



Ford Genealogy Club
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A Message from our President

Recently when Mark's grandmother passed away it made me sad. Not just in that she had died, she had a full life, she was very unhappy without her soul mate, the person that she shared her life with. What made me sad besides the fact that I enjoyed being with her, talking with her and just enjoying her company was the fact that I was never able to fully satisfy her need for information on her family tree.

She wanted more than anything for me to find her step-dad, the one who walked away when she was just barely four. The photo's of her with her real dad show a grumpy very unhappy little girl, the photo's with the step-father reveal a smiling happy little girl who obviously adored this man. One day he just walked away, leaving her to wonder for the next 84 years of her life, "where did he go?" "Why did he go?" Questions I was never able to answer. All my searches for Albert Higgins lead to no-where!

I think we as genealogists tend to be a positive group thinking that eventually all brick walls will come down. But I believe that some walls are just not meant to come down. Maybe the wall coming down would have caused more hurt than good, maybe it just wasn't meant to be. Guess I'll never know. But I know this, "Where ever you are Albert Higgins, you sure broke a little girls heart! If you are up there somewhere, waiting for her on the other side, you sure

have a lot of explaining to do."

Dorothy Shanklin Ligon Trott
1917-2006

TROTT, DOROTHY E., 88, of Eustis, FL, passed away on Saturday, January 28, 2006. Dorothy was born to the late Rhea Shanklin and Edith Morris Shanklin on August 27, 1917 in Hopkinsville, Kentucky. Mrs. Trott was partner and co-pilot of Fat Chance Airlines in Mount Dora, FL. She was a member of the 99's, a pilot in the Powder Puff Derby and an avid traveler. Mrs. Trott was predeceased by her husband, Frank Trott in 2002 after 32 years of marriage. She is survived by five grandchildren, Robert Krugman, Mark Krugman, Richard Bennett, Barry Rinke and Angela Valles, 12 great- grandchildren and one great- great-grandchild. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made in Dorothy's memory to the Animal Rescue of your choice. A family service will be held in Almont Michigan in the near future.

Happy Flying Nanna!

Karen



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If there are any mistakes with these dates it's a typo on my part.

From a book Wayne County Historical and Pioneer Society. **“Chronography or Notable Events in the History of the Northwest Territory And Wayne County”** 1890.

Townships Continued:

Canton

Canton was organized in 1833. It was prior to that date included in the Township of Plymouth. James Safford was its first Supervisor, Amos Stevens the first Justice of the Peace, and Thomas Hooker, Clerk. The first delegates to the county convention were Amos Stevens, Moses Bradford and Pary Sheldon, and the first settlers were David Cady, Amos Stevens, William Smith, Pary Sheldon, Childs Downer and brother, in 1825.

Dearborn

At one time this town was known as “Pekin.” It was so named when Canton and Nankin was first set apart. Then there would have been three Chinese towns on a line.

A.J. Bucklin was the first white settler and the territory now embraced in the townships of Redford, Livonia, Greenfield and Dearborn was organized as the township of Buckland in 1828. Conrad Ten Eyck, Joseph Coon, John Alexander, Hubbard Hidden, William Daily, James Thomson, Chas. N. Brainard and Dr. E.S. Snow were also among the early settlers.

Ecorse

Was originally known as Township No. 8 south, and is a fractional one, and was

formerly a part of Taylor. It is supposed to be and is noted as being the place where the Wyandotte tribe deposited their dead, as to this day the remnants of this tribe know it and its location through traditions, as being the last resting place of their great chiefs.

The early settlers were the Riopelles, Elya Goodell, Joseph Bundie, Alex. Descomptes-Labadie (the maternal grandfather of the venerable Col. Knaggs), Louis La Due, Alex. Jandron, B. Campau and Jean Baptiste Rousseau.

Greenfield

Myron Otis was the founder of the township of Greenfield, in 1829. It was not formally organized until 1832, Carpenter Chaffee being the first township clerk.

