



# “SHOW ME” STATE

## GENEALOGICAL NEWS

Newsletter of the Missouri State Genealogical Association



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Winter 2009

### OUR NEW FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS

The MoSGA Board at our August 7 meeting approved a **new Family membership**. Couples at a US address can now join as a Family. For \$30, you get four Journals and four newsletters, and two votes and two Conference discounts! See the membership form **on the last page of this newsletter**.

### JOURNAL DIGITIZATION PROJECT

Work is continuing on our Journal Digitization Project. Our goal is to eventually have all past issues of the Journals available on the MoSGA website. If you **have written an article for the Journal at some point**, we will **need your permission to digitize that article**. Please contact Editorial Director Tom Pearson at [89ilguy@gmail.com](mailto:89ilguy@gmail.com), and many thanks for your cooperation!

### CALLING ALL WEBMASTERS!

Our capable and hardworking Webmaster, Carolyn Branch, has informed us that she will be unable to continue in that position once her term expires in August 2010. It might seem a little early to be recruiting a replacement, but our recent experience **recruiting a new Journal Editor** suggests that there's no time like the present! So, **if you are an experienced Webmaster**, and would be interested in this volunteer position, please get in touch with us at [89ilguy@gmail.com](mailto:89ilguy@gmail.com)!

Our website: <http://www.mosga.org/>

### STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MISSOURI HOURS AND SERVICES CUT

For immediate release:  
November 2, 2009

Contact: Gary R. Kremer (573) 882-7083

Due to a **25 percent withholding in its fiscal year 2010 state appropriation**, the State Historical Society of Missouri is **decreasing its hours open to the public** to Mondays through Thursdays, 8:00 a.m.-4:45 p.m., effective immediately. The Society will no longer be open for research on Fridays or Saturdays. The withholding (\$364,010), caused by the continued downturn in Missouri state revenues, was made public last Wednesday, October 28. The State Historical Society's response to the withholding, determined by its board of trustees, was announced at the annual membership meeting in Columbia on Saturday, October 31.

To continue operations and implement the withholding, the Society's twenty-two staff members **have voluntarily taken a 20 percent pay reduction**, and three staff positions have been eliminated. These positions included one unfilled position left temporarily vacant due to a 10 percent reduction in the Society's FY2010 budget on July 1, 2009, one retirement, and one layoff.

The Society will seek private funds to continue its newspaper microfilming program and to print our award-winning *Missouri Historical Review*. The microfilming program **annually preserves over 250 Missouri newspaper titles** and adds these papers to the fine collection available for research at the State Historical Society. Missouri newspaper publishers, libraries, and local historical and genealogical societies **also rely on purchasing these microfilmed papers for in-house use and to add to their research collections**. The *Missouri Historical Review* is sent quarterly to over 4,800 members of the State Historical Society in Missouri and throughout the United States. Scholars, students, and

the public use the journal for the study of the state's history.

The popular Missouri History Speakers' Bureau, which **furnishes speakers to local civic, historical, and genealogical groups**, will be discontinued. The State Historical Society has sponsored 34 Speakers' Bureau presentations around the state since the beginning of the fiscal year on July 1. A MoHiP (Missouri History in Performance) Theatre production on the life and times of John William "Blind" Boone already scheduled for March 19, 2010, in Columbia will be held. Future performances by MoHiP, the State Historical Society's reader's theatre **offering original productions based on historical characters and events**, will not be scheduled.

"The reduced hours **will have a significant impact on genealogists, students, and scholars** who make use of the State Historical Society's collections," said Gary R. Kremer, the executive director. "And local organizations that have used scholars well-versed on a variety of historical topics **will lose access to a much-needed source for speakers.**" The 25 percent withholding reduces the Society's state funding to 65 percent of the FY2009 appropriation.

