

The
Rear View Mirror
"DRIVEN FORWARD, YET LOOKING TO OUR PAST"

Ford Genealogy Club
Volume 9 Number 4

4th Quarter December 2004

From our Prezzy....

Friends,

Back in colonial times, most Americans did not celebrate Christmas much, if at all. They did not decorate or exchange gifts. The notable exceptions were the Pennsylvania Germans (Lutherans) who brought with them their tradition of decorating the Christmas tree, Southerners who gathered cousins together for a week of feasting and fiddling, and most notably New Yorkers who followed the English tradition of burning Yule logs and the Dutch tradition of "Sint Niklass" and of celebrating the week long holiday with much shopping and gift giving.

On December 5th, St. Nicholas Eve, our saint would ride over the rooftops on a white horse accompanied by the small Moor, Black Ruprecht. Singing, children gathered around a white sheet laid out on the floor until St. Nicholas arrived, dressed in elaborate episcopal robes and a bishop's headdress and staff, raining cookies, nuts, and marzipan to the delight of all. Black Ruprecht rattled his switches to threaten naughty children while St. Nicholas found out who was naughty and nice and gave out praise and the occasional lecture. Before going to bed, the children left their wooden shoes by the fire, stuffed with hay for his

horse next to a bowl of water. Later on, in the quiet of the evening, grownups exchanged gifts, ate hot chestnuts and St. Nicholas cakes, and enjoyed dancing, singing, and smoking. By morning, the shoes were filled with presents, rarely switches. On Christmas Day, the family went to church and visited round with friends and family.

Rev. Clement Moore, a New Yorker, wrote 'Twas the Night Before Christmas in 1822 and slowly the tradition spread, even to stoic New England. Gift giving, evergreens, and Santa Claus became a way of life for us all. As a Dutch descendant, I enjoyed learning about the traditions my family now takes for granted. Whatever your holiday traditions are, enjoy them to the fullest this holiday season.

Sharon L. Brevoort
President
Ford Genealogy Club



The Ford Genealogy Club

Serving Ford Motor Company Employees and Family
since 1995

President	Sharon Brevoort
Vice President	Karen Krugman
Secretary	Mike Brautigan
Treasurer	Dan Chupinski
Membership	Gerry Jacobs
Newsletter	Diane Oslund
Librarian	Sharon Brevoort
Web Page	Mark Krugman & Chuck Oslund
Past Presidents:	Steve Brown, Mark Krugman, Chuck Oslund & Karen Krugman

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

Location Fairlane Business Park; Information
Technology Headquarters ITHQ-B
Rooms 4 B or 4C
1303 Fairlane Circle
Allen Park, Michigan 48101

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Member Club of FERA
(Ford Employees Recreation Association)

Ford Genealogy Club
P.O. Box 1652
Dearborn, Michigan 48121-1652
U.S.A.
<http://www.wwnet.net/~krugman1/fgc/>

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Some Cemeteries Are Charging For Information

Your editor has been doing a lot of cemetery research this past year. In doing so I have had to write to many cemeteries asking about family members buried in said cemetery and the location of their graves. Some cemeteries never responded to my queries, while others sent me invaluable information on the people I was seeking, maps of their cemetery and how to locate said graves with minimum difficulty. However a few sent back notes saying this information would cost.

Example. One city in our fair state would assist me (for their city cemeteries) for a name or two but if asking about five or more people there was a small fee for them to look up the information and if sending me copies of anything (except a map of the said cemetery) there would be a copy fee too. All in all the fee was quite small and worth it to have the information I was seeking. They however told me (up front) that this same information was available at their local library without a charge. The charge was because of decreasing funds to the city government and the time involved in looking up the information and mailing it to me.

