



NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS

www.NorthHillsGenealogists.org
PO Box 304, Ingomar, PA 15127

“CHRONICLING AMERICA” OFFERS HISTORIC NEWSPAPERS FREE OF CHARGE

The following announcement was issued by the Library of Congress March 21, 2007:

The Library of Congress and the National Endowment for the Humanities today announced that "Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers" is debuting with more than 226,000 pages of public-domain newspapers from California, Florida, Kentucky, New York, Utah, Virginia and the District of Columbia published between 1900 and 1910. The fully-searchable site is available at www.loc.gov/chroniclingamerica/.

"Chronicling America" is produced by the National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP), a partnership between the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the Library of Congress created to develop an Internet-based, searchable database of U.S. newspapers with select digitization of historic pages as well as information about newspapers from 1690 to the present. Supported by NEH's "We the People" program and Digital Humanities Initiative, this rich digital resource will continue to be developed and permanently maintained at the Library of Congress.

Over a period of approximately 20 years, NDNP will create a national, digital resource of historically significant newspapers published between 1836 and 1922 from all U.S. states and territories. Also on the Web site, an accompanying national newspaper directory of bibliographic and holdings information directs users to newspaper titles in all formats. The information in the directory was created through an earlier NEH initiative. The Library of Congress will also digitize and contribute to the NDNP database a significant number of newspaper pages drawn from its own collections

during the course of this partnership. For the initial launch the Library of Congress contributed more than 90,000 pages from 14 different newspaper titles published in the District of Columbia between 1900 and 1910.

"The Library congratulates all the partners in this extraordinary program to make historic newspapers available through our Web site," said Librarian of Congress James H. Billington. "The National Digital Newspaper Program provides access to one of our best sources of information about what was considered important to Americans at a given point in time."

"'Chronicling America' will allow students, teachers, historians -- in fact, all Americans -- access to some of our most important historical documents. It is one thing to read about historical events from the perspective of historians, narrated with the value of hindsight. It is entirely different to read the story as it was happening," said NEH Chairman Bruce Cole. "'Chronicling America' will be available to the American public for free, forever; and I hope Americans will visit the site and try to imagine the emotions and actions of their forebears as those stories went to print." *(Continued on page 73)*

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NHG BOARD MEMBERS

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For information:
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OPEN POSITIONS: Newsletter Editor & Programs

WHO WE ARE NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS

We are a group of genealogy enthusiasts who meet on a regular basis to assist one another in establishing our family histories. We meet on the third Tuesday of every month except December at the Northland Public Library, 300 Cumberland Road, McCandless Twp. in the North Hills of Pittsburgh, PA. Tip Time begins at 6:45 PM and our general meeting commences at 7:00 PM. Our meetings are free and open to the public.

We publish a Newsletter ten times a year for a nominal fee of \$15.00 annually. The subscription year runs from August to June, but anyone wishing to join mid-year will receive the back issues of the Newsletter for that year. Previous years' newsletters are also available for purchase, each with helpful hints for beginners and experienced genealogists.

The NHG Board meets at 7:00 pm on the first Tuesday of each month in the Conference Room, also located at the Northland Public Library. The Board meeting is open to all members of the NHG.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hope everyone enjoyed their Easter holiday with family and friends! Eileen and I traveled to the Sunshine State to celebrate Grand Dad's 80th birthday on the beach. When we first arrived on April 2nd, the weather was beautiful, 80 degrees plus. Unfortunately that only lasted a few days and for the last four days of our trip the weather was very much like Pittsburgh the week before and we were really glad to have remembered to pack some sweatshirts this year!

When we got home the grass seemed to have grown a foot during our one week hiatus to Florida so it looks like Spring has finally arrived. It is definitely time to see if our old, reliable lawnmower will be able to come out of hibernation once again. I hate trying to start the mower for the first time each season. Seems my arms just don't have the power to pull the cord like they use to.

I'll be traveling again this week. My son, USAF 2d Lt. Richard, informed me a few weeks ago he would be deployed overseas as a KC-135 Special Operations navigator with the Air Force "before the fall." As the good Irish mother that I am (meaning I can worry about anything) the Air Force "before the fall" can mean anytime beginning today. So, I am going down to McConnell AF Base in Wichita for a long weekend...just in case.

