

ROOTS AND BRANCHES

Genealogy News from Linebaugh Library's Historical Research Room

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HR HAPPENINGS

The busyness of the summer is winding down and school is back in session. During the summer months the HR Room is visited by a lot of travelers from all over the United States. We even had a visitor from Japan in July. On an average, the HR Room will have around 200 patrons per month walking through its doors. You just never know, you might even get to meet a distant relative. It has happened many times in the HR Room just by researchers casually talking to each other and before the conversation is over with, they are related.

If you haven't discovered it already, our AncestryPlus database no longer exists. The database was managed by Gale Group, which was recently taken over by Proquest. The new subscription database is "Ancestry Library Edition." You can access this new database through our webpage by clicking on "Find Articles and Databases" and then right above the Gale Group databases you will see a small paragraph alerting of the change and the new website link to click on. The new database is very similar to AncestryPlus and should be a comparable replacement. As with AncestryPlus, the new Ancestry Library Edition database is only accessible at the library. You can, however, access it on any of the internet computers in the library and there is no limit to the number of patrons using the database at the same time. Let us know how it compares to AncestryPlus.

HR BOOKSHELF

The following is a partial list of new books added to the Historical Research Room collection after the April issue of this newsletter:

Chester County, TN Pictorial History
Claiborne County, TN Pictorial History
Decatur County, TN Family History
Gibson County, TN Pictorial History
Hardeman County, TN Volume II Family History
Haywood County, TN Pictorial History
Henry County, TN Family History
Humphreys County, TN Pictorial History
Lewis County, TN Family History
Perry County, TN Family History
Sullivan County, TN Pictorial History
McEvoy Death Records, Henry County, TN

Chester County, TN Family History
Clay County, TN Pictorial History
Dyer County, TN Family History
Hancock County, TN Pictorial History
Hardin County, TN Family History
Henry County, TN Pictorial History
Houston County, TN Family History
Jackson County, TN Bicentennial Pictorial
Macon County, TN History & Families
Sequatchie County, TN Pictorial History
Van Buren County, TN Pictorial History
History of Hamblen Co., TN and Its People

GENEALOGY GEMS

According to African American genealogist Tony Burroughs in his lecture "Identifying Slave Owners" (FGS Conference August 2002), most slaves did NOT take the name of their masters after the Civil War. In a survey of 5,452 post Civil War Blacks, only 795 had taken the names of their former owners (only about 15%).

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

ORPHAN TRAINS – From about 1850 through the early 20th century, thousands of children were transferred from the overcrowded orphanages and homes in the large cities in the northeastern United States, to live with families on farms throughout the Middle West. The name orphan train originates with the railroad trains that transported the children to their new homes. Not all the children were orphans. Some had living parents who believed their children would have a better life if sent to a caring family in the farmlands of the west. The goal of the orphan trains was to provide the children with a better life, but this was not always the case. Family history research about Orphan Train Riders is often a difficult undertaking. Records can be scarce. Illinois became the new home of many of the children who rode the Orphan Trains. The New York Juvenile Asylum, New York Children's Aid Society and New York Foundling Hospital (Roman Catholic) were three of the biggest agencies from New York City that supplied orphans to the Orphan Trains.

SPEAKING THE LANGUAGE

Pole – a measure of distance used in surveying, equal to a rod or sixteen and one-half feet

Mulatto – half black and half white

Lis pendens – a pending lawsuit filed in land records

Grantee – a buyer of property

Grantor – a seller of property

Surety – a person who pledges a sum of money as bond for another

Sm – Stepmother

Dsp – Died without issue

WEB CONNECTIONS

Effective January 1, 2005 all records held by the California State Archives created before 1931 are now open. For more information visit <http://www.ss.ca.gov/archives/archives.htm>

Jennings & Ayers Funeral Home – www.jenningsandayers.com has been serving Rutherford and adjoining counties for over a century.

Woodfin Funeral Chapel – www.woodfinchapel.com have faithfully served Rutherford County and surrounding areas since 1893.

RESEARCH KNOW-HOW

When searching for state records, it is helpful to know when a state was admitted to the union. For example, the first of the original 13 colonies to become a state was Delaware in 1787. Tennessee was admitted in 1796 (state #16) and Ohio (#17) was admitted in 1803. The last two states admitted were in 1959. According to "What Was Hot" by Julian Biddle, Alaska was admitted January 3rd, and Hawaii became the fiftieth state on August 31st. Complete information on when each state was admitted to the union is available at www.50states.com.

GENEALOGY GATHERINGS

The Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) is holding its annual conference September 7-10, 2005 in Salt Lake City, UT. For more information check out their website www.fgs.org/2005conf/FGS-2005.htm.

PERIODICALS AT-A-GLANCE

The family history collection in the HR Room has surname newsletters available for your research, such as "The Bean Stalk," "The Sparks Quarterly," "The Burleson Family," and "The Rucker Family Society."