



Ford Genealogy Club
Volume 11 Number 4

4th Quarter December 2006

A message from our Prezzz.....

Deck the Halls, Fa La la, Let it snow let it snow.. wrap the presents, bake the cookies.. and the list goes on and on. Yes, its that time of year again. Christmas. The Holidays. Seems the Holidays just sneak up on us and before we know it there's so much to be done, parties to go to, food to prepare, cookies to bake, and all the other traditions of the season.

Why not make your genealogy part of the holiday season? Last year the mailman brought a mystery package for me. I was told that I should open and put it in my DVD player, which of course I promptly did.

What a treasure that was! My cousins on my dad's side had gone thru all the family albums for that side of the family and had picked family photo's of myself and my siblings as youngsters, all 3 of us with all of five of them, along with our parents and put them on a dvd. The music was "We Are Family", and the pictures clearly showed that. Pictures of my dad, his brother, and sister as kids, along with my dad's parents and the children of his siblings flashed before my eyes. The pictures brought back memories and tears! Seeing those memories of Christmas and other holidays gone by, the pictures of my dad grinning with me on his lap, pictures of my dad's brother, Lynwood

as he was in our wedding, my granny with all 8 of us grandkids surrounding her. The memories those pictures brought back are priceless, both my dad and his brother died at a young age, granny died a few years ago, they are no longer with us. But seeing the pictures of them and everyone else on that DVD - had to be one of the BEST and most priceless gifts anyone could ever give me. For me being so far away from my cousins and my other family, that DVD made me realize that even being 1200 miles from them, we really are Family!

To all of you in our Ford Genealogy club Family - Mark & I would like to wish you all a very Happy Holiday season and a safe & prosperous New Year!

Karen



The Ford Genealogy Club

Serving Ford Motor Company Employees and Family
since 1995

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| President | Karen Krugman |
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| Web Page | Mark Krugman & Chuck Oslund |
| Past Presidents: | Steve Brown, Mark Krugman, Chuck Oslund, Karen Krugman & Sharon Brevoort |

Meetings: 2nd Thursday each month
5:30pm Regular Meeting

Location ACH-HQ in the Display
Conference Room
17000 Rotunda Dr.
Dearborn, MI
at Southfield and Rotunda

Newsletter ISSN 1547-1594

Member Club of FERA
(Ford Employees Recreation Association)

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<http://www.wwnet.net/~krugman1/fgc/>

Queries Free For Members

\$1.00 per 50 words to non members.

Dues \$12 per year, includes our newsletter

Back Issues \$1 each.

May Checks Payable to 'Ford Genealogy Club'



Jot this down

Submissions to the newsletter are always welcome. I need them four times a year. But you can submit them anytime. The newsletter gets printed and distributed in March, June, September & December 'sometime' before our meeting in those months. Just remember to tell me this is a submission for the newsletter. Otherwise I'll be scratching my head wondering why you sent this to me.

1. Queries. Send me one or more queries per newsletter.

2. Articles. Tell us about a research trip you've had recently. Or a great find it took you years to uncover and just how you succeeded in uncovering it.

3. Write up an article about one of your ancestors. Tell something about his or her life. Just everyday type things or notable acts the person performed. Does not have to be a notable person in their community. Just any ancestor you care enough about to write about and are willing to share with us.

Thanksgiving Dates In The Past

Nov 28, 1901
Nov 27, 1902
Nov 26, 1903
Nov 24, 1904
Nov 30, 1905
Nov 29, 1906
Nov 28, 1907
Nov 26, 1908
Nov 25, 1909
Nov 24, 1910
Nov 30, 1911
Nov 28, 1912
Nov 27, 1913

Nov 26, 1914
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Nov 27, 1997
Nov 26, 1998
Nov 25, 1999
Nov 23, 2000
Nov 22, 2001
Nov 28, 2002
Nov 27, 2003
Nov 25, 2004
Nov 24, 2005

Volunteers

The Good The Bad and the Ugly?

Over the past year I've frequently heard things I only occasionally heard before. Sometimes it's a friend commenting. Other times it's a conversation in a library that I over heard. Even the internet isn't exempt anymore. Volunteers are getting burned out.

A friend commented one day that she noticed numerous broken links on GenWeb pages on the internet. Are there more these days then in the past? This friend mentioned the GenWeb but I'm sure other volunteer genealogy sites have the same issue. Does the volunteer simply run out of time needed to keep their pages in tip top shape or are they just bummed with users who expect too much from them and never offer up a simple thank you nor offer things that can be added to that particular web site to make it even better? Do users even let the web site host know when they encounter a broken link? We can help the web host to keep the sites up to date and the web host needs to set aside some time each year to check 'out going links' to be sure they still work.

