is in remarkably good condition—no tears of any kind and only one small stain. The dress is beautiful with an intricate design. It's tiny and short (two features I don't remember associating with my grandmother) but she probably looked a lot different in 1913 than I remember her in 1959.

My main concerns are how to remove the stain and whether I should attempt to remove it. I want to preserve the dress for future generations. I searched the Internet and found several excellent sites on preservation. I discovered that light is a primary culprit in discoloring or yellowing textiles and that the rate of deterioration is determined by the length and strength of exposure. Other damaging factors are high temperature and airborne contaminants. I also discovered that several types of storage containers emit harmful chemicals. An acid-free archival storage box seems to be my best bet. I'd like to display the dress, but I need to do further research before I tackle that. I suspect a phone call to a textile expert is in the future.

I'd love to hear about your special family treasure. Write and tell me about it. Send a digital photo if you have one. Some of the best sites I found for preserving your family treasures are:

**American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works** [aic.stanford.edu/treasure](http://aic.stanford.edu/treasure)

- **Storing Antique Textiles** [www.si.edu/resource/faq/nmah/antqtext.htm](http://www.si.edu/resource/faq/nmah/antqtext.htm)
- **Northern States Conservation Center** [www.collectioncare.org/ci/ccict.html](http://www.collectioncare.org/ci/ccict.html)
- **War Letters** [www.warletters.com/preservation/index.html](http://www.warletters.com/preservation/index.html)
- **Preserving Photographs** [www.uni.edu/petersog/icpctip5.html](http://www.uni.edu/petersog/icpctip5.html)
- **Preserving Documents and Photographs** [www.sos.state.ga.us/archives/gp/pdp.htm](http://www.sos.state.ga.us/archives/gp/pdp.htm)

For more about preserving family treasures, visit  
[www.familytreemagazine.com/specialoffers.asp?FAMancestorcurrent](http://www.familytreemagazine.com/specialoffers.asp?FAMancestorcurrent)

—Nancy Hendrickson, Contributing Editor [stjoemo@pobox.com](mailto:stjoemo@pobox.com) Hendrickson is a family historian, freelance writer and the author of the upcoming book *Finding Your Roots Online*, on sale May 2003. Browse the archive of her AncestorNews columns at [www.familytreemagazine.com/specialoffers.asp?FAMancestorarchive](http://www.familytreemagazine.com/specialoffers.asp?FAMancestorarchive). *Ibid*.

**Census Bureau tests Modified Questionnaire:** The next US census won't take place until 2010, but officials at the Census Bureau are already testing some changes to the questionnaire. The 2003 Census Test will help determine how changing the wording of questions, examples and instructions affects the quality of responses to the race and Hispanic-origin questions. The Bureau also wants to explore alternative response options, such as the Internet, telephones and interactive voice recognition, to increase initial participation. The Bureau hopes to decrease the amount of data it has to collect through interviews of residents who don't respond to the census survey. The Bureau will notify 250,000 households that have been selected to participate in the test. To get the latest census news, [subscribe to the Census Bureau Alert](#). *Ibid*

**Research Center to Open in Atlanta:** If your genealogical research takes you to Atlanta or other parts of the South, you might consider a visit to a new, free research center set to open Jan. 30 at the Atlanta History Center. The 42,000-square-foot James G. Kenan Research Center will house more than 3.5 million items of the Atlanta Historical Society's archives. The center's visual collection boasts 1.5 million historical photographs, prints, maps and architectural drawings. The manuscript collections encompass business records, private papers, documents, newspapers and microfilm. You'll find information on a variety of topics—decorative arts, genealogy, military history, Southern gardens and architectural history. [Click here to access the research center's collections online](#). An official ribbon-cutting ceremony will take place at the Atlanta History Center's McElreath Hall (130 W. Paces Ferry Road NW) Jan. 30 at 6 p.m. Guests can tour the James G. Kenan Research Center's collection storage areas. [Visit the Web site](#) or call (404) 814-4000 for ticket information. *Ibid*

**European Boundaries:** There are two atlases by Colin McEvedy that may be of value to you: *The Penguin Atlas of Modern History* (to 1815), and *The Penguin Atlas of Recent History* (Europe since 1815)

**Missouri WW1 Service Records:** There are about 145,000 records of Missouri veterans of World War 1 that are available in a data base at <http://www.sos.state.mo.us/archives>. The state archives include records from 1770 and French and Spanish colonial rule and American territorial rule as well. All of these are in the state archives but may not be available on-line.

**See You at the Meeting!**

### **Letter from the President:**

To all members of the Anchorage Genealogical Society

I would like to thank our former board members for all their efforts on our behalf over the last year. I have served on numerous boards over the years and have been particularly impressed with the enthusiasm of this organization and the willingness of individuals to participate and to get things done that benefit AGS. I have served in various capacities on the Board, because it has been a lot of fun. We have accomplished a lot over the last few years. We have a great diversity of talent and experience in our membership and we can do more with a little help from everyone.

According to the AGS Constitution and By-laws, our main purpose is “**To organize, promote and encourage the science and education of genealogy, to help others gather genealogical information, to preserve and publish material of historical and genealogical nature**”. Kathy Roberts has greatly helped us move in that direction by establishing and often teaching our Beginning Genealogy Classes and the FTM Classes. The past Boards have presented good programs and seminars to educate us and help us in our individual endeavors. It is my goal to continue to promote and to offer assistance to our members by continuing to provide educational programs at our monthly meetings and to provide mentors when needed. Bob Waites, our current Program Chairman has already lined up some interesting programs. One feature will be a 10 to 15 minute review of a source book and how to use it by Sara Burkholder over a period of six months. Other speakers will focus on materials, techniques, areas and ways to get around roadblocks and further our research on our family trees. We encourage you to bring your questions to meetings and will provide an opportunity for Questions and Answers on a regular basis. If you have a particular need that you would like a program on, please feel free to contact Bob or any other board member.

In the last year, we had to give up producing our Quarterly. This was our Society's contribution to preserve and publish material of historical and genealogical nature. Pat McClure, Jane Baldwin, John Burkholder and others did it for years and as we all know, as helpers move on to other things one person ends up doing it all and burns out as a result. We receive and place in the Genealogical Section of the Library, numerous Quarterlies from around the country that have helped our members in their research. These Quarterlies are put together by genealogists and historians in a particular area, often by people who aren't even doing research in that area, but feel it is their responsibility to do so for the benefit of others. By contrast, Alaska has a small population base, but many people have come through our State, especially in the early days. Many of us feel that we need to find a way to start producing our own Quarterly again so that folks in other states and countries can benefit from our research as we have from theirs. With that in mind, the Board is considering how we can resume publishing a Quarterly and what format we will use. We will be presenting our thoughts to you on this issue at a future meeting.

It is my personal belief that an organization is only as good as its members will allow it to be. We can all make a small contribution, which benefits everyone. Sometimes, folks are reluctant to participate because it isn't "their bag" or in "their area of research". However, I have found that participating and learning a new task that may benefit others invariably benefits me. Learning how to teach a segment of Beginning Genealogy, learning how to extract information for a Quarterly, talking about your research efforts in a particular area, attending a meeting and being able to answer someone's question, or just showing up, gives you an opportunity to learn something new and to meet other neat people.

Personally, I am looking forward to an interesting year with an enthusiastic Board that I really enjoy working with. We hope to make our meetings interesting, informative and fun. Please join us.

Llana M. Markey