From a book **‘History of Detroit 1780 to 1850’** Financial and Commercial; Report of Historiographer, Clarence M. Burton 1917 Detroit, Michigan.

‘Detroit And Pontiac Railroad Shops Burn.

The depot of the Detroit & Pontiac Railroad was on Gratiot avenue. The passenger depot was on the south side, between Farmer street and Woodward, and extended through to the Campus Martius. The machine shop was on the opposite side of Gratiot avenue, where the Hudson building now stands. The machine shop was destroyed by fire May 22, 1949.’

‘The Catholic cathedral on the corner of Jefferson avenue and St. Antoine street, was completed in 1849, though the corner stone was laid in 1845.’

Castle Garden

<http://www.castlegarden.org/>

the nations first official immigration center

&

Ellis Island

<http://www.ellisland.org/>

These are both terrific sites for passenger ship information.

Castle Garden covers years prior to Ellis Island with some overlap 1820-1913. It does not have copies of the actual ship manifest but has some information on each passenger and is very useful as an index to find your ancestor. If he or she came in this time frame.

Ellis Island does have actual images of the ship manifest that you can view. It is my understanding that this site is for people who passed through Ellis Island only. This site I believe covers the years 1892-1924.

If you search either site and can not find your ancestor but you know they came to the U.S. during the above years, you might want to get inventive with the spelling of the name.

I was looking for someone I knew came to this country in either 1903 or 1904. I knew the time to be correct because the first child of this couple was born in Italy in January 1903 and the second child in August 1904 in the U.S. I had found the husband traveling alone in June of 1903 but could not for the life of me find the wife and child.

This couple came from Naples, Italy and it was very frustrating to not be able to find the wife and child (daughter). I was looking on the Ellis Island site. Well I decided to look on the Castle Garden site. This was a new site to me and I had not used it to look for the wife and child before. And in using Castle Garden I found them.

I did not find them by looking for the mother, Anna DiVincenzo because she didn't appear in the index, but by looking for the daughter Concetta DiVincenzo. I could not find either on the Ellis Island site.

The reason I could not find the wife, Anna, was because she came over under her maiden name. Recently I was told that Italian women kept their maiden names in Italy. They only started using their husband's names after coming to the U.S. That was news to me. And on top of that, Anna's maiden name was slightly misspelled in the index from the way family had said it was spelled..

Then I went back to Ellis Island to see why I could not find them there. And with the ship name and date of arrival from the Castle Garden site I looked for anyone with the DiVincenzo or similar surname. I had tried Anna's maiden name and came up empty handed previously so didn't figure I'd do any better now.. I found one di Vincenzo that matched the ship and date so clicked on the link for that ship manifest and lo and behold it was the correct person.

Again Anna's maiden name was misspelled. At least misspelled. Even so, I should have been able to find the child. But I didn't because of how Ellis Island's indexer indexed her. The child, Concetta was listed as Foncetta. She was 8 months old but was indexed as 8 years old. And her residence at the time of immigration was listed as Iapoli instead of Naples or Napoli. Hence, every time I saw her I discounted her as being who I was looking for. One other thing I learned was that some people with this surname were indexed with the name as one continuous name 'DiVincenzo' and others were indexed with a space between the 'Di' & the 'Vincenzo'. And they were treated as different names. But at least by using both sites I found the correct passenger list. That's what I was after, after all.

Long Distant Grandparents

Building relationships when miles stand between the grandparents and grandchildren can be hard. But with a little work & love on both sides children can grow up knowing grandparents that live far away.

Grandparents base your action on the age of your grandchildren. When they are very young, you may want to send them a picture of yourself that they or their parent can hang on the child's bedroom wall. Ask your child to be sure to tell their child about you so they will know who is in the picture and that you love them. Send them short letters, addressed to the child, telling them something about your every day activities or something you recall from your childhood when you were about your grandchild's age. Ask them to tell you about their favorite toy or favorite story, food or just whatever. Keep the letters flowing.

Drop small packages in the mail every once in a while. Send the grandchild something, neither expensive nor large, just some small thing you ran across that made you think of the grandchild, or something you knew they'd like.