I used to host a GenWeb site. I did it for something like 7 years. I once had an encounter with a fella who did not like one page on my site and told me so. He didn't think it was easy to use because of the frames used on it and he wanted me to take them off. I did not know what he was talking about as I didn't use frames so I went and checked all my pages and links spending a lot of time to find what he was referring to. The page was actually the main page of a different site, local newspaper, that I had linked to so people could find them more easily. Once I convinced him (and it was not easy) that that page was not part of my site he told me I needed to remove my link to it. Need I say how that entire encounter

made me feel?

I gave up my GenWeb site when I felt I no longer was fresh and could no longer add to the site. I was burned out. So I let another volunteer take the it over from me.

I had a friend who hosted a different GenWeb page. She had some folks write her and complain about the content on her site. They wanted more. Other people wrote to her and thanked her for what was there. But my friend finally gave up the page because she was just tired of hearing what a bad job she was doing. She said she didn't need the negativity in her life. Funny thing is afterward some of the complainers wrote her and asked her to take the page back. Go figure.

Another person I heard about travels to cemeteries in order to transcribe them. This person spends lots of money to do so and puts the findings on the internet. To make a long story short this person is tempted to take all the data collected off the internet. Photos taken were happily shared but no more. People were/are just too rude and demanding. At the same time the volunteer feels they don't have enough time to correct their web sites that say the person is 'willing to share'. So fault lies on both sides.

This is something I've heard complained about more then once. Any web site that offers look up help such as the GenWeb Project and Random Acts of Kindness has volunteers that encounter people asking several volunteers for the same item. It's most depressing if you happen to run across another volunteer who is supplying the same thing to the same patron as you are. This wastes the volunteers time and money in copying and mailing said item. I've had this happen to me several times and I don't often volunteer to do a look up any more directly

because of that. It's very rude to ask more than one person, at the same time, to do the same thing. Please ask one person at a time. If within a reasonable amount of time that person has not responded to you, write back and find out if there is a problem. If there is, be patient. If the person can no longer help, then go to the next person who can.

Most libraries I write to asking for assistance in getting an obituary or some other item from their collection are happy to help me. They are reasonably speedy, courteous and don't charge an arm and a leg. It's really great. However there are a few that don't even bother to respond to me. They leave me hanging, not knowing if they got my letter or email (if a letter I always send an SASE) and I have to write and bother them again to see if they have my request. I'm not asking for something for nothing. I'm willing to pay for the copies so why can't they at least respond and say 'sorry we don't do that' if that's the case? Then I could look for someone else who can assist me. I've had other libraries write back and tell me they don't have the paper but then they tell me who does and how to contact them. Which helps me greatly. I always remember to respond and thank them for their time and assistance.

Offer to pay a volunteer's expenses. Just add it up folks. If one person looks up 10 obituaries per month for folks she/he is paying from 10 cents to 25 cents on average for a copy of each obituary, plus using an envelope and a 39 cent stamp to mail the copy out. Multiply that by twelve. It can add up fast. If a volunteer doesn't want to be reimbursed perhaps you can thank them and offer to do a look up for them in your area, and follow through if asked. You could also 'Pass it on'. Do a favor for someone else. If we all 'Passed it on' we'd get a lot done.

Don't ask a volunteer to do too much for you. They have many people asking for their assistance. They can't take the time to do hours and hours of research for each person who approaches them. If during your correspondence it becomes clear that they have other resources that might help you and always offer to pay them to dig through their resources for more on your family. You offer to pay them for their time and efforts. Then they can agree or decline. But you aren't insulting them expecting them to drop everything and everybody else and just research for you.

A Presidents Message From a Different Society!

A friend of mine, Carol Stevens, is the president of The Lenawee County Family Researchers a genealogy society in Lenawee County Michigan. She has given me permission to print here her entire 'President's Message' for their newsletter Volume 20 issue 2 pages 1 & 2 that I felt worth sharing. I only removed one portion that talked about a questionnaire in their newsletter and Carol's contact information.

"Those faithful readers of my President's Messages will know that I have frequently asked you, "What can we do as a society for you?", or, "What do you need from us?"

I have to tell you, that I have received few, if any, responses. That means either we are fulfilling your needs, or you are not reading my President's Messages. (Grin)

...In the last 10 years, the Lenawee County Family Researchers have lost 1/3rd of our membership. We are not sure why. We suspect that the advent of the internet and it's terrific research possibilities are part of

the reason. We cannot deny that the internet has changed all of our lives and the way we research.

However, the blunt truth is, that your local genealogical societies cannot exist without memberships. They cannot exist without active members. Members that volunteer, members that offer to be officers, and help with the projects the society wishes to take on. We cannot provide programs without your membership fees, it is that simple.

