

# ROOTS AND BRANCHES

Genealogy News from Linebaugh Library's Historical Research Room

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## **HR HAPPENINGS**

The beauty of fall is all around us and the holidays are approaching quickly. Can you believe it? If you are looking for some holiday gift ideas, consider creating and framing a family pedigree chart, putting together a family history scrapbook, or assemble traditional family recipes into a cookbook. It's a wonderful way to be creative and share your family research.

The HR patron computer is now on our computer reservation system. Therefore, if you want to use the HR computer and someone else is on it, go to one of our computer reservation stations (there is one by the reference internet computers and one downstairs across from the circulation desk) and make a reservation by using your library card. Remember, the Ancestry Library Edition database can also be accessed on the internet computers across from the Reference Desk and on the computers in the Computer Lab on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor. The usage of this database continues to increase and we are trying to provide you with free, convenient accessibility. If you have any questions or concerns about this change, please let me know.

We have decided to have each newsletter focus around a genealogy theme. This issue covers basic genealogy research tips and skills.

Enjoy your Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays!

## **RESEARCH KNOW-HOW**

"I would like to research for my ancestors, but I don't know how to get started." This is something I am told frequently by visiting patrons. Well, maybe these tips will help. You can begin searching your family history by following these basic steps: (1) Start with yourself; (2) Interview family members; (3) Sift through family papers; (4) Visit any known family cemeteries; (5) Study family photographs; (6) Check for a family bible; (7) Organize your research material with family group sheets; (8) Create a pedigree chart; (9) Visit libraries, state and county archives, county clerk's offices, and a local LDS Family History Center to research original and published records; (10) Write-up your family history and share it.

## **GENEALOGY GEMS**

William Dollarhide has set out the following five essential rules of genealogy:

1. Treat the brothers and sisters of your ancestors as equal – often important clues do not come relating to a direct ancestor, but for a brother, sister, aunt or uncle of a direct ancestor.
2. Never accept just one document or just one source to prove something – even official documents such as a "birth certificate" or "death certificate" have mistakes.
3. Never trust a published family history or genealogical compilation – many authors do not document their sources and just because something is "published" doesn't make it true.
4. Never trust secondary sources – these sources have been extracted and printed from the original documents (i.e. census indexes). If you are compiling your genealogy from secondary sources only, you are almost certainly in trouble.
5. Prepare your genealogy so others can read it – if you start thinking of your genealogy as work that others will read, then you may take more care in how you organize and layout your work.

## **HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS**

One hundred years ago, in what is sometimes considered the first “genealogy boom,” there were few secondary sources (published materials) available to the researcher, which meant seeking out the original documents. There was also the added hindrance of no photocopiers, so everything had to be hand-copied. Looking back, researchers in this day and age have got it made-in-the-shade.

## **SPEAKING THE LANGUAGE**

Surname – a person’s last name

Pedigree Chart – an outline of a person’s direct ancestral line (parents, grandparents, etc.)

Soundex – a system of coding and indexing surnames phonetically

Census – an official counting of people within the boundaries of a county

Vital Records – public records of births, deaths and marriages

Primary Sources – original documents

Secondary Sources – material that has been transcribed from original documents and published

## **WEB CONNECTIONS**

The following websites are ideal for a beginner genealogist:

[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) – Latter Day Saints of Salt Lake City, Utah

[www.rootsweb.com](http://www.rootsweb.com) – the largest all-volunteer genealogy site on the Web

[www.usgenweb.com](http://www.usgenweb.com) – provides genealogy websites for every county and state of the U.S.

[www.vitalrec.com](http://www.vitalrec.com) – how to obtain vital records

[www.libraryspot.com](http://www.libraryspot.com) – to find other libraries and archives

## **GENEALOGY GATHERINGS**

Saturday, November 19, 2005 the Middle Tennessee Genealogical Society and the Tennessee Historical Society will host the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Genealogical Seminar at the Brentwood Library (8109 Concord Road) featuring sessions by Chuck Sherrill, Shirley Wilson, Carole Bucy and Tom Kanon. For more info visit [www.mtgs.org](http://www.mtgs.org).

## **PERIODICALS AT-A-GLANCE**

No matter how long or how short a time that you’ve been working on your family history you will benefit from reading the article “Twenty Tried & True Basic Tips for Genealogists” featured on page 60 of the Summer 2005 issue of Heritage Quest Magazine.

## **HR BOOKSHELF**

The following is a partial list of new books added to the Historical Research Room collection during the 2004-2005 budget year:

Cemeteries & Graveyards of Rutherford Co., TN

1860 Census of Jackson County, TN

1900 Census of Clay County, TN

Early Coffin Maker (Trousdale Co., TN)

Coffee County Loose Court Records

1850, 1860, 1870 and 1900 DeKalb Co., TN Census

DeKalb Co. Death Certificates 1914-1925

1870 and 1930 Cannon Co., TN Census

Historic Clarksville, TN

Trousdale County, TN Obits & Articles

Macon County, TN Obits & Articles

1850 and 1870 Coffee Co., TN Census

Coffee County Wills

DeKalb Co. Marriages 1848-1999 (3 vols)

DeKalb Co. Wills 1838-1934 (3 vols)

Please Remember Me (DeKalb Cemeteries)