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Gen News

The newsletter of the Douglas County Genealogy Club

Volume 9:7
Editor Vicki Garro

July 2014
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Meeting Date

Our next meeting is scheduled for July 1 at 5 pm at the Superior Public Library

On the agenda:

Minutes

Treasurer's report

Committee Reports

New Business

July 26 Tower Ave. BID- Judy

Fair Entries

Any other Business

Our program will be a file the pile day so bring your piles and see how much you can file in an hour. The library has wifi so you can enter as you file.



Minutes

Minutes June 3, 2014

Due to the rainy weather, it was decided to meet at Shamrock Restaurant instead of at the Riverside Cemetery.

Meeting called to order at 5:03 pm. Lorrie read the minutes. Motion made to accept minutes as read by Vicki Garro 2nd by Jan Resberg. Motion carried. No treasurer report.

Committees

Fair info will be on the website soon. Do not need to be a Douglas County resident to register and there is no entry fee. Jackie Plunkett brought up that

Certificates will need to be designed for Fair Entries. Discussion was held regarding our Logo on the Certificate. Vicki Garro has certificate template which we can put our logo on.

Question about BID rededication on July 26. No news from Judy Aunet who is getting info. Jackie suggested that we make packets to give out for the rededication.

July meeting is "File Your Pile meeting."

New Business. Email from Judy regarding the renewal of Family tree Magazine for the Library. Jackie Plunkett made a motion to continue to purchase the magazine for the library. 2nd by Bobbi Hoyt. Motion carried.

Vicki Garro received an email invite to the Nordic center for Friday, June 6 7-9 pm Have artifacts of Norwegian Culture. At 23 North Lake Ave. Bobbi Hoyt explained there are a lot of stairs in case that may be an issue. Parking is also difficult.

Bobbi Hoyt announced that TPGS Fall workshop is Oct 18. Focus on Scandinavian Heritage at Duluth Public Library in the Green Room. Parking will be free in the depot lot.

Vicki Garro announced that the Swedgen was also on Oct 18 at South St Paul at MNGS Headquarters.

Fall Oct The North Star Conference will have Judy Russell, the Legal Genealogist as Speaker

Bobbi Hoyt reported on the Tech track Conference. She really enjoyed listening to Thomas MacEntee. New Business. Windows 9 is on the table and will not look like Win 8.1 but will look more like Win 7.

Jackie Plunkett asked about Bobbi Hoyt's recent computer crash due to FTM 2014. Her info is locked into the FTM 2014 program. It requests the user download a patch but the patch will not load but instead it locks up your program. This is for everyone. If you x out of the upgrade it will work. Ancestry was called but were unable to fix the problem. Many complaint calls were made so they are aware of the problem. It is not your computer but a software problem.

Vicki motioned to adjourn and 2nd by Emily Fredrick. Adjourned at 5:53

Those attending: Jan Resberg, Jackie Plunkett, Buzz Buzynski, Roger Saari, Bernie Reger, Vicki Garro, Lorrie Madden, Karen Smolley, Bobbi Hoyt, Emily Fredrick.

Refreshment list: July Jan ; Aug- Lorrie; September- Buzz; October- Karen; November- Jan; December Potluck Party.



Upcoming Meetings and Events

Looking for items for the 2014 calendar. If you know of any events, please email them to the address below.

This is a work in progress. We invite all area genealogy organizations to submit their events with contact information for publication here to vicgarro@centurytel.net

DCGC= Douglas County Genealogy Club

TPGS=TwinPorts Genealogical Society
WSGS= Wisconsin State Genealogical Society
MGS= Minnesota Genealogical Society

Be sure to check out the Minnesota Genealogical Society Calendar at <http://www.mngs.org/calendar.shtml> For a listing of other club events in the Twin Cities Area. Pay special attention to who is staffing the MNGS Library. Each of the affiliate clubs take turns which means you can have country focused genealogical research help.

The WSGS website is <http://www.wsgs.org/>

July 1- File the Pile Day: Bring your boxes and file box to file those bits that seem to pile up.