The process for identifying members who are willing to serve on the NHG Board for the coming term of August 2007-July 2008 is underway with Elissa Powell, Steph Valentine and Gary Schlemmer forming the Nominating Committee. A wonderful slate of candidates will be on the ballot. Many first timers! It is so wonderful to see so many people volunteering! The nominations are not closed, so if you are considering running for a position on the Board, please see Elissa, Steph or Gary. We need your help!

Happy Hunting, *Maureen*

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“CHRONICLING AMERICA” OFFERS HISTORIC NEWSPAPERS FREE OF CHARGE

The following six institutions received the first NDNP grants to digitize papers in their respective states from the first decade of the 20th century:

- University of California, Riverside, \$400,000;
- University of Florida Libraries, Gainesville, \$320,959;
- University of Kentucky Research Foundation, Lexington, \$310,000;
- New York Public Library, New York City, \$351,500;
- University of Utah, Salt Lake City, \$352,693; and
- Library of Virginia, Richmond, \$201,226.

New NDNP awardees will be announced later this summer.

The Library of Congress is the largest library in the world. Its more than 134 million items -- books, newspapers, periodicals, manuscripts, maps, photographs, films, sound recordings and digital materials -- are accessible through its 21 reading rooms on Capitol Hill. The Library's newspaper collections have grown to comprise more than 1 million current issues, more than 30,000 bound historical volumes and more than 600,000 microfilm reels.

Created in 1965 as an independent federal agency, the National Endowment for the Humanities supports learning in history, literature, philosophy and other areas of the humanities. NEH grants enrich classroom learning, create and preserve knowledge, and bring ideas to life through public television, radio, new technologies, museum exhibitions, and programs in libraries and other community places.

NOVA SCOTIA'S HISTORICAL VITAL STATISTICS NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE TOURISM, CULTURE AND HERITAGE

Press Release March 16, 2007 Anyone interested in researching family history in Nova Scotia will soon be able to use the Internet to access historical vital statistics.

Tourism, Culture and Heritage Minister Len Goucher announced today, March 16, the launch of a new website that contains a database of one million historical birth, marriage and death registrations in Nova Scotia dating back to 1864.

"Learning more about our past enriches our lives, our families and our communities," said Mr. Goucher. "This new resource will provide us with instant access to our ancestry and heritage and enable us to share it with others."

The new website, developed in partnership with Unisys Canada Inc., is the latest innovative product from Nova Scotia Archives and Records Management. Starting Monday, March 19, visitors to www.novascotiagenealogy.com can view high-quality digitized images of original records online by simply entering a person's name. They can even order electronic files or paper copies of these records online.

"This is among the first and largest projects of its kind in Canada and will be of immense value to genealogists," said Provincial Archivist Brian Speirs. "It is the culmination of more than three years of work involving numerous partners and stakeholders within and outside government."

It began with the transfer of historical records from Nova Scotia Vital Statistics to Nova Scotia Archives and Records Management in 2004. This is a process that will continue at a rate of approximately 12,000 additional records annually.

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NOVA SCOTIA VITAL STATISTICS

"Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations is pleased to partner with Tourism, Culture and Heritage to improve electronic service delivery," said Liz Crowley Meagher, deputy registrar general, Vital Statistics. "Nova Scotians want to do business with government online and on their own time, so providing accessible services like this to communities across the province is a priority."

Nova Scotia Archives and Records Management acquires, preserves and makes available the province's documentary heritage.

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The following article is from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter and is copyright 1996 - 2007 by Richard W. Eastman. It is re-published here with the permission of the author. Information about the newsletter is available at <http://www.eogn.com>.

STANFORD'S COPYRIGHT RENEWAL DATABASE

The standard "rules of thumb" concerning U.S. copyright laws goes something like this:

- ◆ Works published before 1923 have generally fallen into the public domain.
- ◆ Works published after January 1, 1964, are almost always protected by copyright because the 1976 Copyright Act automatically renewed them.
- ◆ The copyright status of any work published between 1923 and 1963 is very difficult to determine. Between those dates, a renewal registration was required to prevent the expiration of copyright. However, determining whether a work's registration was renewed is a challenge. Renewals received between 1950 and 1977 were announced and distributed only in a

semi-annual print publication. The Copyright Office does not have a machine-searchable source for this renewal information, and the only public access is through the card catalog in their DC offices.