#### CALENDAR 2009-2010

*Send your news about genealogical events of interest to MoSGA members to the editor at: [89ILGUY@GMAIL.COM](mailto:89ILGUY@GMAIL.COM). Items submitted may be edited for length and content.*

#### 2010 NGS FAMILY HISTORY CONFERENCE

##### Registration Is Now Open

Mark your calendar for the 2010 Family History Conference, "**Follow Your Ancestral Trail**", which will be held 28 April—1 May 2010, in Salt Lake City, Utah. Whether your family helped settle the nation, migrated across the country, stayed in the same place, or recently arrived in America, this conference has much to offer. A few examples of the Family History Conference's diverse program offerings include the **International Workshops** which will focus on researching the cultural records of other countries through lectures,

research, and problem solving; the **Evening Celebration of Family History**, which will incorporate a multimedia tribute to family history, a special guest speaker, and a mini-concert by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir; and **Ask An Expert**, where the Utah Genealogical Association will sponsor twenty minute family history consultations to registered attendees.

Registration for the 2010 NGS Family History Conference to be held in Salt Lake City, Utah, is now open. **View the online conference program here:**

<http://members.ngsgenealogy.org/Conferences/2010Program.cfm>

#### ABRAHAM LINCOLN PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY

##### Now through March 31, 2010

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library opened its latest exhibit on November 1, 2009 to mark **the 100th anniversary of the Cherry Mine Disaster**.

On November 13, 1909, a fire broke out at the St. Paul Coal Mine in Cherry, Illinois that claimed the lives of 259 men and boys.

The exhibit is free to the public.

HOURS: Monday–Friday—9am-5 pm  
WHERE: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, Springfield, Illinois

<http://www.alplm.org/library/library.html>

#### MADISON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

##### Date: February 11, 2010

**History & Records of the War of 1812** by Tom Pearson. Join us as Tom provides a short historical **overview of the war**, and then discusses **records available for men who served in this war**. Tom is the author of several books, including: [The Missouri State Guard: a Selected, Annotated Unit Bibliography](#); [Illinois Central: a Guide to Genealogical Research in Springfield, Illinois](#); and [Railroad Boys: the Story of the 89<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry Regiment, 1861-1865](#).

Meetings at 7:00 p.m., in the Community Room of the Edwardsville Public Library, 112 South Kansas, Edwardsville, IL

**MISSOURI HISTORY MUSEUM**

Keep an eye on the **Missouri History Museum Genealogy and Local History Index**, as we're adding new content on a regular basis:

<http://www.mohistory.org/genealogy>

Dennis Northcott <dpn@mohist.org>  
Associate Archivist for Reference  
Missouri History

**StLGS OPEN HOUSE**

You are cordially invited to an Open House:

When: Sunday afternoon, **24 January 2010**

Time: 1:00 p.m.- 3:00 p.m.

Where: St. Louis Genealogical Society  
Office, 4 Sunnen Drive, Suite 140, St. Louis,  
MO 63143-3814.

- \* Tour the office.
- \* Meet the volunteer staff
- \* Talk with experienced genealogists
- \* Examine genealogical software
- \* See what's new on the Society's website
- \* Learn about current projects, the Annual Family History Conference, the upcoming fall

Speaker Series, classes for spring, and the First Families program

- \* Learn about our SIGs (Special Interest Groups)

- African-American SIG
- French SIG
- German SIG
- Irish SIG
- Jewish SIG

- \* Use the office library and reference materials

Light refreshments served, and attendance prizes awarded. More info here:

<http://www.stlgs.org/openHouse.htm>

**Happenings at the Open House**

Several **genealogy software programs** are also featured, with staff experts on hand to assist with evaluations and to answer questions. Additionally, **our subscription services** to Ancestry.com. and HeritageQuest can be used for limited personal research. Visitors can also investigate **the book collection in our**

**Reading Room**, search our Vertical Files of surnames, and use our Microform collections.

Items from the Trading Post **are available for browsing and purchasing**, usually **with some special bargains** as a thank you to our Open House visitors.

**StLGS FAMILY HISTORY FAIR 2010****Saturday, 15 May 2010**

We are excited to announce that our featured speaker for the event will be **J. Mark Lowe**, is a full-time professional genealogist, author, and lecturer who researches primarily in original records and manuscripts **throughout the South**. His weekly local history article appears in the Robertson County Times.

As the Director of the Regional In-depth Genealogical Studies Alliance (RIGSA), Mark developed and directed (with the RIGSA team) week-long interactive learning sessions and hands-on research focusing on original documents and manuscripts at regional archives in cooperation with the National Archives. He is an instructor at the Institute for Genealogical & Historical Research (IGHR) at Samford University in Birmingham and at the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy sponsored by the Utah Genealogical Association (UGA). He was awarded the APG's Grahame T. Smallwood Jr. Award in 2007 for personal commitment and outstanding service to the genealogical community.