August 5- Leaving your Legacy: Sharing your research and your story.

August 19 Entries due at the Head of the Lakes Fair
September 20 WSGS Leaders Workshop in Marshfield.

October 3-4 Minnesota North Star Conference with Judy Russell <http://mngs.org>

October 18- TPGS Workshop at Duluth Library

October 18 SWEDGEN at MNGS in South St Paul

As always, if you have addition

al dates for the calendar or if you find a date in error, please email them to me at vicgarro@centurytel.net.



News From the Internet

Google Chrome will soon be adding a new feature that will allow video chat with no software to download and nothing to setup. You must have the Chrome browser on your computer and a video camera connected to do video chat via Google hangout.

Ancestry.com recently announced that it will discontinue several services including the popular myfamily.com. Several contenders have stepped up to the plate including SPOKT.com In addition to

private websites for sharing family information, Spokt™ also offers RSS newsfeeds of newly-added information for those who wish to use an RSS newsreader instead of surfing manually in a web browser.

Spokt™ is also working on a MyFamily.com Migration Tool. While not yet available, the online tool reportedly will transfer all the News (with replies) and Photos (with replies) from a MyFamily.com Site to a Spokt™ Hub. Your memories will be preserved, be more searchable, and are presented more beautifully than ever before. Details may be found at <http://blog.spokt.com/general/myfamily-com-migration-tool>.

Spokt.com costs \$29 per year. The price includes unlimited members and up to 15 gigabytes of file storage, probably enough for most family websites. Should you need it, each additional gigabyte of data costs an additional \$1.99 per year. Before signing up, you might want to view the demo at <http://spokt.com/demo>. If you do sign up and pay for the service, you will also receive an unconditional 75-day money-back guarantee in case the service doesn't meet your needs. A 75-day money-back guarantee strikes me as more than ample time to see if the service meets the needs of your family. Spokt™ may be found at <http://spokt.com>.

TLC Network has signed on for another season of Shed Media US-produced Who Do You Think You Are?, will return with six new episodes this summer. The series, which delves into the ancestral history of public figures and celebrities, will feature contributors including Valerie Bertinelli, Jesse Tyler Ferguson, Lauren Graham, Kelsey Grammer, Rachel McAdams and her sister Kayleen McAdams, and Cynthia Nixon.

The fifth season premieres on July 23 at 9 p.m. EST/PST. Check your local listings for the channel near you.

A project to digitize Nebraska homesteading case files has been completed after a decade of planning, preparation and execution. The nearly 77,000 files contain more than 1.6 million digital images, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln said Wednesday.

The database can be searched and viewed for free at Homestead National Monument of America near Beatrice, as well as UNL libraries, National Archives and Records Administration research centers nationwide and Family History Centers at several locations across the country. They also may be viewed for a fee at Fold3.com or Ancestry.com. You can read more in an article in the SeattlePI web site at <http://goo.gl/zSRo4e>.

The Toronto Public Library's special collections department has just received a sizeable donation: more than one million photographs, which represent the complete photographic archive of the Toronto Star for the years 1900-1999. The public will have access to most of these images as of July 7. They'll be available in the Marilyn & Charles Baillie Special Collections Centre on the fifth floor of the Toronto Reference Library—the TPL also has plans to make some of images available in its digital archive at <http://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/digital-archive>. You can read more in an article by Sarah Sweet at <http://goo.gl/EFPnlu>.

As the closure of MyFamily.com nears, former users are looking for an alternative to host a virtual gathering place for family located all over the globe. FamilyLobby.com has similar features that MyFamily.com users have enjoyed for many years and could offer a smooth transition. FamilyLobby.com is also working on a way to help former MyFamily.com users import their data into the FamilyLobby.com systems.

FamilyLobby.com is a **free** website with a unique family URL, where members can share photos, videos, newsletters and more to keep family members connected. To build a family website, users can simply visit FamilyLobby.com and click on the

“create” button to get started. A virtual tour and sample site offer helpful insights for new users.