As a result, thousands of valuable genealogy books as well as many other works have never been republished because of concerns about copyrights. Now a new online database makes it much easier to determine whether a book's copyright has been renewed or not.

Project Gutenberg transcribed all the 1950-1977 renewals from the printed lists. Michael Lesk converted the transcribed information into a database format. Next, Stanford University provided online database servers, placed the data online, and then combined that data with the renewals for later years, which was already available on the Copyright Office's website. As a result, you now can quickly and easily find if any work was renewed in 1950 or later.

Note that this database covers only renewals, not original registrations, and is limited to books (Class A registrations) published in the US. Of course, any book printed before 1950 needed to be renewed some time between 1950 and 1977 to protect its copyright status. As a result, any book printed in the U.S. before those years and not listed in this database is now in the public domain.

This should be a great service for genealogy book publishers, family societies, and others. Thousands of genealogy books had copyright expiration dates between 1950 and 1964, but publishers have been reluctant to republish them because the copyright renewal statuses have been unknown. This new database should eliminate many concerns, clearing the way for the republication of thousands of books. View the Copyright Renewal Database at <http://collections.stanford.edu/copyrightrenewals/bin/page?forward=home>.

WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

Wednesday, May 16 thru Saturday May 19: National Genealogical Society will hold its annual conference in Richmond, Virginia. With 10 lectures per hour given by the experts in our field, this conference is the ultimate in genealogical learning opportunities. For more information go to www.NGSgenealogy.org.

Saturday, June 9: Erie Society for Genealogical Research will have a one day seminar from 9 am to 4 pm, featuring 2 talks each by Dick Eastman, Steve Morse and Jim Beidler. The seminar will be held at the Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St., Erie. For more information write the society at P.O. Box 1403, Erie, PA 16512 or email ESGR2007@aol.com. The website is www.pa-roots.com/~erie/2007GeneConf.html.

Sunday, June 10 thru Friday, June 15: Institute for Genealogy and Historical Research will be held at Samford University, Birmingham, AL with 11 various courses being offered. Sign-ups are limited; three courses have already reached their maximum attendance. Some courses are only offered every 2 or 3 years, so please consider attending if you see one of interest at www.samford.edu/schools/ighr.

Friday, 22 June thru Sunday, 24 June: Palatines to America National Conference and Annual Meeting at WVU Evansdale Conference Center, Morgantown, WV. *"Echoes from the Past"*. Featured Speaker is Professor Roger P Minert, Ph.D., A.G., with information on various aspects of life for our German-speaking ancestors and German family research. An information brochure and mail-in registration is available online at www.palam.org. Phone: 614.267.4700. E-mail: info@palam.org.

Sunday, 24 June thru Friday, 29 June: Ohio Genealogical Society Summer Workshop will be held in Mansfield, Ohio. Those interested may register for the entire week or for individual days. More information is available at www.OGS.org; by phone at 419-756-7294 or you may e-mail Deborah Lichtner Deal at kinhunter@hughes.net.

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DIXMONT CEMETERY CLEAN UP PROJECT

This plea for help came from Mary Bates.

On May 26th at 10:00 am, we will be organizing a group of volunteers to help clean up the Dixmont State Hospital cemetery. Over 1,300 former patients were buried in the cemetery from 1863 to 1937. The tombstones, consisting of a long concrete slab marked only by a number, indicate no name of the person who was buried there.

The cemetery is in complete disarray and in extremely poor condition. Grave markers have fallen over, many are cracked or broken, and the area is overgrown with grass, fallen trees, and similar debris.

We need as many volunteers as possible! If you are interested, please call 724.259.2142 or email kate@stargazervideoproductions.com to be added to our Volunteer List. Be sure to bring rakes, handsaws, chainsaws, wheelbarrows and any other useful tools we could use.