**Location: Maryland Heights (MO) Centre**

Nearly every year since 1970 the Society has hosted an all-day genealogical conference. Historically, it has been the largest such single-day event in the Midwest.

The Conference features one or more nationally-recognized speakers, several outstanding local speakers, a large and bustling vendor area, and an optional lunch.

**ST. LOUIS PUBLIC LIBRARY**

The following programs are sponsored or co-sponsored by St. Louis Public Library. **Please note that locations vary:**

December 12, 2009--10 am-Noon. **The Rope and the Open Square: Civil War Crime & Punishment.** Join us as we discuss ways that Civil War armies punished wayward soldiers (and civilians convicted by military tribunals). Buder Branch. To register or for more information, call 314-539-0381.

January 16, 2010--10 am-Noon. **Research at the Illinois State Archives.** Join us as we discuss the wealth of resources for the genealogist and historian available at this Springfield, Illinois institution. Buder Branch. To register or for more information, call 314-539-0381.

January 20, 2010--6:30 pm-7:30 p.m. **Illinois 24/7: the Best Internet Sources for Researching Illinois Ancestors.** Join us as we discuss the very best sources for researching Illinois ancestors on the Internet (a few pay, most free). Hayner Public Library, Alton, Illinois. To register or for more information, call 314-539-0381.

February 20, 2010--10 am-Noon. **The Last Full Measure of Devotion: Researching American Military Casualties.** Join us as we discuss sources of Information about American soldiers, sailors, Marines, and airmen who died while in uniform, 1775-present. Central Library. To register or for more information, call 314-539-0381.

Buder Branch  
4401 Hampton Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63109

Central Library  
1301 Olive Street  
St. Louis, MO 63103

Programs are free and open to the public. Pre-registration is recommended. To register or for more info, please call 314-539-0381. Parking at meters near Central Library is free on Saturdays, and parking on the Buder Branch lot is always free.

It's easy to add you to my programs notification list. Just email me at [tpearson@spl.org](mailto:tpearson@spl.org) and use NOTIFY in the subject line- that's all you need to do!

#### **NEW IN THE GENIE MAGAZINES**

*Note: Periodicals mentioned in this newsletter are available at the **Midwest***

***Genealogy Center** in Independence, Missouri. Contact them if you'd like a copy of an article mentioned here:*

<http://www.mcpl.lib.mo.us/genlh/mgc.htm>

Madison Genealogical Society Newsletter 30:5 (Sept/Oct 2009) notes that a new cemetery book is available from MCGS. **Buck Road Cemetery** (Madison County, IL) was inventoried by Elsie M. Wasser, Mary Ann Bonneville, and Virginia Schlueter. The book includes a short history of this cemetery (also known as the Bohemian Cemetery), a map of the cemetery, and a complete index. The cost is \$12.50 if mailed, or \$9.50 if purchased at an MCGS meeting at Edwardsville (IL) Public Library.

#### **NEW BOOKS OF INTEREST**

Donald Allendorf. Long Road to Liberty: The Odyssey of a German Regiment in the Yankee Army--the 15th Missouri Volunteer Infantry. Kent State University Press, 2006. xxvii + 342 pp. \$39.00 (cloth), ISBN 978-0-87338-871-9.

Reviewed by Stephani Richards-Wilson  
(Marquette University)

The American Civil War continues to intrigue scholars and history buffs alike, and many works have been written about the battles, military leaders, and troops in both North and South. This book, however, deals with the war in a lesser-known arena. Long Road to Liberty makes a welcome contribution to Civil War historiography and German American studies for several reasons. What sets this monograph apart is its exploration of a neglected group and a forgotten front: **German immigrant soldiers serving in Union armies in the western theater**, where many saw frequent, direct, and intense combat. Donald Allendorf does an outstanding job of bringing their service and sacrifice to life, **and exploits various sources, including letters, diaries, service records, regimental files, state and federal archives, German period newspapers, and secondary literature**, to shed light on their motivations, mindset, and courage.