Another example. I wrote to a large cemetery in New York and asked about a husband and wife buried there. I was seeking the location of their graves as I had planned to get to New York in October (trip ended up being cancelled) and wanted to photograph the tombstones. They sent me a wonderful map of their cemetery and even marked the location of the graves on the map. They also informed me that there were several other persons buried in the same family plot and that I could get a copy of the cemetery cards on all or any of the people buried there for \$40 for the first card and

\$10 for each additional card. That I felt was too much for additional information on these particular people as they are not closely related to me but I might feel that it was worth the cost if they happened to be a direct line ancestor and I had hardly any information on them.

Should cemeteries charge for assisting us? Well this is a capitalist society. So why not? I don't like paying for this information any more then the next guy but with all the budget cuts in our state and in our nation, somebody has to pay for the time a person spends looking up information we ask them for. At least they will look it up and share it with us. And if it's a company owned cemetery, not a government owned one, the same holds true, they have certain expenses and answering a question or two does not take much time but looking up five or ten people in their files and jotting down information on them does take time. Time that the person is getting paid for but time the person is now working on any of the current work of the cemetery office.

I guess it just depends on how badly you think you need the information they can provide and the financial situation of the cemetery.

It appears that most cemeteries do not charge for their assistance, and just take longer to get back to you if your list of needs is longer. So let us thank our blessings that they are willing to help. As for the ones who do charge, lets just determine if we need their assistance, and if we do, smile, thank them and hand over the cash.



Heads Up Members!

The Ford Genealogy Club will be 10 years old next year (2005). Congratulations to the club and all members, past and present who have made this club what it is today. More on this in next years issues.

Naturalization Records

Per the circular from the State Archives of Michigan I have gleaned the following.

Naturalization took place in more than one court. It could be a local court or a federal court.

There is the 'Declarations of Intention Pre 1907: it provides date, name of individual, and country of origin.

After 1906: it adds additional facts such facts as age, occupation, race, complexion, height, weight, color of hair and eyes, distinctive marks, date of birth, residence, date and place of embarkation, means of transportation to the U.S., port of arrival, and oath.

The circular mentions a 'Petition and Record' It states the following.

Pre 1907: the petition and record offers only date, name of individual, country of origin, names of witnesses, and oath.

After 1906: it also provide residence, occupation, date and place of birth, date and place of emigration, means of travel to U.S., date and place of immigration, date and place declaration filed, names of spouse and children, their places of birth and residence, length of time in Michigan, names of witnesses, plus their occupations and residence.

The circular also mentions 'Court

Orders' It says the court orders are prepared twice a year and simply identify those persons who have qualified for U.S. citizenship. It appears these are the judge's orders granting petitions for naturalization. They are only a list of individuals and is dated.

The Certificates of Naturalization

A Certificates of Naturalization give number, name, age, date of transaction, place and date where declaration of intention filed, date and place where petition filed, date and place where order filed, and residence of each.

For more information you can read the circular for yourself at the state archives site http://www.michigan.gov/hal/0,1607,7-160-17445_19273_19313---,00.html in the middle of the page (L to R) under Programs and Services is a link for State Archives Circulars. Information on Naturalization is in circular #10.

This circular also lists which Naturalization records in the state of Michigan are housed at the State Archives.

There is also a new web site index for naturalization records in the state archives for 22 counties. This can be found at http://www.michigan.gov/hal/0,1607,7-160-17449_18635_20684---,00.html. This should be of tremendous help to many people.

It's Gift Giving Time Again

It's time to think about family. Not just the dead relatives but the living breathing variety. Spend time with your elderly relatives. Even if you don't like them. Ask them questions about their past. That is

unless you've already made a pest out of yourself on this subject and these relatives go running and screaming when you walk into a room. Give a little of yourself. Take a shut-in relative on a short shopping trip or out to lunch or dinner. Just listen to them talk, even if it isn't about family and what you can add to your family tree. Or tell them about what's new in your life. Spread a little care and compassion. While it's the season to give, it's also the season to receive. Be generous with your time and attention. Also be generous when receiving time and attention from someone when it's just not convenient for you.