We are also hoping to raise money towards the purchase of a memorial marker to be erected on the cemetery site. Any donations would be greatly appreciated!!

This is a great way to pay respect to the former patients of Dixmont; many of whom were abandoned when they were first brought to the hospital for treatment, and then abandoned again upon their death.

**UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN MILWAUKEE
UNVEILS AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL
SOCIETY LIBRARY DIGITAL MAP
COLLECTION**

By: Tom Brittnacher, UWM Digital Librarian

22 March 2007/Press Release/ UWM Libraries has just unveiled its new American Geographical Society (AGS) Library Digital Map Collection.

The Collection presents the most frequently requested maps from the holdings of the AGS Library. The current selection ranges from early maps of Asia and Australia to historical maps of American cities, states, and national parks. Many rare, historical maps of Milwaukee and Wisconsin are in the Collection.

Development continues as other maps will be added in the future.

You can access UWM Libraries complete digital collection at www.uwm.edu/Libraries/digilib/, or go directly to the maps collection at www.uwm.edu/Libraries/digilib/maps/index.html

**NEWSPAPERARCHIVE.COM NOW
CONTAINS 60 MILLION HISTORICAL
NEWSPAPER PAGES**

Your portal to the past, NewspaperARCHIVE.com, has added the 60 millionth historical newspaper page to its archive. With this larger newspaper database, researchers can quickly find stories about ancestors, political leaders, celebrities and classmates by simply entering names, keywords or dates.

"We're excited to add more and more content everyday, because each newspaper page contains stories that someone may be waiting to locate," said Jeff Kiley, General Manager of NewspaperARCHIVE.com.

As the largest newspaper database available online, NewspaperARCHIVE contains information about billions of people and events. With a membership researchers can look for articles about people with family connections, such as great-grandfathers, or read stories about celebrities, like Marilyn Monroe. Many researchers also use the archive to find news stories about themselves.

In May of 2005, NewspaperARCHIVE began adding one newspaper page per second, which equals more than 80,000 historic pages a day. While the archive currently contains content from more than 2,500 titles throughout the U.S. and abroad, researchers can request specific titles through the "Content Request" link found on the NewspaperARCHIVE.com homepage. Members can also set "search alerts" which will notify them by email when content with specific keywords has been added to the archive.

NewspaperARCHIVE.com, which is owned by Heritage Microfilm of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, began in 1999.

NewspaperARCHIVE.com is a subscription website, you can subscribe for a year, a quarter (3 months), one month or a week at very reasonable costs. They also have many free subjects that you can browse such as Abraham Lincoln, College Basketball, FBI, Front Pages, Holocaust, Immigration, Kennedy Assassination, Outlaws, September 11, Pearl Harbor, Titanic, and many others. See www.newspaperarchive.com/SpecialCollections.aspx.

Even our own North Hills News Record is included among the millions of newspaper pages. You can browse the titles included by going to www.newspaperarchive.com/Browse.aspx and clicking on a state or country such as Canada, Denmark, Ireland, Germany, Japan, South Africa, or the United Kingdom.

Is your ancestor in the newspaper? You might be surprised!.

PRESERVING YOUR FAMILY ARCHIVES

By: Steph Valentine

We were fortunate in having Ms. Debbie Hill Day talk about document preservation during our most recent monthly meeting. She addressed the topic of how to properly preserve your research and family archives for future generations.

Documents, whether they are photographs or paper, consist of organic and inorganic compounds that are susceptible to chemical reactions. These cause paper to become brittle or color pictures to fade. The four major factors that affect the successful preservation of family archives are temperature, humidity, pollutants and light.

Temperature fluctuations tend to accelerate these chemical reactions. Variations in temperature, such as those caused by leaving documents and pictures in attics, will expose these to temperature extremes which will, in turn, cause further harm. The best place to store your family documents would be in a closet where the temperature will be rather stable.

Humidity also has a great impact on your documents. Most of your records are paper which is hygroscopic, in which the paper will absorb and give off moisture as the humidity changes. Generally speaking, unless otherwise specified, paper is not acid free. Adsorbing moisture will accelerate the acidity of the paper, thereby making it more susceptible to damage. I found a soggy photo album in my grandmother's basement. Luckily, I was able to save some, but not all, of the pictures. High humidity is bad but extremely low humidity can cause issues, too. Once again, the best place for document storage would be a closet in your hopefully air-conditioned house.

