



Anchorage Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 242294, Anchorage, AK 99524-2294  
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July 2001

**July Meeting:** There will NOT be a meeting in July as the first Wednesday is the 4th of July. Wilma advises we need some mixed- flavor Tea Bags, and Regular (not sugar-free) Swiss Miss cocoa envelopes. Running low, but okay for another meeting.

**June Meeting:** Raquel Brodie presented "LaSangre Llama" her story of tracing her ancestry from Catholic Mexico to Jewish forebears from Spain. Included in her talk were some of the problems that have been encountered when a group of people is forced to deny a belief and accept another because of the desires of the governing body. Raquel was raised as a member of the Catholic Church and then discovered that her ancestors were Jewish and she is adopting the Jewish faith.

**A GENEALOGIST'S NIGHTMARE:** Dear Cousin ////, In response to your letter, I am sorry to inform you that grandpa "Fred" died some time back and the stuff you asked about is not available. The personal property the family did not want was old at an estate sale. All those boxes of junk did not interest a single buyer. We were able to salvage several binders for the kids homework after we sent all the paper to the incinerator. The kids really complained bout having to lug all that paper and pictures of those ugly old folks to the dumpster. An old family Bible from the 1840's did bring \$5.00. The one from the 1870's did not sell. There also was a bunch of floppy disks that we were able to reformat and download some games for the kids to play on their new playstation. At least SOMEBODY got some good from the three generations work. I saw the fellow at a flea market a couple of weeks ago and he said he threw the Bible in the trash after nobody was interested in it. He said he got an offer for fifty cents for it, but would rather burn it than give it away. He seemed to be having a lot of success with some very nice Elvis paintings at his booth.

The two aunts you asked about are also dead. They were such a delight and could talk all day long about the things papa had written about. I remember them saying something about some records that were copied from two courthouses that later burned. Neither ever wrote down a single thing. The letter you referred to was one he typed up and sent to lots of folks who wrote him. He laughed about them never getting any of his hard work as well as his Fathers and Grandfather who was in the Civil War. He guarded all the information carefully to the bitter end. I wish I could remember some of the things to help you, but I was bored to tears listening to them talk about the family members who were in the civil war and those silly pieces of paper he showed so proudly. I vaguely remember they had some beeswax seals and something to do with the land grants that were destroyed in the courthouse fires.

I wish I could remember the story about his grandfathers evening with Jefferson Davis when he was on the run. There are also some very juicy stories that were handed down, but I don't remember them very well. Another thing I remember after he got sick was some fellow calling him and he agreed to let him come down and copy all his material. He told him he would call him back when he felt better. Papa mentioned something about letting the society the man was from have all his work, SINCE NOBODY IN THE FAMILY CARED anything about a bunch of people who had been dead for 200 years. -- Papa died the next week. --

*Thanks to Pat McClure*

**Railroad Retirees:** Did your ancestor work on the railroad? If so, you won't find him or her in the Social Security Death Records. Railroad employees had their own retirement system. This federal agency [U.S. Railroad Retirement Board] may be able to lead you to records that can tell you more about your ancestor. From the home page, click on "Genealogical Inquiries" for an explanation of what this independent federal agency has and what it doesn't have. Since it was not established until the mid-1930s, the board's service records only cover employees after 1936. Fortunately, the site also points to pre-1937 research resources, such as membership rosters of the railroad union and personnel records of some railroad lines. <http://rrb.gov>

#### ANCHORAGE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Presents

FAMILY DETECTIVE

by

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#### SEMINAR SUBJECTS

##### **Be Your Own Detective:**

This presentation will teach the attendees how to be their own detective. Discussion will include use of the Internet, accessing 20th century public records, and how to find information in libraries and archives.

##### **After Ancestry.com**

Learn how to untangle the string from a hit on Ancestry.com back to the original source. The route is not always obvious nor simple.

### **Read All About It**

Research significant historical events since 1851 in the New York Times. Immigrant arrival information, census enumeration's, the flu epidemic, earthquakes and tornadoes, war casualties, and Indian uprisings will bring your ancestor's life into focus.

### **Reflex Genealogy**

When you discover new data, do you record the information and go on to other research problems, or do you Automatically seek additional data based upon your findings? Find out how to develop your reflex skills that will result in more thorough and successful research.

**WHERE:** LOUSSAC LIBRARY, Lower Level

**WHEN:** September 8, 2001

**REGISTRATION:** 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

**SEMINAR:** 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

**FEES:** \$40.00 for Early Registration

\$45.00 at the Door

For further information contact: (907) 345-2889

The complete registration form will be included in the next two AGS Newsletters.

**UMI Microfiche Story:** Recently Some Society representatives met with Mr. Alden Rollins from UAA and Mr. Doug McAllister from the Loussac library to discuss the changes taking place in the microfiche field, and whether we could help in funding and acquiring accessibility to these films for all Alaskans. The following is from Everton dated 21 June 2001: 'Bell and Howell Changes Names'. For many years, University Microfilms was the premier name in archiving (on microfilm) historic newspapers, magazines, and other valuable research materials. You could usually rely on UMI to have a copy of that hard-to-find publication you needed.

More recently, UMI became Bell and Howell Information & Learning, to bring its name in line with its parent company. Now the name has changed again, to ProQuest Information and Learning.

The change is more than just cosmetic. ProQuest still has copies of those valuable documents, but it is updating its ability to bring that data to researchers. Beginning in July, you can use the new ProQuest service to search their collection online.

The new software is a big leap for researchers who have had to spend hours poring over catalogs looking for what they need, and the folks at the former UMI are hoping the new name will remind people of their increased ability to help researchers.

Resource: ProQuest Information and Learning <http://www.umi.com>

**Family History Month:** October is Family History Month, 13 states have passed proclamations declaring this. At the last NGS board meeting, the NGS board officially endorsed the concept and will use the NGS Newsmagazine to promote the idea. We individually as members of the society can contact our local senators, representatives, and or the governor and task that Alaska join in this proclamation. For more information look at [www.ancestry.com/library/view/columns/compass/2480.asp](http://www.ancestry.com/library/view/columns/compass/2480.asp) Juliana Smith or [www.ancestry.com/library/print/news/articles/1005.htm](http://www.ancestry.com/library/print/news/articles/1005.htm), Dr. John Daly.

**Israeli and Jewish Roots:** The Israel GenWeb Project is one of dozens of websites operating under the general umbrella of the World GenWeb Project. Its focus is Israel, specifically the Jewish heritage of Israel.

While the Israel GenWeb site has links to general information on the country of Israel, its main attraction for genealogists will be its long set of links to other Jewish genealogy websites. While there are links to some of the better-known Israeli resources (such as Yad Vashem and the Central Archives in Jerusalem), this section is not limited to Israeli sites. There are also links to websites offering help to those with Jewish roots in the United States, Great Britain, eastern Europe, Canada, the Iberian peninsula, and central Europe. There is also an online query section, offers to look up names in a variety of publications and databases, and an email-based discussion list for Jewish roots. Even if you are a seasoned researcher, the Israel GenWeb site can provide you with access to some sources you may not have previously encountered, making it an essential stop in your journey to reconstruct your family tree.

Resource: Israel GenWeb <http://www.rootsweb.com/~isrwwg>

Wondering how to trace your Jewish roots? Get the help you need from Finding Our Fathers, one of the premier books on searching for Jewish family history -- in the United States, Europe and the Middle East.

Finding Our Fathers (Y700) <http://www.everton.com/shopper/specials.php>

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**See you in August!**