



Ford Genealogy Club
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A Message from our Prez...

With last month being February - love was in the air! With the birth on Feb. 6th of our grandson Jonathon Ryan Luotonen, I started thinking about love. How much do you know about the relationships of your ancestors?

My mom from Florida is staying with us, and recently while all the family was sitting around the hospital waiting room awaiting the birth of Jonathon we started to talk about how we all met. I didn't know how my parents met, I had no idea.

But with all of us telling how we met (me hastily scribbling notes on whatever I could find) mom piped in with how she met my dad. She told the story of how they met at the very same drive in I had gone to in my high school years. She told how they had met up on the "benches at the front of the drive-in" and had started dating shortly after that. She also told me how they married four months later. Somehow I envisioned my parents courting for years before tying the knot. I was amazed that my parents had been together even less time than Mark & I had before we married.

Mark & I met at a Valentines Day dance in 1977, and yes all the details of that meeting are recorded in my files for future generations to read & hopefully enjoy.

We've recorded our love story in my data base. Have you? Now's the time with all the "love in the air" to ask your living (children etc) relatives about their love stories.

Happy belated Valentines day everyone!



16. Table of Contents
17. Index
18. Create a list of downloaded books
19. Have fun!

After the Google presentation, a round table was held.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 PM and many headed off to dinner.

Respectfully submitted

Andrea Ketten
Secretary

December

December was our annual Christmas dinner get together. It was attended by many of our members and I believe everyone had a great time.

Minutes of the January 10, 2008 Meeting

Karen Krugman called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM.

Nancy Kelly gave the Ford Genealogy Club Treasurer's report.

Karen mentioned that Chris from the Library of Michigan is going to be the speaker next month talking about "Researching in Passenger Lists."

The Detroit Society of Genealogical Research (DSGR) is going to Fort Wayne on Saturday, February 23rd if anyone is interested.

This month's speaker was Karen Krugman, who spoke on "Gen Smarts & Rootsmagic." Karen stated that a Gen Smarts online tutorial is available and a trial version can be downloaded.

Why Use Gen Smarts?

1. Focus
2. Organization
3. No Gedcom's
4. No File Transfers
5. Recommends Research That Needs To Be Done

Overview of Gen Smarts

6. My Genealogy File
7. To Do List
8. Research Locations
9. Data Clean Up
10. Query

Karen feels that the To Do List and Research Locations are the meat of Gen Smarts.

After the Gen Smarts & Rootsmagic presentation, a round table was held.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 PM and many headed off to dinner.

Respectfully submitted

Andrea Ketten
Secretary

Minutes of the February 14, 2008 Meeting

Karen Krugman called the meeting to order at 5:15 PM.

Karen Krugman, acting on behalf of Nancy Kelly, gave the Ford Genealogy Club Treasurer's report.

Karen asked if we were interested in holding our meetings at another location for \$55 per meeting. This was voted down by the members.

The Detroit Society of Genealogical Research (DSGR) is going to Fort Wayne on

Saturday, February 23rd if anyone is interested. There are still seats available on the bus.

This month's speaker was Kris Rzepczynski, from the Library of Michigan, who spoke on "Coming to America: Research with Ships' Passenger Lists." Kris passed out packets of information to all the members.

The major points Kris talked about were:

11. Genealogical significance
12. Historical overview
13. Resources available at the Library of Michigan
14. New York City / Ellis Island
15. Internet resources

During his talk, Kris used examples of his own research trying to trace his ancestors from Poland, the number of obstacles he ran into and what he did to work around them. He mentioned that information on the census and other records isn't necessarily correct. You need to check several sources to figure out which is correct.

A couple of web sites he recommended were: Castle Garden (1830-1892), Ellis Island (1882-1924), and Stephen Morse.

After Kris' talk and questions answered, a round table was held.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 PM and many headed off to dinner.

Respectfully submitted

Andrea Ketten
Secretary

Ford Price Hike Is \$389 Per Car

found in the Bay City Times Monday September 16, 1974 on page 4B

DETROIT (AP) - Ford Motor Co. has followed the trend set by General Motors and Chrysler and announced price increases on 1975 models averaging about \$389 per vehicle.

Ford Vice President John B. Naughton said in announcing the increases on Thursday that Ford couldn't afford not to raise prices.