The book is well organized, in twenty-three short chapters, and progresses chrono-

logically from 1861 to 1865. Maps, black and white photographs, and illustrations add perspective and geographical orientation. Personal details about the German immigrant soldiers and their backgrounds, professions, and cultural differences in comparison to native-born Union and Confederate soldiers allow the reader to appreciate the difficulties and challenges Germans encountered on both the home front and battlefield during the conflict.

The regiment Allendorf chose to focus on is noteworthy in itself as the 820-man **15th Missouri Volunteer Infantry**, which consisted initially of **primarily German immigrants** (close to 75 percent) and hailed from a state with fiercely divided loyalties. St. Louis's large German population supported the Union, but the native-born minority sympathized with the South. Also noteworthy is that compared to native-born soldiers, German-born veterans from Missouri wrote very little about their motives or battlefield experiences afterwards. Despite a lack of abundant primary source material, Allendorf is able to piece together their story **by mining state and military archives and the only known firsthand account of the 15th Missouri**, written by Maurice Marcoot, a veteran of this Union regiment. Allendorf's research is augmented by his ability to skillfully describe the ebb and flow nature of the several major battles that the regiment experienced. The author's descriptions of events at Stones River, Missionary Ridge, and Spring Hill and Franklin, in particular, bring both the horror and heroism into vivid focus. **German immigrant soldiers made up approximately 10 percent of the Union army** and a larger part of the armies that served in the western theater. They **tended to be older and better educated** than the working-class, native-born soldiers and saw individual rights and freedom as the crux of the conflict. Familiar with discrimination and tyranny from their German homeland, German immigrants volunteered in large numbers at the outbreak of the war in support of the Union Army and its cause.

**They did not wait to be drafted and took a strong stance against slavery for both social and economic reasons.** Allendorf is quick to point out that in fact, German immigrants broke up the last public sale of slaves in St. Louis. Yet, he observes that they wanted to end slavery for pragmatic reasons as well. Slavery kept wages low for immigrants. Many German immigrants thought that if they could gain a better income, they could achieve the same social status as other white Americans. To start, the army offered regular pay and a hundred-dollar bonus, just for signing up. Prior to the war, Missouri's German immigrants arrived in waves, but they all shared a desire to make a better life in the New World in America. Referred to as "the Dutch" by native Missourians, **two waves of well-educated Germans came for religious reasons in the 1830s.** Another wave arrived around 1850, after the failed democratic revolution of 1848 in the German states, and included professionals such as journalists, teachers, and lawyers. Still another wave, mainly comprised of tradesmen and farmers, immigrated for economic reasons and arrived during the decade leading up to the Civil War. Members of all of these groups hoped to gain improved personal liberties. Those that joined the 15th Missouri Volunteer Infantry **served almost five years, spoke little or no English, and fought Confederate troops in Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Georgia.**

The 15th Missouri was one of thirty-nine infantry regiments from that state that fought for the Union. They were also **one of the first to go to war, served the longest, and endured the highest percentage of battlefield mortality** of all the Union regiments from Missouri. Poor leadership, communications, medical care, and battlefield provisioning **make it a wonder that the regiment performed as well as it did in the dozen or so major battles in which its members fought.** Soldier families in St. Louis did not fare much better than the troops, given that they had little income with

with their men away at war.

Allendorf describes the physical wartime hardship and carnage endured by the German regiments at the hands of the enemy, but also **the psychological challenges, hostility, and ethnic slurs they suffered at the hands of their Union comrades and Southern sympathizers.** Nativism was pervasive at the time and racism was applied to both blacks and members of certain national groups, making serving alongside native-born Americans difficult because bias, discrimination, or favoritism often entered into military affairs. Different religious beliefs, political convictions, and drinking habits, as well as a foreign tongue, a propensity for military drilling, and the perceived rigid discipline of German officers did not endear them to the other infantry units. Allendorf notes that by the end of the war, Germans still made up approximately 10 percent of the Union army, but comprised less than 5 percent of the ranks of brigadier general or higher.

