



Anchorage Genealogical Society
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April Meeting: The April meeting will be held in the conference room on the first floor of the Z.J. Loussac Library at 7 p.m. on the 2nd of April 2003. Sheila Irwin will present a program on researching your Irish Roots, and also a book review. Refreshments will be provided by Ame Ivanov, Mike Naumann, and Mickey Knapp, Shirley Rogers will provide juice.

March Meeting: There were 26 members and five guests present, the guests included three who became new members: Kevin Johnson, Barbara Macy, and Susan McKelvie. The other guests were Shirley Hess visiting her family from Wisconsin and Susan Lavin of Anchorage. There was \$27.50 donated for the "10 Most Wanted" book fund. Informational talks were given by Shirley Rogers and Gordon Harper on the "Generations" genealogy program, AJ Rawls gave us information on "Ancestry File", "Personal Ancestry File", and the "Legacy" genealogy programs, and Janet Smith gave us information on "The Master Genealogist". There is a sample program for The Master Genealogist at www.whollygenes.com.

NARA New: The National Archives and Records Administration has placed on the Internet a list of military casualties, which occurred during World War II. The database is scanned images of a computer printout made in 1946. Go to: http://www.archives.gov/research_room/arc/index.html, and scroll to World War II Army and Army Air Force Casualty List or World War II Navy Marine and Coast Guard Casualty List

Volunteer, Make a Difference! The Scottish Highland Games are June 28th from 8:30 a.m.- 6 p.m., at the Lions Park in Eagle River.

Galway Days (Formerly the Irish Music Festival) on G Street is August 3rd.

Lynn Pikey can always use help with these functions. Contact Lynn at ljpmx@hotmail.com or 338-1923 or Llana Markey at 563-7741 if you would like to volunteer to help with either one or both of them.

Lives and Times: (From Genie Grab Bag, uncorked by Patricia Wood) In our quest to fill out our family trees, most of us focus initially on finding our ancestors' names and dates of birth and death. That's just fine and rather important – to begin with – but there is so much more to learn and understand about the lives of our ancestors than just vital records data. Plus, as the more experienced family history sleuths have learned, knowing just what was happening in your ancestor's "world" at certain points in his or her life, may be just what is needed to point you in the right direction to solve another one of our "genie" problems.

Consider seeking out local histories and perhaps reading old newspapers. What was the economy like, and how did it affect the family's life? What were the hot political issues of the day; and did they cause your family to move on to a new home or perhaps join the military? What about the ads for regional transportation or references to departures and arrivals of ships and trains? Consider how a local means of transport such as Puget Sound's Mosquito Fleet influenced daily life in the heyday of this popular flotilla. Don't overlook the ads for food, clothing and supplies. What would your family be buying to eat for tonight's supper or wear to work of the church picnic? What did the breadwinner need in the way of supplies and equipment to support the family? How much did these items cost? What were the social events of the day, and which ones might your family have attended? All of these details can bring surprises and fresh appreciation of our families whose lives and times are no doubt quite different from our fast paced high tech world of today. Plenty of opportunities are available to the curious family historian who is ready to go above and beyond names and dates. One rather interesting resource with great credentials is a website maintained by the National Digital Library, a part of the Library of Congress: www.memory.loc.gov.

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AGS Quarterly: Bob Waites has the quarterly ready for distribution, it will be distributed to the same mailing list that was in effect when we had to drop the publication a year ago. The price for back issues has been increased to \$2.00 per copy. Copies will be available for pickup at the next meeting.

2003 Seminar: Planning is under way for the 2003 seminar which will be held on the 6th of September in the Wilda Marston Theatre of the Z.J. Loussac library. If you wish to help with the planning or production you may contact Llana Markey the society President.

Beginning Genealogy: Kathy Roberts is planning on new classes to start on Saturday the 13th of September 2003.

Computer Classes: The AGS and the Anchorage Senior Center (ASC) will be conducting computer classes on the Family Tree Maker genealogy computer program on Saturday the 12th of April and Saturday the 10th of May, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. These classes will be held in the ASC computer room. There are only 12 computer spaces available. There will be a charge of \$2.00 collected at the door. If there is enough interest in these classes there will be another class from 2 – 4 p.m. on the same dates. Some prior knowledge of computer use is necessary for these classes. Call Kathy Roberts at 243-1757 or email kroberts@pci.net or fax 248-5721 to register.

PHOTO BALANCING ACT: This tip comes from **Vicki Garro**: "I have many color photos and slides that have started to fade. Using several different software programs, I tried to restore the color balance on these photos and slides after scanning them. Unfortunately, the results were less than acceptable. I then found a feature available on most of the software programs that produced results I could live with. Change the images from color to black and white! The black-and-white images were better quality than my attempts at restoring the color. I no longer have a blue face on Aunt Ethel! Do you have a great idea for discovering, preserving or celebrating family history? E-mail us your tip at ftmnews-editor@fwpubs.com with "TIP OF THE WEEK" in the subject line. If we publish it, you'll win a free copy of **Bringing Your Family History to Life Through Social History** by Katherine Scott Sturdevant. *Reprinted with permission from Family Tree Magazine Email Update, copyright 2003 F&W Publications Inc. 16 January 2003.*

COLONIAL LIVING: Do you or your family have what it takes to survive in the 17th century? PBS is looking for willing and able Americans to take part in a new series. Colonial House (<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/colonialhouse>) will be filmed in a remote corner of the Eastern Seaboard starting in late spring. For five months, participants will eat, breathe and sleep all things Colonial. They'll tackle early settlers' routine chores such as planting and harvesting corn and catching fish. The inspiration for Colonial House came from another successful reality PBS series--Frontier House. In spring 2002, PBS launched the successful show in which three families experienced life on the frontier. Five thousand families applied to be part of Frontier House. This is your chance. If you think you can handle living off the land, complete the Colonial House application online at <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/colonialhouse/form.html>. *Reprinted with permission from Family Tree Magazine Email Update, copyright 2003 F&W Publications Inc. 30 January 2003.*

See You at the Meeting!