Ask for pictures of your grandchild if your child doesn't automatically send some to you.

Tell your grandchild, who in the family they take after, ex. Whose eyes they have, whose smile. Try to create an interest in family history and ancestors. It's never too early to start a budding genealogists. But don't go into too much detail. If the child wants more information, they will ask. If they just don't care, they just don't care.

Create a bulletin board or use the front of your refrigerator for a gallery of your grandchild or grandchildren's artistic work. Be sure to take a picture of it and send it to your grandchild.

With older grandchildren you can call on

the phone and talk to them. It's always nice to hear a person's voice. Talk for a few minutes asking about the child's activities and interests and telling something about your activities and interests. Never drag out a phone call. You don't want your grandchildren to run and hide when your name comes up on the caller ID.

Be sure to tell your grandchildren that you love them. Tell them so ever time you communicate.

Visit your grandchildren. You certainly can't be present for every holiday and birthday let alone their soccer, baseball or football games, concerts, parades and cookie sales. But you can time your visits to include one or more of these things.

Never talk down to children. They can spot a fake a mile away. Take a genuine interest in their lives. It's far easier to write letters and buy gifts for someone you actually know. If little Annie is into rough and tough and dislikes dolls, you will not score by getting her the latest Barbie. But if you know she or he loves Harry Potter, getting them a DVD of one of the movies or the latest book released (checking with the parents of course to be sure they don't already have it) will be a big hit.

One of my fondest memories of my grandmother is being around when she baked bread. Even if your grandchild can't be around when you bake, if you are a baker, you can help to create fond memories of you and your tasty treats by sending them packages of goodies every now and then.

Last but not least, ask your grandchild to come and visit you. A short stay from a grandchild, where you spend quality time with them, showing them your everyday life, not just taking them places, can cement a warm



loving relationship between the two of you.

By the way the same applies for long distant Aunts and Uncles or just anyone.

Upcoming Meetings

9 March 2006 Catholic Records in the Dearborn/Detroit Area By Tim Westfall

13 April 2006 Mike & Cindy Brautigam & Elections, Mike & Cindy will talk about their recent trip in Europe.

Plus our Annual Elections.

11 May 2006 Beyond the Pomp & Circumstance: Civil War Prison Camps By Daryl A. Bailey

8 June 2006 Dinner Meeting, location to be determined.

13 July 2006 Dinner Meeting, location to be determined.

10 Aug 2006 Dinner Meeting, location to be determined.

14 Sept 2006 to be determined

12 October 2006 to be determined

9 November 2006 The Tax Man Cometh By Mark Krugman.

14 December 2006 Christmas Dinner, location to be determined.

How much is it worth it to you?

You want an obituary for your great grandmother who lived on the other side of the country from you. Or one for Great Uncle Joe who lived in the same state but far enough away that you don't have easy access to the local newspaper for where he lived. How much is it worth it to you to get a copy of that obit?

Well there are several options open to you. Here are some options open to you, listed in random order.

1. Check with the local newspaper or library where your ancestor lived. Do they have archives going back far enough for what you seek? Some newspapers will refer you to the local or regional library who happen to have the paper on microfilm while others may for a small fee or perhaps no fee help you to get what you seek. Libraries if they have the paper on film will usually for a small fee look for and copy an obituary for you and mail it to you. Again this is usually for a small fee. Varies from place to place.

3. Check the internet. This is the first thing I do. There are many web sites dealing with obituaries. Some have actual transcriptions for certain obituaries on line. Some societies, newspapers even funeral homes have copies of the actual obituary from the newspaper on line. These are usually newer obituaries.

3. There are sites such as ObitsArchive.com that have many newspapers from many states in their collection. You can do a search in their index to find if said person has an obituary. But if you want a copy you need to be a paid member. So how much is it worth? Sometimes it might be worth a subscription to have access to all these newspapers for a certain length of time. Other times it might be worth it just to have

access to their index. You can find out if said person has an obit for a paper in a city that you are planning to visit in the near future. It will cut down on your search time once you get to your destination. Note: not all newspapers are available at this site.