We cannot bring you new resources and books without membership participation. Books take a long time to prepare for publication, there is no doubt about that. But, we need them to continue our research. We all depend on these publications to further our research. Can you imagine tromping around every cemetery your ancestors were buried in without the help of cemetery record books some kind soul or genealogical society has published??

Since we are comparing the internet to other types of research, I will take this moment to explain why we have so far focused on publishing our cemetery records in book format over publishing them on a web page. 1.) It takes some money to help defray our costs, fuel, photography, supplies used during the project. We sell our books at just above printing fees, this little extra is used for helping to defray these expenses. 2.) Books last. We love the internet, oh, yes we do, but we also loved 8 track music systems, and cassettes. Where are they now?? Where might the internet be in 10 years, 20?? Will all this information still be available?? Most likely, but are we sure?? Not really. Books have been in existence since they invented the printing press, and even before that, there were handwritten books. Books, if cared for will last for a very long time, libraries do a very good job

of preserving them. So, we are focusing on books, and leave the preservation of them to the experts at the libraries. 3.) Getting the records into a format that is acceptable and useable from the internet is a skill of its own. At this time we just don't have that skill. It also takes a lot of time. Again, at this time, we just don't have the time. We are trying to focus all our energies into getting the cemeteries read, recorded and published as books. It takes hundred's of volunteer hours to publish just one of our Burial Records books.

So, back to the questions, "What can we do for you?", "What do you need from us?" "How can we get you back as a member?" And, "As a member, what can I do for the Lenawee County Family Researchers?" Without active participation of members and their dues, we will cease to be a genealogical society. That is the truth of the matter. Blunt, truth. Can you help this from happening??

If you have suggestions, we want to hear them. Please!

NOTE: how many other societies Presidents can read this and say I could have written that?



Volunteers...

sometimes get too Zealous. They want to help so much that they have been spotted adding additional information to a book on their shelves or a document in a drawer. I have seen books on library shelves, say a cemetery transcription book, that someone has jotted death dates in where there were none, or corrected a spelling for a name or even added a person who was not in the book in the first place. While this is all well and good, and can be very helpful, how do we the users of said books know the additional is correct information? There is something to be said about preserving history as is, even if it contains mistakes, even if you know additional or correct information. We need to find a different and better way to make the additional information available to the genealogists. Especially old or original historical books and documents that may be hand written should not be altered or added to in any way.

This new information is very helpful but detracts from the historical value and authenticity of the book or document altered.

How about Historical Societies that have volunteers that toss out papers? Have you ever seen or heard of this happening? Are the papers really of no value? Or could they have a value that is irreplaceable? Please be very careful if you are in a position to determine the value of an item and if it should be kept or tossed away.

The 1890 census was destroyed or damaged by a fire in the Commerce Department in 1921. Actually my understanding is it was destroyed or damages by the water used to put out the fire. Less than 1 percent of the schedules survived.. Later permission was granted to destroy the damaged portions. I sometimes wonder if any could have been salvaged if we had better technology back

then. This certainly has nothing to do with volunteers but it makes one wonder about other documents and historical books that volunteers do handle. Is the best care being taken for their preservation? Are the volunteers trained or at least informed of some of these technics? Do they know how to determine the importance of some papers they are dealing with? Did a letter stating the relationship of my great-grandfather to his father get tossed because the volunteer didn't realize the potential importance of that letter in a family history way? I can only wish such a letter existed. If it did and was tossed, I'd never know about it. But if it existed and some smart cookie realized the potential aid the letter would give a genealogists so she/he preserved the letter, I'll find it some day and finally have an took to break down that brick wall.

Volunteers are the backbone of many or all genealogical societies, historical societies and the numerous other places. They work long hours and try to do the best they can. Treat them with kindness. Ask for their help. Thank them for their assistance. Offer to be a volunteer yourself and take some of the load off others backs. The more people who volunteer the easier the load is to carry by everyone.

If you asked for help, communicate. Write a note and say, hey I got the copies. Thanks so much. This is really great. And include a little money for the volunteers expenses. At least help defray their expenses. If you don't hear from the person, write again and tactfully ask if they got your previous note.

Volunteers too need to communicate. If you get a request from someone (especially if the request came in an email), write back and say I got your request and I'll get to it later this week, or I'm going into the hospital and

I'll be there for a week then I have a recovery period so I'll get to this just as quickly as I can but don't expect to hear from me for at least one month. Whatever it is, communicate it so the person knows you have their request and will work on it. And they'll know about how long it will take for you to get to their request. That way they may bug you less.

Hints for transcribing a cemetery

Keep track of your movement. Note where in the cemetery you start. Do one row at a time. Indicate rows in your transcription.

Do not alphabetize the transcription. Index your book. I realize this is more work but a alphabetized list of people is not as helpful to the family researcher as being able to see who is buried next to their family member. It might be a daughter buried under her married name. A name they, as yet, do not know.