In summary, Long Road to Liberty is an important contribution to Civil War scholarship because it underscores the diversity of Union troops, the significance of the western theater in winning the war, and the complexity of the conflict from the perspective of German immigrant soldiers who had recently arrived in America in hopes making better lives. This book **will be of interest to historians and general readers alike**; however, scholars in German American studies are mostly likely to appreciate Allendorf's nuanced research and diligent defense of "the Dutch." Readers who speak German will find the occasional misspelled German word a minor irritant, but the work in general **is a valuable resource in illuminating the nineteenth-century German immigrant experience in the American Civil War.** For readers interested in the actual fighting, additional battlefield maps, terrain drawings, and historical illustrations of the physical battle areas would have been helpful to expand their awareness of the courage and sacrifice that Allendorf's narrative so effectively documents.

Citation: Stephani Richards-Wilson. Review of Allendorf, Donald, Long Road to Liberty: The Odyssey of a German Regiment in the Yankee Army--the 15th Missouri Volunteer Infantry. H-German, H-Net Reviews. July, 2009.

<http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=25017>

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**GENIE INTERNET NEWS**

Send items of interest to the editor at: [<89ilguy@gmail.com>](mailto:89ilguy@gmail.com). Items submitted may be edited for length and content.

**ANCESTRY.COM WEBINARS**

Did you know that you can sign up for upcoming webinars, **and view videos of past webinars for free?**

<http://learn.ancestry.com/LearnMore/Webinars.aspx>

**ANCESTRY WEEKLY DISCOVERY**

Free **how-to and informational articles** on genealogical topics of interest:

<http://learn.ancestry.com/LearnMore/ArticleArchive.aspx>

**BEGINNINGS OF THE MIDWEST GENEALOGY CENTER**

This page includes a link to a **nicely-done video** (8 minutes) on the genesis of this Midwestern treasure:

<http://www.mcpl.lib.mo.us/genlh/mgc.htm>

**CALLING ALL VETERANS**

If you're a veteran, or if you work in an office or institution that serves veterans, you'll be interested in **the array of publications on veterans' affairs** available from the U.S. Government Printing Office:

<http://bookstore.gpo.gov/subjects/sb-080.jsp>

NOTE: You can also sign up to receive email notification when new publications on veterans affairs are issued by the US-GPO.

**CANADAGENEALOGY, OR "JANE'S YOUR AUNT"**

If you've got **Canadian kinfolk** on your family tree, this blog may prove of interest:

<http://www.canadagenealogy.blogspot.com/>

**DOUGHBOY DIARIES FROM WORLD WAR I**

Just what it says- excerpts **from the diaries of WWI soldiers**:

<http://www.doughboydiaries.blogspot.com/>

**FIRST WORLD WAR MEDAL INDEX CARDS**

Did a **British ancestor serve during World War I**? Then you may wish to check this online index:

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline/medals.asp>

**GENEALOGYWISE.COM**

Looks like Facebook.com has some competition when it comes to **social networking for genealogists**:

<http://www.genealogywise.com/>

**INDIANA SOLDIERS & SAILORS**

An Indiana man now living in Manila, Philippines, has made it his mission **tophotograph all the graves of Indiana soldiers and sailors buried at the American Cemetery in Manila**. He's also hoping to get photos of these graves to surviving family members in the U.S. He's already succeeded in numerous cases:

<http://fizkid.tripod.com/index.html>

**JOURNAL OF THE ISHS ONLINE**

The 1954-2006 issues of the Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society **are digitized and available for free online**. Keyword searches are available through the link at that site. Funding for this grant was awarded by the Illinois State Library (ISL), using funds provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), and an anonymous donor.

<http://dig.lib.niu.edu/ISHS/>

The Society has approved **at least two new projects that will begin in 2010**. Stay tuned!

**McBRIDE MONUMENT**

The General James McBride Camp SCV of Springfield, Missouri **is currently attempting to erect a monument to honor its namesake**, a Missouri Confederate general from Texas County:

<http://www.missouridivision-scv.org/Camp632website5.htm>

**MY NAME IS NOT JANE DOE**

No, her name was Dorothy Gay Howard. She was a young murder victim in Colorado **who was listed as a Jane Doe for 50 years**. She has finally been identified through DNA testing and the unceasing efforts of a local historian:

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20091104/ap\\_on\\_re\\_us/us\\_discovering\\_jane\\_doe](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20091104/ap_on_re_us/us_discovering_jane_doe)

Note: Police officials are fairly certain that she was a victim of Harvey Glatman, a **notorious serial killer of the 1950s** who was put to death by California in 1959.