Pollutants affect your documents. Dust or smoke can settle on them and can cause problems later. The best way to protect your

documents is to place them in acid-free folders or archival sleeves that will allow the documents to breathe yet protect them from external pollutants.

Light will cause harm to your documents. Have you noticed how much color pictures fade? Part of the fading is due to the chemicals used in making the color print. The other part is due to the ultraviolet light that sunlight and light bulbs put out. The best solution to this is to use glass with UV protection or only display copies of the documents. Again, the best place for storage of your documents is your closet.

Besides storing your documents in a hall closet, you need to think acid free. Store your documents in acid free folders or archival (Mylar) sleeves. Use pencils to label your stuff. Ink can fade, bleed through or cause other problems. Remove your letters from their envelopes and store them flat in folders or Mylar sleeves. Photographs likewise contain chemicals and may react with your paper documents, so store them separately from your letters. Remove any photographs from "Magic Albums" as the adhesive will permanently damage your valuable pictures.

Consider digitizing your pictures and documents. That will ensure that you have an electronic copy of your family archives. You can also make copies on CD and share those documents with your family to ensure that they don't get lost forever.

Debbie emphasized that if you cannot undo it then don't do it in the first place. Preservation should be reversible. Scotch tape is a no-no but alternatives do exist. Remove all paper clips or staples as they will rust and cause permanent stains. (I can vouch for that!) Lamination cannot be undone so don't.

Debbie also talked about organizing your archives. Do what makes sense to you but take

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PRESERVING YOUR FAMILY ARCHIVES

into account those who will come after you. You need to ensure that someone 100 years from now will be able to look at your research and know exactly what you did. You need to label things with names, dates, places, relationships, etc. I can vouch for that. I have a scrapbook that belonged to my grandfather. They're just pictures. No names, no places. I know my grandfather was from Utah, I could only assume that these are pictures of his ancestors or siblings. Remember to cite your sources so anyone can find the original information. Be consistent and create an inventory of what you have. And, most importantly, think of what will happen to your collection when you're gone. Ensure that it goes to a historical society, a library or a family member who shares your interest.

In summary, protect what you have and ensure that it is well organized for future generations.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES PROPOSES FEE INCREASES

The National Archives has proposed regulations increasing the cost of ordering records by mail. All of the included records are ones genealogists use. The full text of the proposed changes is available at www.regulations.gov. Both the old and the new fees include postage.

To view documents concerning the increase, go to www.regulations.gov/fdmspublic/component/main

- ◆ Search for: Click the radio button for Documents Open for Public Comment.
- ◆ Agency: Select From the Drop Down List - National Archives and Records Administration - All.
- ◆ Document Type: Select - All Document Types
- ◆ Keyword: type the word *fee*

The search should have resulted in the display of two active links to the proposed fee increase documents. Their Docket ID's are NARA-07-0001 and NARA-07-0002. Please read both of these documents and send your comments to NARA.

The new fee schedule is:

RECORD	NATF Form	Prior Fee	NEW FEE
Passenger arrival lists	Form 81	\$17.25	\$25.00
Federal Census requests	Form 82	\$17.50	\$25.00
Eastern Cherokee applications to the Court of Claims	Form 83	\$17.50	\$25.00
Land entry records	Form 84	\$17.75	\$40.00
Full pension file more than 75 years old (Civil War period)	Form 85	\$37.00	\$125.00
Full pension file more than 75 years old (non-Civil War)	Form 85	\$37.00	\$60.00
Pension documents packet (selected records)	Form 85	\$14.75	\$25.00
Bounty land warrant application files	Form 85	\$17.25	\$25.00
Military service files more than 75 years old	Form 86	\$17.00	\$25.00

For a full pension file the increase from \$37.00 to \$125.00 represents an increase of 338%. Please make your interest in keeping reproduction fees REASONABLE known!