4. On Rootsweb.com there is something called 'Obituary Daily Times'. This is an index to many obituaries in many locals. Again this is more recent obituaries but it is a name index that will give you minimal info on the deceased, the name and date of the newspaper. If you become a member or volunteer you can request a copy of said obituary from the volunteer who posted the info for said newspaper. Or you can take the info and, if you have access to said newspaper, look it up for yourself.

5. Ancestry.com if you have a subscription to their newspaper collection, you can find some old and some new obituaries, as long as they have newspapers for the area your ancestors lived. With Ancestry's new pricing program this should be a given with a subscription. But don't hold me to that.

I Love My Music

I know this isn't exactly genealogy related but... I guess in a way it is. After all it probably helps to make me more productive (Grin).

On occasion while researching at the library I would play music on my laptop and use ear buds to listen. The only down side was every time I got up from my seat I had to pause the music and take the buds out of my ears. Well this was such a hassle some days that I didn't often bother to listen to my music. THEN: My husband got me an iPod for my Birthday. Well now I can attach it to my belt and carry the music with me. On occasion you may find me walking to the

beat of the song blasting in my ears (not really blasting—but—a song I'm really getting into). Sometimes I have to make an effort to not sing along. Can you imagine if I actually did?

Karen, our president, also plays her music at the library. She has an mp3 player her hubby got for her for Christmas.

We don't listen all day long nor every time we go, but it sure helps blot out the noise level that sometimes gets a bit loud for a library setting. It helps us to just relax a bit and tune out distractions. It also make the day go faster. Not that it doesn't go fast enough to begin with.

We have a friend who uses her portable CD player and plays her CD's at the library. She puts the portable CD player in a 'fanny pack' and becomes as portable as Karen & I.

HOWEVER, there are some who play their music so loud that even though they are using headphones or ear buds everybody around them can sing along if they want to. DO NOT play your music loud. Turn on your music and take the buds out of your ears and let them dangle in your hand. If you can hear any portion of the music you probably have it too loud. Remember you are in a library and others do not want you to share your music with them.

Blasting music in your ears is harmful to begin with, let alone a sure way to disturb others with the noise leaking around you. As in anything else, don't disturb others. Make your day pleasant but not at the cost of another's pleasure in their research.



Historical Detroit

At the Library of Michigan (Lansing, Michigan) is a small Louisiana titled *Historical Detroit* (Mich. F 574.D4 H5888). It is a story of early Detroit 'As told by twenty bronze tablets'. The book is dated 1881-1926. Copyright 1926 by J. L. Hudson Company Detroit, Michigan. Continued from previous issues.....

IN THE YEAR 1892



Birthplace of Ford Motor Car

HENRY FORD BEGAN experimenting with the automobile in the small workshop pictured above. Here, in 1892, he produced his first car—a two-cylinder machine, mounted on a light chassis geared to rubber-tired bicycle wheels. In 1926 the Ford Motor Company produced its fourteen millionth motor car.

In a little brick building of one story in the rear of his rented home at 58 Bagley Avenue, Henry Ford built his first motor car.

Mr. Ford was employed in the engine room of the Edison Illuminating Co., now the Detroit-Edison.

Mr. Ford's attention was attracted by the early experiments in France for the production of motor cars, and he set up a little machine shop in the rear of his home to begin experiments on his own account.

There he turned out a two-cylinder engine. The machine was soon running about the streets.

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AS IT IS TODAY



Bagley Avenue

WHERE Henry Ford labored, the Michigan Theater now stands, the latest evidence of Detroit's passion for motion pictures. It is the state's largest playhouse, with a seating capacity of 5,000, and, 'tis said, that the "Michigan" is the most modern and best equipped theater of its kind in the world. It symbolizes the rejuvenation of an old and important thoroughfare.

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Looking Backward To Our Past

This is the beginning our our 11th year as a club. I wonder what the next ten years will bring us.