"Today's increases are mainly the result of inflation. The actual increase is substantially less than the amount required to achieve full cost recovery," he said.

Naughton said the cost of building a car has averaged an added \$950 per unit since October, 1972. Ford has already made up \$400 of that in previous price increases.

Ford's increase for cars — an average \$370 — was smaller than those scheduled by GM and Chrysler, but, previous Ford increases left the Big Three -competitive in most models.

Ford has the lowest-priced compact of the Big Three, the Maverick listing at \$3,025, compared to the Chevrolet Nova at \$3,218, with the Plymouth Duster a bit higher.

Ford's subcompact Pinto listing at \$2,835 compares to the Chevrolet Vega at \$2,800. American Motors' Gremlin is expected to run about \$2,800 also when its 1975 model debuts in November. Big Three autos are on sale now.

The Chevrolet Impala, the top-selling auto in America, is listed at \$4,561, while the competitive standard Ford lists at \$4,656.

All prices are without state and local taxes, delivery charges and options. A 4 per cent sales tax will add \$160 to a \$4,000 car, and delivery charges are expected to range near \$100.

One result of the increases is that few cars will list below \$3,000 during the new model year, and even those will sell above that

price after taxes, delivery charges and options.

Family Color

We all want more than just the facts in our family history. We want to know about the people who came before us. But how do you find out about their lives if you never knew these people personally?

Newspapers can help: examples...

Found in the Chronicle Telegram Elyria Ohio 1939 July 20 page 2

In and About the Court House

“County commissioners today appointed Dave S. Roberson of 115 East 34th street, Lorain, as a member of the Soldiers Burial Commission on Black River township to take the place of Dr. W. H. Emary of Lorain, who died this week.

“The Appointment was made on the recommendation of the American Legion post in Lorain.”

Also found

From the Chronicle-Telegram, Elyria, Ohio Thursday, July 8, 1933

“Mrs. O. W. Roberson returned to her home last Sunday after spending several weeks in Elyria with her nephew, Howard Vosburg and family, somewhat improved in health after her operation.”

And...

same paper Friday Sept 9, 1932, 1 Saturday Dinner Guests

“Saturday dinner guests at the O. W. Roberson home were Mr. and Mrs. Howard Vosburgh and family, Elyria. Week-end guests at the home were Hiram Vosburgh, who remained to attend the Leininger reunion on Labor Day at the town hall.”

And...

same paper Monday July 18, 1932, Under Huntington - “Week-end in Lorain Huntington, July 18 -- Mr. and Mrs. O. W. Roberson spent the week-end in Lorain at the D. S. Roberson home. While there the Roberson's motored to Milan and visited the birthplace of Thomas Edison.”

Not only do some of these social items give relationships and names but give some information on things going on in these people's lives. This is ‘color’, not just the ‘black and white’ facts. This tells us things these people did and tells us of people they shared their lives with. It gives us a bit of insight into their lives.

News Article from the Allegan Journal (Allegan, MI) Oct 6, 1877 page 1 (in part)

“Mrs. H. J. Davis' will has been the chief topic of conversation in the village, during the week, because of the rather remarkable and uneven way in which it distributed her large property. Of the whole amount, variously estimated at from \$75,000 to \$125,000, all but less than \$20,000 is bequeathed to the First Baptist church of Allegan. The other bequests are: to the Kalamazoo Baptist college, \$8,000; to the Nashville institute for the benefit of the freedmen, \$5,000; to the Michigan Baptist state board of missions, \$500; to Miss Laura Leslie the use of \$3,000 until she becomes of age, when it is to be invested in a home in her own title -- but in case of death without issue, this is to revert to the Baptist church; to Mrs. L.A. McCarthy, for her use until her two children become of age, \$2,000--when the children become twenty-one years old it is to be evenly divided between them, and the younger, one, Hannah, has the piano; to Chas. A. McCarthy, \$600; to Miss Celia I. Stanton, \$100; to Mrs. Carliton, her niece, her gold watch and chain; to her sisters, her clothing; and the will provides that if the

Baptist church see fit to erect a new church the present one shall be given by them to the colored Baptists. It also provides that if the said society shall deed to I.A. and Lydia McCarthy their present parsonage they shall have for such use the deceased's elegant mansion and its furniture. Some of Mrs. Davis relatives (she had no children) talk of contesting the will, but it is improbable that such a course will be taken. Ira Chichester is made by the will sole executor.”

