

The Rear View Mirror

"DRIVEN FORWARD, YET LOOKING TO OUR PAST"

**FORD GENEALOGY CLUB
VOLUME 15 NUMBER 5**

3rd QUARTER MARCH 2011

I'm sitting in my office; Chuck is by my side translating some Swedish obituaries we received from a relative a few years ago when we were visiting there. I guess it's never too late. We extracted the pertinent data when we got them but now he's making a complete translation to be entered into the database. The Swedish version is already in there. Do you do that? Do you enter the text of obituaries, newspaper clippings, letters or post cards into your database? Do you scan them and attach the copies for easy retrieval when at a relative's home? It's a good winter project. When it's too cold to go outside and gad about you can sit in a warm spot in your home and attach photos or copies of documents or you can type up translations and make your database richer by far. Give it a try. See what you think. It never hurts to give it a try.

Before I close this president's note I'd like to thank you for the opportunity of being your president. The past two years have sped by and I hardly realize I've held this position for so long. It's been a pleasure working with you and for you. As I've said many times we are more than just fellow club members. We are truly friends. I'd also like to thank all of you who served in any capacity that ensured the smooth running of our club. It is appreciated. I look forward to handing the leadership to the next president after our April elections. I will not disappear but will enjoy attending the meetings and sitting back and letting the new leadership run the show. This is my last president's

message. So keep researching, keep sharing your new finds, keep attending the meetings. I'll see you there.

Your President

Diane Oslund



The Ford Genealogy Club

Serving Ford Motor Company Employees and Family since 1995

President	Diane Oslund
Vice President	Karen Krugman
Secretary	Elena Lovelace
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Newsletter Assistant	Bob Beiting
Newsletter Web Page	Joseph Turckes
Librarian	Sharon Brevoort
Web Page	Chuck Oslund
Past Presidents:	Steve Brown, Mark Krugman, Chuck Oslund, Karen Krugman, Sharon Brevoort

USEFUL INFORMATION

In the past few issues we have had club members and others contribute articles concerning what they have learned in doing genealogy.

I would like to pass on a few things I have learned while doing Italian genealogy. I have learned that Italian women never use their husband's last name on any documents. They always keep the surname they were born with. When Italians married, no matter how old they were at the time of marriage, they needed their parent's approval. If a husband or wife or parent was deceased at the time a document is written, that fact is noted. Witness's names, ages and occupations are listed. When someone applied for a marriage license they were required to supply their parent's marriage record, death record if deceased, birth records. If you are fortunate enough to come across a "marriage bundle" you will have a wealth of information that is unbelievable. All baby boys are registered for the draft at time of birth. The custom a hundred years ago was to take the newborn both male and female to the Town Hall and register the child. Even if the baby had died, the parents were still required to take that baby to either the Clerk or the Mayor so they could verify that the baby had died and there was no need to register for the draft if it happened to be a boy. If the parents failed to register their baby, when caught they faced a stiff fine. Many Italian birth records have a column on the right hand side that is the baptismal record. This gives the baby's name, date of baptismal and the name of the church. In some instances, the documentation is surprisingly thorough. I have one such document. A great uncle was born in Italy and I have his birth certificate, which has the baptismal record on the right side, on the left side someone wrote in who he married and when and beneath that his death date and that he died in Daytona Beach, Florida, USA.

If only everyone kept such good records!

Member Club of FERA

(Ford Employees Recreation Association)

Ford Genealogy Club
P.O. Box 1652
Dearborn, Michigan 48121-1652
<http://fgc.dianesgenealogy.com>

Newsletter archives
http://www.teamfordfirst.org/JWT/Ford_Genealogy_Club-Rear_View_Mirror-Archive

Meetings: 2nd Thursday each month
5:00pm Regular Meeting

Location:
Ford WHQ Conference Room 5A-East
1 American Rd
Dearborn, MI 48126-2701

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Queries Free For Members

Dues \$12 per year, includes our newsletter.

EVENTS

The Dearborn Genealogical Society is going to Fort Wayne, Indiana on May 10, 2011. The cost is \$40.00 for non-members. If you are interested, please contact koselka@comcast.net.

The Genealogical Society of Monroe County will be hosting "A Day with J. Mark Lowe" on March 26, 2011. Cost is \$25.00

The Club recently received an email announcing the new website listed below. This site only has Catholic cemeteries listed. The site covers burials beginning in 1810 and goes to the present time. <http://mtelliott.com/genealogy>

Below are the speakers for the rest of the season:

- March 10 - Kris Rzepczynski - The Naturalization Process
- April 14 - Genealogy Show and Tell...
- May 12 - David Irwin - How The Internet Has Revolutionized Genealogy
- June 9 - Richard Doherty - Serendipity, A Lighthearted Look At Genealogy

Elections will be held at the April meeting.