While it's fun to give to the children, our children get way too much of material things. Think carefully about what you give them, coordinate it with their parents to be sure it's something that will be well received and used. Maybe a pass to the local Zoo for a year would be a better gift than another video game or doll or truck. Or a membership/pass to places such as Greenfield Village or as it's now known 'The Henry Ford' (village and or museum).

Maybe it's time to start a new Christmas tradition in your family.



Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and Happy New Year to all Ford Genealogy Club members and their families.

New Years Wishes

It's time to make your New Years resolutions. While doing so make up your genealogy New Years wishes. Such as 'This year I want to find great-grand-uncle so and so's burial place. And I need a death certificate for great-grandma and her sister Sal. Take a few minutes to decide what you want most that is attainable (at this point in time) and make a list of them all and where you need to go or write to complete these tasks. Then add to your list your trouble spots or brick walls and determine if there is anything you can work on to try to knock those wall right off their foundations. If there are, add that to your list for the year and be sure to make time to tackle them. If not add to your list to brainstorm with some friends and try to determine if there is anything that can be done that has not already been tried to knock down those walls.

NARA

U.S. National Archives & Records Administration.

You can now order some records from NARA via the internet. Such things as Passenger Arrival Records, Eastern Cherokee Applications and Compiled Military Service Records, Land Records, Census Pages.

Go to this site for ordering.
http://www.archives.gov/research_room/orderonline.html

NOTE: to order on-line you must pay via credit card and you must register. You can still order these items via regular mail with the appropriate forms as in the past.

Found in the Detroit Journal of 1891, pages 57-58.

Life, Expectation of. – After the first year of human life, chances of living increase slowly to the fourth year, then slowly decline. Farm-laborers have an average expectation of 45.32 years of life; Carpenters, 45.28; Domestic, 42.03; Bakers, 41.92; Shoemakers, 40.87; Weavers, 41.92; Tailors, 39.40; Hatters, 38.91; Stonemasons, 38.19; Plumbers, 38.18; Mill-operatives, 38.09; Black-smiths, 37.96; Bricklayers, 37.70; Printers, 36.66; Clerks, 34.99; average of population, 39.88. A remarkable case of longevity was brought to general notice by the death, Sept. 13, 1890, of Bridget Doty, of Mineral Point, Wis. She is known to have been born in Ireland in 1770, and hence was 120 years old.

On page 57

Leap-year, why 1900 will not be a.—The year is 365 days, 5 hours, 49 minutes long; 11 minutes are taken every year to make the year 365 1/4 days long, and every fourth year we have an extra day. This was Julius Caesar's arrangement. Where do these eleven minutes come from? They come from the future, and are paid by omitting a leap-year every 100 years. But if a leap-year is omitted regularly every hundredth year, in the course of four hundred years it is found that eleven minutes taken each year will not only have been paid back, but that a whole day will have been taken up. So Pope Gregory XIII., who improved Caesar's calendar in 1582, decreed that every centurial year divisible by four should be a leap-year after all. So we borrow eleven minutes each year more than paying our borrowings back by omitting three years in three centurial years, and square matters by having a leap-year in the fourth centurial year. Pope Gregory's arrangement is so exact, and the borrowing and paying back

balance so nicely, that we borrow more than we pay back to the extent of only one day in 3866 years.

On page 58;

Lightning. Annual Deaths from.– In England, something less than 1 in 1,000,000 of population; France, not quite 2; Prussia, nearly 4; Russia and Switzerland, over 5. Of those thus killed in England 81 per cent are males, only 19 per cent are women.

Genealogy Software

Genealogy Programs and their web sites

Some members of the Ford Genealogy Club use these genealogy software programs and like what they use.

1. Family Tree Maker
<http://www.ftm2005.com/>
2. Roots Magic <http://rootsmagic.com/>
3. Legacy
<http://www.legacyfamilytree.com/>
4. The Master Genealogists
<http://whollygenes.com/>
5. PAF <http://familysearch.org>

Ford Genealogy Club Meeting Minutes

September & October; Sorry guys, if I recall correctly our secretary was absent and we forgot to assign someone to take minutes.