Get information from the sexton, if possible, to verify unreadable stone, and to get the folks buried without stones. Some stones have errors in the dates inscribed. So sexton records might help the researcher find the documents or obituaries they are seeking.

Take photographs of each and every stone, in order, then you can sit home in comfort and transcribe from the photos. Be sure to mark beginning and endings of rows if you do this.

Use a tape recorder and read the stones into the mike recording the transcription as you see it. Be careful to be sure and say it correctly. I've been known to write down the transcription wrong, that's way a recording

or photograph may help some transcribers a lot.

Include everything on the stone. Full dates if they are on the stone, full names if they appear that way, with notations on nick names when the stone is inscribed in such a way. Include military service or organizations deceased was in if that information appears on the stone. This is all important information to the researcher who will use or purchase your book.

Check the back of the stones. Sometimes additional data or people are listed on the back.

Transcribing tombstones is hard work and it takes hours and hours of time to do so. Get help when you can, preserve when you can't. It's important to transcribe these cemeteries and to make this information available to those who live far away and can't get this any other way. Know it's appreciated even if nobody actually thanks you for all your effort.



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.....This is the end.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

THE J. L. HUDSON COMPANY wishes to make the following acknowledgments of the excellent co-operation that made possible the marking of these sites—

To Mr. George B. Catlin, to Mr. C. M. Burton, and Mr. Otto Stoll, who furnished historical facts relative to the selection of the sites.

To the Hon. John W. Smith, Mayor of Detroit, who took an active personal interest in the accomplishment.

To Joseph Meadon, Chairman, and Jefferson B. Webb, Charles A. Hughes, Rev. Minot C. Morgan, Edgar A. Guest, Edwin L. Miller, C. M. Burton, Richard H. Lawrence and Leo M. Butzel, who served on the Detroit Historical Tablet Committee.

To the citizens of Detroit who participated in the unveiling ceremonies. Their names appear on pages 46 and 47 of this booklet.

To William Ogg Fitzgerald, Detroit artist, who made the illustrations of the scenes of years ago.

To the McCoy Bronze Company, who made the tablets.

To the property owners who so generously permitted the placing of the tablets on their buildings.

To the newspapers and other publications in Detroit and Michigan that brought this movement to the attention of the public.

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DETROIT, MICHIGAN

DETROIT

DETROIT has an historical background crowded with scenes of interest and importance. As a little barricaded village, it was an important outpost of civilization, and in and about it surged the inspiring struggle of pioneers under three flags—French, British, and American.

To acquaint Detroit with its early history, and to impress further upon the citizens of the city its present greatness by the contrast with its humble beginnings, The J. L. Hudson Company sponsored the permanent marking with bronze tablets of twenty sites of historical significance. These tablets were unveiled during September, 1926, as a part of the celebration of the Forty-fifth Anniversary of the founding of this institution.

It is hoped that this is only the beginning of a movement that will awaken a renewed appreciation of the colorful and romantic story of Detroit and of the courageous men and women whose efforts laid the foundation for this great city.



Only one person responded to my Question corner from the last newsletter. So I guess that's not something we need to repeat. However here are the responses from our very helpful member Todd.

Here are my answers, at least what I do which in some cases I hope there is a better answer.

1. How often should I back up my data file?

On the PC, every session. Some genealogy software does it automatically. Backup offline after a period of time that is more than you don't want to have to re-enter all the data for.

2. Is backing it up on my computer good enough?

No

3. Do I need a file cabinet to put my genealogy papers in?

Usually. Can I use something else instead? Looseleafs, photo boxes, etc

4. Should I share my research with other researchers?

Yes, carefully.

5. If I share my research, how much should I share?

Depends what it is and how 'available' it is on line, and your relationship to the person. Nothing on living people unless they are close relatives.

6. Do I have to own copies of vital records to prove I got the information from the official document?

NO. Document your source well, and make a well documented transcription. I was faced with getting information on a birth where all I could do was look at the old journal in the county court house, from the 1800s. Could not Xerox it, or take a picture of it, so it has to be hand transcribed. PS, someone at some time had made an ink change to the surname spelling, with no documentation on who or when.

7. How do I store old photos?

In the dark, in acid free sleeves. My question is how to id the picture, since so many recommend NOT writing on the pic, the only thing available is to put an ID on the plastic sleeve??

8. Can I display old photos without harming them?

How big is your budget? probably not. Only if you display a digital/scanned picture you took of the photo.

If anybody wants to comment on Todd's responses I'll be happy to include them in the next issue.

It's that time of year again.



The membership dues are due.



Remember our club year is the same as the calendar year.

So Renew now. Before you forget.

**Ford Genealogy Club
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U.S.A.**



Looking Backward To Our Past