Doesn't this tell you something about this woman?

Probate records can help as the previous news article described.

Land records can help by telling you at least where your family lived, how often they bought or sold property. And sometimes a deed tells you even more about the folks in question.

example...

This is a portion of a paragraph on a land deed found in St. Clair County, MI.

“And in consideration of the above payment I hereby agree and bind myself to take my three children, David, Margaret & Fred H Robertson and leave said premise and to forever release James O. Robertson son of my husband James O Roberson forever only further charge custody liability or expense for and on account of the support of said children as provided for in the will of my said husband. This being a full release of all claim I have against said James O Roberson or his assigns for and on account of said will and firmly bind myself to forever release him or his assigns from any further costs or expenses for or on behalf of said children or myself.”

Very colorful in my opinion. (number three wife and her children after the husband's death, and the son of the husband from his first marriage.)

One Day...

One day while going through some papers of my mother's dealing with family information I ran across a paper in narrative form that my mother wrote about her life. It started out stating who she was, when and where she was born and to whom she had been born. It continued in the same vein until the end of the page. I was amazed as I never knew my mother had written anything about her life. Why hadn't she shared this with me long ago? I was tickled to have it though and since the page stopped in the middle of a sentence I anxiously turned it over only to find the back was blank. I looked through the remainder of the papers and there was no page 2. Darn! So I asked my mother about it. She doesn't remember writing it so she must have written it a long time ago. I asked her to write me a new one. She said 'I really didn't have that good of a childhood'. And dismissed my request out of hand. She reminded me of her mother as when I asked my grandmother many years ago about her childhood her response to me was 'It was so long ago I can't remember.' So sometimes the living can be frustrating and not very helpful. But at least I have one page and a tidbit of my mother's childhood from her hand. Now to rack my brain and add what I recall being told about her childhood in bits and pieces over the years. If I can only get myself to sit down in front of the computer and actually start writing it down and add things about my own life. That would be great. I mean to do that. I want to do that. But I don't seem to actually do it. I wonder if in years to come and my kids ask me to tell them or to write down something about my life for them, if I'll

continue the tradition of my grandmother and mother or if I'll actually be able to say. 'Here I already did that just for you.' And share my memories with them.



Jonathon Ryan Luotonen

Congratulations to the Krugman's on the arrival of their new grandson, Jonathon, who was born Feb. 6, 2008.

Lost and Found

My siblings and I have exchange school photographs of our children over the years. One sister gave us each 5 x 7 size photos when her sons graduated from high school. I enjoyed displaying these photos during each nephew's senior year.

One day my daughter had friends over and wanted to show them the photo of her cousin, Nathan, who was a senior that year and she asked if she could take the picture to her room. I said she could and didn't think any more about it.

A couple days later I noticed the picture was not back in its place and asked my daughter to return it. She said she would. But then came to me and said she could not find it.

A couple years went by and still she could

not find the photo. We figured it must have gotten put in her closet which meant it would never again see the light of day.

Moving Day

When said daughter was ready to move out on 'her own' I reminded her that the photo was still missing and to please locate it as she packed up her things from that closet. She said she would but she never found it.

Since she left some boxes of her school papers in our basement I decided to scan the contents to see if I could locate that photo. But I never did.

Needless to say I was very frustrated. I borrowed my mother's copy and scanned it so I would at least have some sort of copy of Nathan's graduation photo. I didn't want to go to my sister and say 'after all the money you spent on that photograph, I lost it. Can you give me another?' But it still bugged me that the photo was missing.

Now 6 or 7 years later I noticed this small box on a basement shelf that simply had the words 'scrapbook items' written on the side. I have many years worth of cards and keepsakes I have not as yet placed in scrapbooks but this isn't where that stuff is 'stuffed'. So I pulled it down to take a peek and sure enough it was additional scrapbook things but what really grabbed by eye was the 2nd thing from the top. It looked like a black cardboard photo frame. Just like the ones graduation photos came in. I picked it up expecting it to be empty but hoping I had at last found that darn photograph.

Sure enough it was Nathan's picture. Now how the heck did it get in there? And who put it there?

Oh well, that hardly matters. What matters is I finally found that photograph.

Now I have one land deed that went missing (from my genealogy files) a few years ago. Maybe there's hope for finding it yet...

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Looking Backward To Our Past