The Michigan Genealogical Council has announced that it is partnering with FamilySearch on a new indexing project involving Michigan Marriages. Details on this project can be seen by going to the site listed below:

<https://indexing.familysearch.org/projects/vi-ewProject.jsf?url=USMichigan-CountMarriages1820-1956PartA/ProjectHelp1.html>

MY COLORFUL IRISH HERITAGE

My great great grandfather, Denis Sheahan, left County Kerry Ireland for the United States in the late 1840s. I believe he traveled up the Mississippi to Saint Louis, where he settled in an area known as Kerry

Patch, which is located on the near north side of downtown Saint Louis. This is where Irish immigrants from County Kerry started their life. It was one of the poorest neighborhoods in Saint Louis and the non-Irish did not dare enter this area at risk of life or limb. The residents of Kerry Patch took care of each other and were known as a fighting crowd. In 1853 Denis Sheahan was christened "king" of Kerry Patch. His home was used for a grocery store and the post office also distinguished it. When the Civil War broke out, a large number of the Kerry Patch men were captured and among them was Denis Sheahan. In fact, he was captured twice and set free both times.

Denis' oldest son, John, became the last "king" of Kerry Patch. He was also vice president of an undertaking company he founded and at different times, president of the Board of Education and on the Board of Police Commissioners. He was Chief of Police for the city of Saint Louis for a short time. His son John, Jr., the "Duke", was also on the Board of Education and assumed the presidency of his father's undertaking company. During WWI he was decorated by the American, French and British governments. He was also a star soccer and baseball player with several minor league teams.



The colorful one in the family was Denis' grandson, William or Willie. He was killed in a blind pig in Detroit one night in April, 1925. The news made the front page of The Detroit Free Press and the Detroit Times. Willie got into an argument with a cab driver, pulled a gun, there was a struggle and Willie ended up shooting himself. Unfortunately, the cab driver then picked up the gun and fired two more shots at Willie, killing him.

There was one other instance where the Sheahans made front page headlines of all

the Detroit newspapers. Another one of other Denis' sons, Thomas Lawrence, (my great grandfather) worked for the Burroughs Corporation in Saint Louis. In 1905 the company moved all their employees and their 253 families to Detroit on a special train (The Cloverleaf Express) in one day. Most of the people were comfortably housed the same night and many of them in places which they ended up buying. Thomas Lawrence had a son also named Thomas Lawrence, who also worked for Burroughs, in fact he was their assistant secretary. In August, 1916 three bandits robbed the Burroughs pay car of \$35,000. That was a lot of money back then. Headlines read "Greatest Man Hunt in History of Detroit on for Auto Bandits" and "Inside Job, Detectives View, Scouted by Burroughs." Thomas, Jr. was in the pay car that was robbed. It was common knowledge that the Burroughs pay car would leave the bank at 1:00 PM of the afternoon preceding payday. Back then, employees were paid in cash. The police suspecting an "inside job" thought perhaps Thomas, Jr. had something to do with it since he had just gotten married two months previous. I was told that many a night the police would just walk into his home hoping to find the money in his possession. As far as I know, the robbery was never solved.

Submitted by: Andrea Ketten

Karen Krugman presented, "EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT" on January 13th. Karen described the vast amount of information that can be found in newspapers. How to find where the newspaper is that you want: census, bible records, vital records, family lore. How can I find copies of the papers I want? Look at your library, the internet and phone book. When using the internet don't forget to use + and - and parenthesis to narrow your search.

We were reminded that obituaries were not always called obituaries but mortuary

notices; ship lists were printed on a daily basis. That is the name of the ships coming into harbor were listed, not the names of the passengers; Probate records, weddings, awards, business ads, etc.

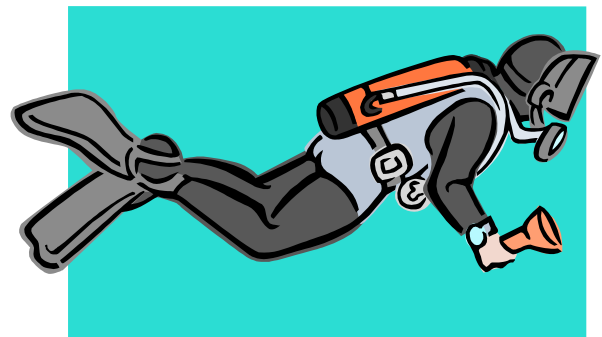
Some suggested websites are:
www.ancestry.com
www.genealogybank.com
www.newspaperarchive.com
www.footnote.com
www.chroniclingamerica.loc.gov

Karen also has a daily blog at
www.genealogyframeofmind.blogspot.com.