NARA will receive comments on the increase from "interested persons" until April 27, 2007. Comments can be submitted at online at www.regulations.gov, faxed to 301-837-0319, or mailed to Regulations Comments Desk (NPOL), Room 4100, Policy and Planning Staff, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001.

ANCESTRY.COM DIGITIZES ALL READILY AVAILABLE IOWA STATE CENSUS RECORDS FROM 1836 TO 1925

PROVO, Utah, March 15 /PRNewswire/ -- Ancestry.com, the world's largest online resource for family history, today announced that it has digitized and indexed all readily available Iowa State census records from 1836 to 1925. Researchers spent more than two years manually entering each name from actual early handwritten documents, bringing nearly a century of Iowa State history to life at the click of a mouse. In total, the collection features more than 14 million Iowa State census records and more than 3 million images, making Ancestry.com the first and only online source to provide access to all publicly released Iowa State census records.

"Census records are the backbone of family history. They're more than just names and numbers. If you look closely, they tell stories," said Megan Smolenyak, Chief Family Historian for Ancestry.com. "The Iowa state census records, in particular, provide a wide range of snapshots into the lives and lifestyles of Iowan ancestors. With these records now available online, Iowans can dig deeper into their state and family histories."

Searching for Genealogical Gold

Iowa has an exceptionally rich census repertoire, having taken censuses more frequently than any other state in America. The Iowa census collection contains more than 14 million Iowa State census records from 28 state censuses. The state conducted five complete, statewide censuses of all 99 counties and 23 partial censuses, of which all but three contain 13 counties or less. The 1925 census, widely regarded as genealogical gold, is the highlight of the collection, featuring more detail than any other censuses in Iowa or most other states. Unique information available in this enumeration include mother's maiden name and

father's full name, birthplace and year of marriage, providing invaluable insight and additional clues to help discover family history. Other data listed in Iowa census records include name, age, gender, race, marital status, place of residence, parents' names and each resident's war service and citizenship status.

"The 1925 census's depth and detail is recognized across the country as a one-of-a-kind resource which, to the best of my knowledge, can't be found anywhere else," said Theresa Liewer, President, Iowa Genealogical Society. "Although census records are available on microfilm at our library, being able to use the online indexes and access the digitized versions makes it easier to sort through millions of names and find that elusive ancestor who sometimes seems to be deliberately hiding at the click of a mouse."

Inside America's Breadbasket

The Iowa census collection provides tremendous historical insights into the state, capturing a cross-section of America's "breadbasket," from the first white settlers of 1833 to a period of German and Northern European immigration to Iowa. It also accounts for the influx of thousands of settlers from the American Midwest and mid-Atlantic. Interestingly, Germans, Swedes, Norwegians, Danes and Dutch made up most of Iowa's immigrant population.

Famous Personalities Owed To Iowa

Iowa is the birthplace for famous 19th century Wild West figures Wyatt Earp and Buffalo Bill Cody. Big-screen cowboy, John Wayne, born Marion Morrison in May 26, 1907 in Winterset, Iowa, and Johnny Carson, former host of the Tonight Show, also hail from the Hawkeye State. Herbert Hoover, the 31st President of the United States, can be found in the 1885 state census.

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

Dated Material

UPCOMING – NHG PROGRAMS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

TUESDAY, MAY 15, 2007

SCOTTISH RECORDS BOTH ON-LINE AND OFF

Presented by: T.J. Galbraith

The program will cover the geographical divisions and old country system for Scottish research, descriptions and time periods for available records and much more. Don't miss it!

TUESDAY, JUNE 19, 2007

PUBLIC RECORDS FOR GENEALOGISTS AT THE WASHINGTON COUNTY LAW LIBRARY

*Presented by: Patricia B. Stavovy,
Asst. Law Librarian*

Discover the scores of records and documents available for Genealogists in Washington Co.!

THIS MONTH

TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 2007

WINDOWS TO THE PAST: NEWSPAPER RESEARCH

Presented by: Elissa Scalise Powell, CG

Newspapers contain more than obituaries -- they record many important events in our ancestor's lives and can be a substitute for missing vital records. Learn how to access them online and off in order to reap the huge rewards that are hidden in their pages.