**NOT SO SECRET AGENCY**

Not everything the CIA does is classified. You **can access their World Factbook 2009** here:

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html>

Note: There are sections **for regional maps and country flags**, and even a **Kid's Page!**

**OH, TO BE IN LONDON...**

That's where these folks **held their September 2009 conference**:

**Conference report of the International Society for First World War Studies:**

[http://www.firstworldwarstudies.org/?page\\_id=491](http://www.firstworldwarstudies.org/?page_id=491)

**ONLINE MILITARY INDEXES & RECORDS**

Looking for military records? Joe Beine **has already done most of your work for you**:

<http://www.militaryindexes.com/>

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORY & GENEALOGY  
BLOG

If you've got Keystone State leaves on the family tree, this blog posts **lots of photos and other info of interest:**

<http://pahistoryblog.blogspot.com/>

PERSONAL TIMELINES

Running into a persistent roadblock with an ancestor? **Create a personal timeline for him or her:** it may well suggest research options you may not have thought of as yet-- and will help you keep track of what you've already done:

<http://www.familytreemagazine.com/article/personal-timeline>

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH OBITUARY  
SEARCH SHORTCUT

Copy and paste this into Google search box:  
[site:www.slpl.org/](http://www.slpl.org/) zimmer 1909

Works for any year in which a Zimmer obit appears in the **Post-Dispatch Obits Index** created by St. Louis Public Library. You can also omit the year and get complete listing of years where a Zimmer obit appears.

SCOTGEN

Researching **Scottish ancestors?** Then you should add this blog to your reading list:

<http://scotgen.blogspot.com/>

SCOTLAND'S HISTORY

As they proudly proclaim, **5000 years of Scottish history:**

<http://www.ltsotland.org.uk/scotlandshistory/>

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS PARISH REGISTERS

Southern Illinois **Catholic parish registers in digital format** are now available online. Instructions for accessing these images are available on the following webpage. See the upper left column of the webpage <http://www.stclair-ilgs.org/cath.htm>

SPOTLIGHT ON PORTS BEYOND NEW YORK

Ancestry Weekly has a **very interesting article on U.S ports other than New York.** Among other interesting facts revealed-

learn why Jews escaping Russian pogroms may have entered the U.S. at Galveston, Texas: <http://learn.ancestry.com/LearnMore/WeeklyJournal.aspx>

USING HISTORICAL MARKERS IN YOUR  
RESEARCH

Interesting article by Carolyn L. Buckley on **the Genealogy and Family History blog:**

<http://www.genealogyandfamilyhistory.com/>

ABOUT MOSGA

Annual dues for individuals or institutions: \$20; family memberships: \$30; contributing members: \$40; patrons: \$100; and life memberships: \$400 (one-time payment). Dues should be mailed to PO Box 833, Columbia, MO 65205-0833.

We appreciate **your timely renewal!** Postcard reminders and mailing of back-issues costs money- money we'd rather use to help Missouri genealogists and genealogical societies.

Your continuing membership entitles you to:

Current issues of the "Show Me" State Newsletter. We welcome news of happenings in your local society; books you are publishing, meetings, family reunions, etc. for inclusion in the Newsletter. Please send the information to the attention of our Newsletter Editor at PO Box 833, Columbia, MO 65205-0833 or email the editor, Tom Pearson, at [89ilguy@gmail.com](mailto:89ilguy@gmail.com).

MoSGA Journal. This publication contains 64 pages per issue and is published 4 times per year with the first issue coming out in late March, thence every 3 months thereafter. Members are encouraged to send in the following for potential publication: Bible records, Cemetery listings, county records, etc. Please send materials to Journal Editor at PO Box 833, Columbia, MO 65205-0833 or email Carrie Tuck at [carrie@eblingfamily.com](mailto:carrie@eblingfamily.com).

Free Queries in the MoSGA Journal. Up to 50 words each for members and non-members, as many as space permits (member queries given preference).

Four Generation Charts. Please consider submitting a Four Generation chart that will be indexed on our Web site:

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

*Note: For privacy reasons, the "birth date" of LIVING individuals born after 1910 will not appear in the online index. Please sign your name to grant permission to publish the*

*information and send it to PO Box 833, Columbia, MO 65205-0833.*

Our Annual Conference is held in August, normally at a central location in the state- Jefferson City and Columbia have been locations in the recent past.