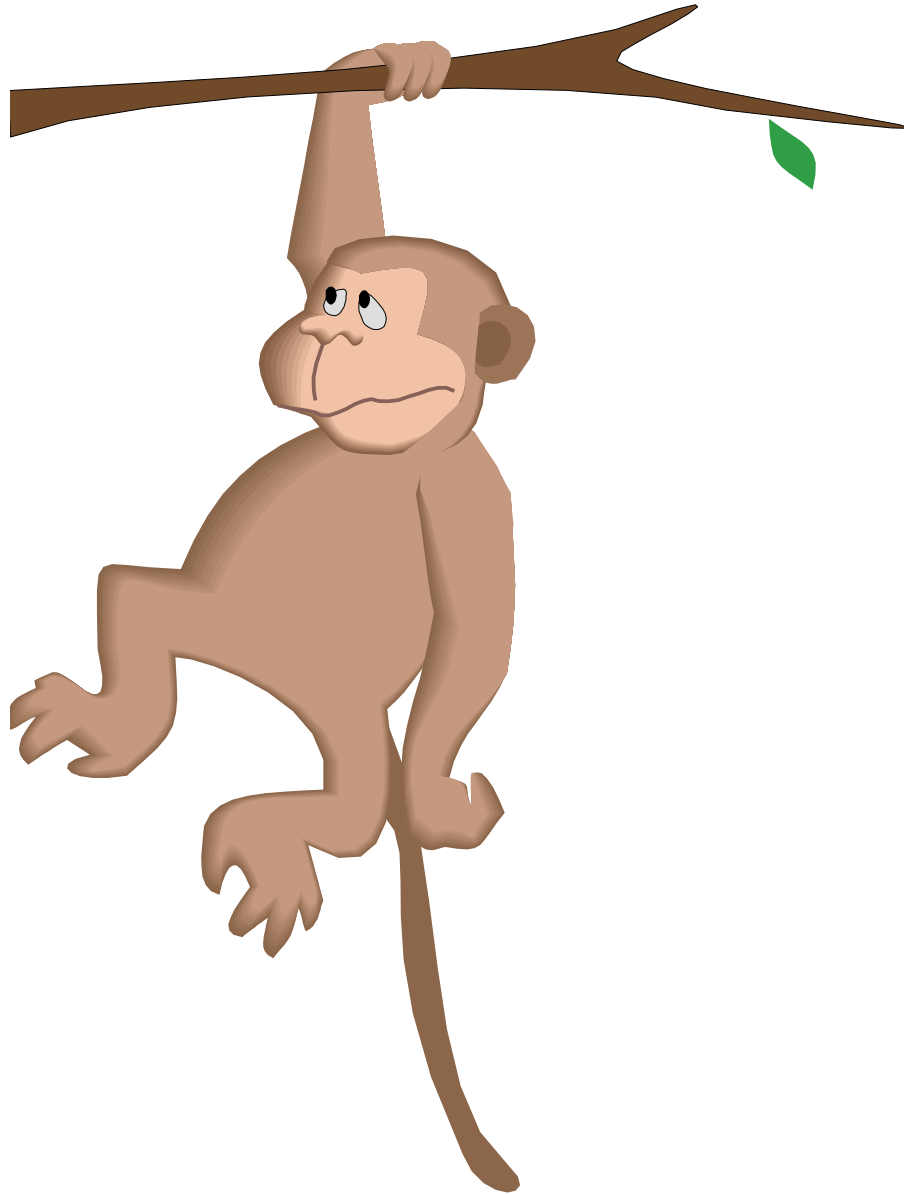
When Karen finished her presentation, we were treated to a surprise presentation by Joe Turckes. Joe has not had much success and suddenly everything has opened up for him and his Polish genealogy. Joe has found a cousin in Paris, France who has furnished him with not only information but photos, all of which he shared with us.

SPEAKER

The speaker for February 10th was Tony Gramer, President of Seahorses a scuba club gave us his presentation entitled, "Ten Minutes to Disaster, The Dunderberg Story." Tony is a Certified PAD Dive Master. He started diving to the Dunderberg in 1981 as a novice and has made at least 60 dives to the Dunderberg; Tony's website is www.swiminc.xom.



Genealogists are like monkeys,



Always in the trees.

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U.S.A.



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