



Anchorage Genealogical Society  
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**December Meeting:** Wednesday the 5th of December 2001, 7 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Z.J. Loussac Library. Refreshments are; bring your favorite "Finger Food" to share. This is our holiday party so bring small gifts, value to not exceed \$5.00, for exchange.

**November Meeting:** There were 35 members and two guests present; the guests were Sandra and Bryn Johnson of Anchorage. There was a short program conducted by Pat McClure covering extraction of materials for use in the quarterly. Following that program there was a question and answer period.

**Upcoming:** Kathy Roberts at 243-1757 or kroberts@gci.net will be conducting Beginning Genealogy starting the 5th of January 2002; this will be four sessions ending the 26th of January. There will be Family Tree Maker and Computer Research classes in February. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints on Maplewood will be conducting a Genealogical Seminar on 9 March 2002.

**Gems:** In the 1500's most people didn't have pewter plates, but had trenchers - a piece of wood with the middle scooped out like a bowl. Trenchers were never washed and a lot of times worms got into the wood. After eating off wormy trenchers, they would get "trench mouth."

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Sometimes they could obtain pork and would feel really special when that happened. When company came over, they would bring out some bacon to hang it to show it off. It was a sign of wealth and that a man "could really, bring home the bacon." They would cut off a little to share with guests and would sit around and: chew the fat."

*Ibid*

Houses had thatched roofs - thick straw, piled high with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the dogs, cats and other small animals (mice, rats, and bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained, it became slippery and sometimes the animals would fall off the roof. Hence the saying, "it's raining cats and dogs." There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could really mess up a nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence.

*Champaign County Genealogical Society Newsletter Oct/Nov/Dec 2001*

**FGS Forum:** Volume 13 Number 3 the Fall 2001 issue has a couple of items that caught my eye; Finding German Ancestral Villages by Kenny Burck of Ohio, three pages and Strategies for Using the Ellis Island Database, four pages. Each of the articles is too lengthy to try and condense for this newsletter. Our copy of this issue will be in the Library by the time you get this.

**Microsoft Pulls Plug on Windows 95/98:**

Microsoft recently introduced Windows XP with a lot of fanfare. However, the company has been a bit quieter about its announcement to cancel support for older operating systems. Starting next month, Microsoft will begin pulling the plug on support for Windows 95 and Windows 98.

Support is an expense for Microsoft. It can maximize its profits by shutting down support for older products and pushing everyone towards buying newer, supported Microsoft products. There's nothing new here hundreds of other software companies have made similar support decisions on older versions of their programs.

Buried deep in the Windows XP announcements you can find a note that Microsoft will cease to provide support for MS DOS, Windows 3.xx, and Windows NT 3.5x in December 2001. At the same time, support will become limited for Windows 95. In June 2002, Microsoft will cease to provide full support for Windows 98 and Windows NT version 4.0. This will leave the overwhelming majority of current Windows users without operating system support.

So what's the big deal? You probably don't call Microsoft for support now. Any time you have a question you probably ask a friend, a relative, a co-worker or perhaps you post a message on one of the online forums. Since you never ask Microsoft for support, you might feel that this issue will not affect you. Keep in mind, however, that the companies that produce your favorite software depend upon Microsoft a lot more than you do. They not only have "how-to" questions, but they also depend upon bug fixes and support alerts. None of those will be forthcoming in the future for the older versions of Windows. Only Windows ME, Windows 2000 and Windows XP will be supported. If these companies cannot obtain needed support, they may not be able to produce software for your system. I wouldn't be surprised to see software listed within the next year that is certified to operate only on Windows XP, 2000 and ME. All older versions of Windows will be unsupported. If you install a program on Windows 98 and then encounter a problem, the producing company may not be able to help you. Microsoft has moved to a standard 3-year product lifecycle now. That's all that anyone can expect to get by way of formal support from Microsoft for all their products. The company will offer limited "extended support" available another year; "extended support" is a synonym for "paid support" on a per-call basis. In other words, have a credit card handy when you call for assistance.

One side note: Microsoft's "Desktop Product Lifecycle Guidelines" affect all of their products, not just operating systems. Similar policies have been implemented (or will soon be implemented) on Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Money, Flight

Simulator and hundreds of other programs produced by the company. If you want to see when Microsoft will pull the plug on support for your software, look at <http://www.microsoft.com/windows/lifecycleconsumer.asp> and at <http://support.microsoft.com/directory/discontinue.asp>.

*Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter, Weekly Summary 18 November 2001.*

**FTM V. 9.0:** George Eastman in his weekly review of 25 November 2001 gave an extensive review and critique of Family Tree Maker version 9.0. According to his write-up it is available from bare bones, the operating discs only, to a version with over 20 disc's accompanying it. Of course the price goes up with each addition of discs from \$19.99 for an upgrade to \$99.99 for a beginning set with all the bells and whistles. You can read the entire review at [www.rootsforum.com](http://www.rootsforum.com).

**100 years ago:** *Courtesy of Southern Indiana Genealogical Society, Quarterly Vol. XXII NR2.*

Only 14% of the homes in the United States had a bathtub. There were only 8,000 cars in the U.S. and only 144 miles of paved road.

The maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 MPH. Alabama, Mississippi, Iowa and Tennessee were each more heavily populated than California. In 1901 the average life expectancy in the United States was forty-seven.

California was the 21st most populous state in the U.S. with 1.4 million residents.

Income: Average hourly rate was \$0.22/hour, the average worker made between \$200 and \$400 per year. A competent accountant could expect to earn \$2000 per year, a dentist \$2000, a veterinarian between \$1500 and \$4000, and a mechanical engineer \$5000.

Sugar cost \$0.04/lb, eggs \$0.14/dozen, coffee was \$0.15/lb. More than 95% of all births in the U.S. took place at home.

Ninety percent of all U.S. physicians had no college education. Instead, they attended medical schools, many of which were condemned in the press and by the government as "substandard". Only 6% of all Americans had graduated from high school. Most women only washed their hair once a month and used borax or egg yolks for shampoo.

The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower. The American flag had 45 stars.

Canada passed a law prohibiting poor people from entering the country for any reason, either as travelers or immigrant.

The five leading causes of death in the U.S. were: 1. Pneumonia and influenza; 2. Tuberculosis; 3 Diarrhea; 4. Heart disease; 5 Stroke.

Drive-by-shootings - in which teenage boys galloped down the street on horses and started randomly shooting at houses, carriages, or anything else that caught their fancy - were an ongoing problem in Denver and other cities in the west.

There was no Mother's Day or Father's Day. One in ten U.S. adults couldn't read or write!

Plutonium, insulin and antibiotics hadn't been discovered yet. Scotch tape, crossword puzzles, canned beer or iced tea hadn't been invented. Marijuana, heroin, and morphine were all available over the counter at corner drug stores. According to one pharmacist, "Heroin clears the complexion, gives buoyancy to the mind, regulates the stomach, and the bowels, and is, in fact, a perfect guardian of health."

**See you at the Meeting!**