Keynote speakers chosen are nationally recognized, and our numerous supporting speakers help to provide broad subject areas. An exhibit hall allows you to shop for books and other materials. Networking with other family researchers is an added benefit.

<http://www.mosga.org>

Thanks **for your continued membership** in MoSGA!

Sincerely,

Sharlene Miller

3rd Vice President – Membership

Email: [smiller@stjoelive](mailto:smiller@stjoelive)

### **MoSGA HAS A BLOG!**

Actually, we've been blogging since November 2007. You can find our blog, **MoSGA Messenger**, here:

<http://mosga.blogspot.com/>

The blog covers genealogical news of interest, **including notices about upcoming meetings, conferences, and publications**. We're especially interested in news from genie societies in Missouri and neighboring states, so **send us your news and get some free publicity**:

[mosgablog@gmail.com](mailto:mosgablog@gmail.com)

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### **CZECH DEATH INDEX**

from: Genealogy Gems: News from the Fort Wayne Library (No. 68, October 31, 2009)

by Delia Cothrun Bourne

Mutual aid societies, also known as benefit societies, have been around for centuries and were the precursors of the insurance industry of today. Often based on a shared occupation, religion, geographic location of origin or ethnic background, these societies **provided educational benefits and aided members in time of illness, economic crisis or death**. By making regular contributions, members ensured aid and protection for themselves and their families in time of need.

The Zapadni Ceska Bratsky Jednota (Western Bohemian Fraternal Association) was one of the many mutual aid societies that sprang up throughout the United States in the 19th and 20th centuries. Organized in 1897, it **originally accepted only men of Czech ancestry as members, but quickly changed to accept women**, and later removed any ethnic requirement, becoming the Western Fraternal Life Association in 1957. Its monthly publication, "Bratsky Vestnik," initially was published in Czech, then in a mixture of Czech and English starting in the 1940s, and eventually all in English.

Each issue included a "Payment of Mortuary Claims" list **enumerating each death benefit paid**. The association kept a card index of these payments and the few obituaries that were published. This index was microfilmed by the Eastern Nebraska Genealogical Society in the early 1990s. Each card on the microfilm **notes the name of the deceased, date and place of death, lodge number and the year he or she had become a member**. Some cards include additional information, such as occupation, age or cause of death. For example, Mary R. Juarez, who joined in 1981, died September 28, 1983, in Cushing, Oklahoma, at age 46. Frank Jesina, a 65-year old salesman and member since 1921, died of heart failure May 5, 1936, in Cedar

Rapids, Iowa. A death claim was paid for him in June 1936. The microfilm also includes a list of the lodges by number, providing each lodge's name, location, date organized and status in 1991 (active, disbanded or merged). Also provided are lists of the lodges arranged by state. The heaviest concentrations of lodges were in Nebraska (36), Wisconsin (35) and Minnesota (22), but there were five lodges in California, and even one in Fairhope, Alabama, that was still active in 1991.

The Allen County Genealogy Center owns this set of seven microfilms (cabinet 66-B-7), as well as a printed copy of the explanatory material and lodge lists titled "Name Index, July 1897-July 1991, Fraternal Herald Bratsky Vestnik" (973.004 N15). Although **this is a wonderful source for Czech relatives scattered across the continent**, remember that all comers were accepted in later years.

Publishing Note:

The "Genealogy Gems" electronic newsletter is published by the Allen County Public Library's Genealogy Center, and is intended to enlighten readers about genealogical research methods as well as inform them about the vast resources of the Allen County Public Library. We welcome the wide distribution of this newsletter and encourage readers to forward it to their friends and societies. All precautions have been made to avoid errors. However, the publisher does not assume any liability to any party for any loss or damage caused by errors or omissions, no matter the cause.