Ford Genealogy Club Meeting Minutes 11 November, 2004

The meeting was called to order by president, Sharon BREVOORT at 5:30 PM. We were reminded that our annual Christmas Dinner will replace the December meeting. This year we will be going to the “Big Fish” restaurant at Fairlane Mall on December 9th at 5:15 PM. Be sure to mark your calendar and reserve the date. Our next regular meeting will be January 13, 2005, Mark KRUGMAN will speak on the genealogical significance of taxes and tax records.

I would really like to apologize to the club and to Sharon especially for being so late with the minutes, her talk on timelines was, as usual, extremely well researched and documented. Her bibliography and notes very complete and professionally presented. For those of you who have not had the chance to attend her timeline presentation, you should try to attend it when it is offered on another occasion. She will be presenting it to the Irish Genealogical Society of Michigan next spring, so try to attend as a guest.

Sharon’s talk was followed by a brief roundtable discussion of member’s recent genealogical discoveries, problems, etc.

The meeting was adjourned and those interested in dinner and further discussion went to The Salad Bar Restaurant.

Submitted by Mike Brautigan
Secretary

Historical Detroit

At the Library of Michigan (Lansing, Michigan) is a small book 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 1843



Detroit's First Public School

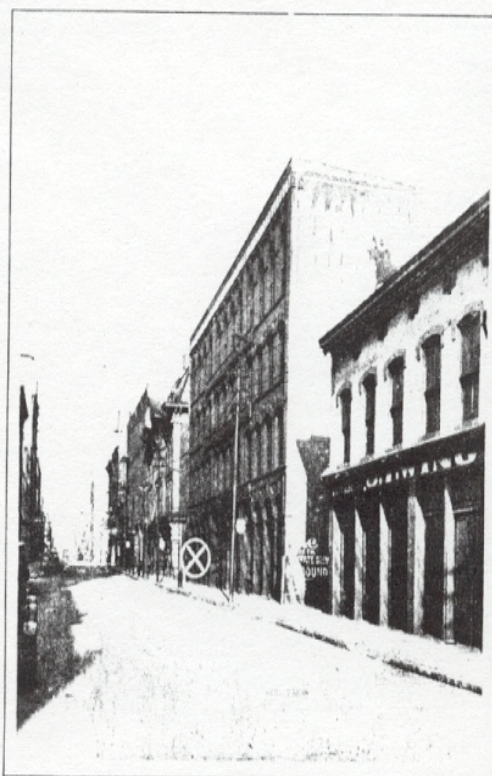
THE SCHOOL WAS established in 1843 and occupied rooms over a grocery store. One end of the building was supported by piles driven into the Detroit River. The site was on what is now Woodbridge Street near Shelby. While 1350 children of school age were then in Detroit, only 150 were enrolled.

This school was the outgrowth of a charity school supported by contributions from the leading woman's club of that day and from other citizens. It was presided over by Lucina Williams, a cultured woman who had come to Detroit from Concord, Mass.

Some children had had the advantage of private schools. But it was very difficult to induce the other children to attend at first. Then school work was sweetened with games and stories, and soon attendance increased to a daily average of 50 out of the 150 pupils which were enrolled.

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AS IT IS TODAY



Woodbridge Street

WHERE fashionable ladies, market basket on arm, once did their shopping pedestrians are now little seen. Wholesale establishments, obscure factories and richly laden warehouses dominate what was once a retail section. Roaring two- and five-ton motor trucks, traveling as many miles in one hour as the old horse traveled in a whole day, deliver the goods.

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Looking Backward To Our Past

AniMap <http://www.goldbug.com/AniMap.html> A county boundary historical atlas

Clooz <http://www.clooz.com/> An electronic filing cabinet

Ford Genealogy Club
P.O. Box 1652
Dearborn, Michigan 48121-1652
U.S.A.