The new BillionGraves Android application 2.3 Version 41 is now available on the Google Play store. Changes include:

- Bug fixes
- Application stability
- Localization support for 24 languages
- Localization issues for switching languages
- Uploading images for internal storage support
- Message Notification issues
- Google Maps Crash issues
- Internal and External image storage

The company does warn existing users to make sure all images have been uploaded before installing the new version.

[Mocavo](#) will become a fully-owned subsidiary of [Findmypast](#). It joins the Findmypast family of brands including the British Newspaper Archive, Genes Reunited and Lives of the First World War.

The British Newspaper Archive is a partnership project between the British Library and DC Thomson Family History (formally known as brightsolid online publishing). The project plans to place roughly 40 million pages from historical newspapers online from across the UK and Ireland by 2021. Today, the British Newspaper Archive announced a large addition to the collection:

Thousands of historical newspaper pages are added to The British Newspaper Archive (www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk) every week, so the coverage keeps getting better and better.

In the last month, 240,000 extra pages from 1790-1954 were made searchable. 56 English and Scottish newspaper titles were updated, including the **Aberdeen Journal**, the **Kent & Sussex Courier** and the **Morpeth Herald**.

The additions also included three brand new titles:

- Dundee, Perth and Forfar People’s Journal, covering 1858-1861
- Folkestone, Hythe, Sandgate & Cheriton Herald, covering 1913, 1915 and 1924
- Penny Illustrated Paper, covering 1862-1870

You’ll find more information and a full list of recent additions at

<http://blog.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/2014/06/09/240000-extra-newspaper-pages-now-online>.

The Gramps team has released a major new update of the popular open source (free) genealogy program for Windows, Macintosh, Linux, and BSD UNIX.

New features in 4.1.0 include:

- Better Place handling
- New Tags support on Event, Place, Repository, Source, and Citation
- Source/Citation Data becomes Attributes
- Add optional support for checksum on Media object
- New place hierarchies model
- By default, you can choose navigator modes with a drop down.
- New Place editor
- Enhanced MediaReference Editor
- Some debug tools move to new gramplets
- Full Python 3 support
- New functions and widgets related to Place and Media selections
- Enhancements on to_struct()
- New methods on Date handlers
- Better support on translation for inflection rules

You can learn more at <https://gramps-project.org/>.

If you are not yet familiar with Gramps, you might want to see the list of features at <https://gramps-project.org/features/>.

FamilySearch has added more than 4.9 million indexed records and images to collections from Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Portugal, Switzerland, United States, and Venezuela. Notable collection updates include the 2,596,134 indexed records from the [Costa Rica, Civil Registration, 1860-1975, collection](#); the 638,381 images from the [Portugal, Viana do Castelo](#),

[Miscellaneous Records, 1636-1962, collection](#); and the 403,057 indexed records from [Venezuela, Catholic Church Records, 1577-1995, collection](#) Search these diverse collections and more than 3.5 billion other records for free at [FamilySearch.org](#).

Of all the available cell phone “scanning” apps, my favorite is **TurboScan** for the iPhone. This \$1.99 product allows the user to create multiple-page PDFs, as well as JPEGs. It provides edge detection and adjustable contrast settings for the camera’s settings. The images of color photographs captured by TurboScan are not high quality but does create excellent black-and-white reproductions of documents and even of faded cash register receipts. It includes a “SureScan 3x” feature which merges three exposures, an excellent tool for use in low-light situations. The results typically are much better than the simple photographs you snap without using specialized software.

Scanner Pro for iPhone and iPad is probably the “top of the line” portable scanning app. It is the most expensive of the apps I have seen with a price tag of a mighty \$6.99. (Do you really still want to buy a scanner for \$50 or more?) Scanner Pro includes real-time border detection for better framing as well as iCloud sync for keeping your scans backed up and in sync with your devices and direct upload to Dropbox, Google Drive and Evernote. If you need an app that does everything, Scanner Pro is probably it.

CamScanner+ is a \$4.99 app for iPhone and iPad that allows the user to fax scans directly (for a fee), tag entries, collaborate, identify text and even set a passcode to secure your private documents. There’s a free version available that uses advertisements and watermarks your scans, among other limitations. I believe it works well but I abandoned FAXing years ago so I don’t use CamScanner+ . However, if you still use a FAX machine, CamScanner+ may be a good choice for you.