To subscribe to "Genealogy Gems," simply use your browser to go to the website:

[www.GenealogyCenter.Info](http://www.GenealogyCenter.Info)

**NEW ARCHIVIST OF THE USA**

For Immediate Release

November 6, 2009

**David Ferriero Confirmed by U.S. Senate as 10th Archivist of the United States**

Washington, DC: Today the United States Senate voted to confirm David Ferriero as the 10th Archivist of the United States. Mr. Ferriero was the Andrew W. Mellon Director

of the New York Public Libraries and is a leader in the field of library science. Mr. Ferriero, who was nominated by President Obama on July 28, 2009, will succeed Professor Allen Weinstein who resigned as Archivist in December 2008 for health reasons. Deputy Archivist Adrienne Thomas is serving as the Acting Archivist until Mr. Ferriero assumes his duties.

As the Andrew W. Mellon Director of the New York Public Libraries (NYPL), Mr. Ferriero was part of the leadership team responsible for integrating the four research libraries and 87 branch libraries into one seamless service for users, **creating the largest public library system in the United States** and one of the largest research libraries in the world. Mr. Ferriero was in charge of collection strategy; conservation; digital experience; reference and research services; and education, programming, and exhibitions.

Among his responsibilities at the NYPL **was the development of the library's digital strategy, which currently encompasses partnerships with Google and Microsoft**, a web site that reaches more than 25 million unique users annually, and **a digital library of more than 750,000 images** that may be accessed free of charge by any user around the world.

Mr. Ferriero earned bachelor's and master's degrees in English literature from Northeastern University in Boston and a master's degree from the Simmons College of Library and Information Science, also in Boston. After serving in the Navy during the Vietnam War, he started in the humanities library at MIT, where he worked for 31 years, rising to associate director for public services and acting co-director of libraries.

In 1996, Mr. Ferriero moved to Duke University, where he served as University Librarian and Vice Provost for Library Affairs until 2004. At Duke, he **raised more than \$50 million to expand and renovate the university's library** and was responsible for instructional technology initiatives, including overseeing Duke's Center for Instructional Technology.

As Archivist of the United States, Mr.

Ferriero will oversee the National Archives and Records Administration, an independent Federal agency created by statute in 1934. The National Archives **safeguards and preserves the records of the U.S. Government, ensuring that the people can discover, use, and learn from this documentary heritage.** The National Archives ensures continuing access to records that document the rights of American citizens, the actions of federal officials, and the national experience.

Its 44 facilities include **the National Archives Building in Washington, DC, the National Archives at College Park, 13 Presidential libraries, and 14 regional archives nationwide.** The National Archives also publishes the Federal Register, administers the Information Security Oversight Office, the Office of Government Information Services, makes grants of historical documentation through the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

Among the National Archives' **approximately 9 billion pages of materials that are open to the public for research nationwide are millions of photographs, maps, and documents, thousands of motion pictures and audio recordings, and millions of electronic records.** Every subject relating to American history is covered in the records of the National Archives: Revolutionary War pension files, landmark Supreme Court cases, international treaties, legislative records, executive orders, public laws, records relating to all U.S. Presidents and the papers of Presidents Hoover through George W. Bush.

For more information, the press may contact the National Archives Public Affairs Staff at 202-357-5300.

The American Civil War was one of this nation's largest conflicts, **involving over three million American soldiers.** The process of raising these men to serve in the armed forces took an enormous effort. In order to streamline these tasks, the Provost Marshal General's Bureau was created in March 1863. Charged **with enlistments for state based regiments, enrolling men for the draft, and arresting deserters,** the Provost Marshal's Bureau played an important, if often forgotten role in preserving the Union.

In order to accomplish its monumental task, the Provost Marshal's office deployed an army of enrolling officers, clerks, and special agents **to identify all men eligible for service.** States were divided into districts, with quotas for enrolled men assigned to each. All eligible individuals **were recorded on lists, and were examined if drafted to determine their fitness for service.** Descriptive rolls were then created for all men drafted or recruited **which included their physical descriptions, occupations, and places of residence.** Men who didn't serve were also recorded by the Provost Marshal. Thus, the records created by the Provost Marshal **capture the conditions of men from all walks of life,** detailing who lived and died during the Civil War.

The National Archives at Kansas City maintains these records as part of Record Group 110, Records of the Provost Marshal General's Bureau. **Included are the Provost Marshal records for Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska.** Additional information can be found in the Archival Research Catalog (ARC) by searching the phrase "Provost Marshal" with the name of the state desired.

<http://www.archives.gov/research/guide-fed-records/groups/110.html>

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