CamScanner+ is also available for Android devices. A free version is available that watermarks your incoming and limits some of the apps more useful

features. In effect, the free version is useful as a free trial but not something you would want to keep and use regularly. Who wants scanned images with watermarks prominently displayed? You can try out the free version and, if you decide you like it, then pay \$4.99 for a full-featured version without watermarks.

Mobile Document Scanner, also known as MDScanner, sells for \$4.99. It features multi-page support. That is, instead of having to take 10 pictures of a 10-page document and then having to store them as 10 separate files, Mobile Document Scanner allows the user to take the 10 different pictures and then stores the result in one larger file that contains all 10 pages. It also includes edge detection of each document and a range of processing options for making text, pictures or whiteboard drawings stand out. I believe the Android user will find Mobile Document Scanner to be an excellent choice for digitizing all sorts of documents you encounter while out and about.

Samuel L. Morison was charged this week with stealing documents from the U.S. Navy’s archive in Washington He reportedly stole three boxes of files used by his grandfather, Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Samuel Eliot Morison.

Federal agents recovered some of the Navy’s stolen documents during a raid of Morison’s house in May, according to charging documents. They found others through a bookseller who had bought them from Morison, authorities said. An investigation is still underway to determine how the documents were smuggled out.

The theft and Morison’s arrest have been reported in numerous news publications. You can find many stories by starting at <http://goo.gl/5GfBPJ>. In 1985, Morison gave a British military publication, *Jane’s Defence Weekly*, classified pictures of Soviet military assets. Convicted and sentenced to two years in prison, he was pardoned by Bill Clinton in 2001. Details of that incident may be found at <http://www.fas.org/sgp/jud/morison040188.pdf>.

Here is a fascinating study of history during World War II versus today. Peter Macdiarmid has taken photographs of locations in France and England to match with archive images taken before, during and after the D-day landings. The Allied invasion to liberate mainland Europe from Nazi occupation during the Second World War took place on 6 June 1944. Operation Overlord was the largest seaborne invasion in military history, with more than 156,000 Allied troops storming the beaches of France. You can view the “then and now” photos at <http://goo.gl/KzBt95>. The first photos you see will be those taken in 1944. Click on a photo to see the image taken 70 years later.

As always, thanks to Dick Eastman <http://blog.eogn.com> for information in this article.



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If you would like to be a published author, send your genealogical article to vicgarro@centurytel.net.



Our fair entry suggestions have been accepted by the Head of the Lakes Fair and are on their website at <http://holfair.com>. Online registration is now open and must be completed before Aug 1. Start getting your fair entries together so we can make a good showing. You do not have to be a Douglas County Resident to show at the Head of the Lakes fair and there is no entry fee! However, you must preregister on their website. The genealogy category will be under Open, Antiques, class B. Copies of all

paper documents and photos will be accepted and judged as originals.



Product review Vicki Garro

Like many of you, I have a mountain of slides I would like digitized. To solve the problem, I recently purchased Jumbl 35mm Film Slide and



Negative Scanner - 10 Mega Pixel Film to Digital Image Converter - with 2.4-Inch LCD and TV-Out from Amazon.com. This item was

inexpensive and did not require a computer for operation. Just plug in and insert a memory card and you are ready to start scanning. It does pay to read the short manual and become familiar with your setting choices. I chose the highest resolution and my scans were saved in jpg files of about 1.5 MB in size. Of course uploading to your computer is as simple as taking the memory card from one device and putting it in the other. Scan quality was acceptable and of course many of the defects from yesterday's technology can be repaired with a program like Photoshop Elements.

I liked the fact that this product didn't need a computer so had no operating system requirements. Also, with other scanners I have used, the software required a lot of RAM memory or it would shut your computer down. This device has a small footprint, but will get the job done quickly. I was able to scan about 60 slides in less than 30 minutes.

I look forward to finishing my slide scanning project and being able to relive the memories of long ago.