



The Register

MEMBER NOTICES

WELCOME BACK! After a 3-month summer break, the new season of Genealogical Society of North Brevard begins September 5 at 6:00 in the Hanneman Room of the Titusville Public Library. The meeting will feature Donna Bachowski, who will present a program on "Preserving Local Legacies."

GSNB NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Could you take charge of setting up and taking down chairs and tables before and after meetings? Could you be responsible for making sure that refreshments are brought to each meeting? Could you assume responsibility for the drawing that is held each meeting, seeing that items are displayed on the table before the meeting and put away afterwards? In each of these activities, you would not need to do all the work yourself; you would only be responsible for seeing that it is done. GSNB must be a joint effort! If you can help out, please contact Marty Noffel.

Don't forget to bring **used printer cartridges** to meetings. They will be taken to Staples where we will be given credit toward printing costs.

Thanks!

September Meeting Features Donna Bachowski

Donna Bachowski has over 20 years of experience in many facets of public library operations.

Prior to joining the Orange County Library System, she was a library director in New Jersey. Later she worked for Broward County, Florida libraries. Currently, Bachowski is project manager for EPOCH, Orlando Memory and the Right Service at the Right Time.

Bachowski has a Master of Library Science from the University of South Florida and a Bachelor of Arts in Library Science from the University of Southern Mississippi.

Created by the Orange County Library System with a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Science, EPOCH (Electronically Preserving Obituaries as Public Heritage) is a website that allows anyone to create and publish a free obituary online. With the decline in newspaper obituaries, EPOCH was developed as a digital repository of user-contributed obituary information that will be held for future generations of researchers and genealogists. Family and friends of the deceased can submit detailed obituaries as a tribute to their loved ones and share a meaningful memory with the residents of the community.

Bachowski will describe the history of EPOCH, demonstrate how to create a tribute, and share ideas on how it can be used with both historical and contemporary obituaries.

Family Tree Magazine, September, 2017, lists some of the best **free online library sites**, including—

Genealogy Gophers <www.gengophers.com>

WorldCat <worldcat.org>

Harvard Open Collections Program <ocp.hul.harvard.edu>

HathiTrust <www.hathitrust.org>

Digital Library on American Slavery <library.uncg.edu/slavery>

ArchiveGrid <beta.worldcat.org/archivegrid>

Midwest Genealogy Center <www.mymcpl.org/genealogy>

New York Public Library Digital Collections
<digitalcollections.nypl.org>

Why FamilySearch Ended Microfilm Rental and How to Get Genealogy Records Now

For 80 years, the FamilySearch Family History Library (FHL) made its enormous stash of microfilmed genealogy records available to researchers through an inexpensive rental service through local FamilySearch Centers.

FamilySearch ended this service Aug. 31. Reasons include declining demand for film, dramatic increases in the costs of reproducing films, and the difficulty of supporting aging microfilm technology.

Fortunately, most FamilySearch microfilm is already been digitized and posted on the free FamilySearch website or another genealogy site. That's more than 1.5 million rolls, including the most popular ones.

The remaining [eligible] microfilms should be digitized by the end of 2020. All new records from its ongoing global efforts are already using digital camera equipment.

But between August 31 and 2020, try these seven ideas to access records that aren't yet digitized:

1. Keep using the FamilySearch online catalog of the FHI's books and microfilmed records. When digitized films are posted at FamilySearch, the item's catalog entry links to the online collection. Even if you don't find a borrowable item in the catalog, it's useful for identifying records you may be able to access elsewhere

2. Check other libraries. WorldCat is a free catalog of holdings in libraries around the world. You'll see libraries that have the item and link to their lending policies.

3. Search for digitized versions of the records. Search the web for names and descriptions of records you've identified in the FamilySearch catalog. You may find digitized versions at free sites such as HathiTrust, Internet Archive, state library websites and others.

4. Visit a genealogical library such as Family History Library in Salt Lake City, New England Historic Genealogy Society in Boston, Daughters of the American Library in Washington, D.C., and others. (Continued next column)

NEW AT THE LIBRARY



Crafting Your Own Heritage Album by Bev Kirschner Braun shows how to weave genealogy, family lore and tradition using cherished photos, documents and memorabilia. The author says her book "is intended to help you create a documented and well-researched family heirloom." She provides suggestions for choosing an album and how to assemble and develop it. Braun also discusses the importance of journaling and gives ideas about how to use it in your heritage album.

Also included are forms, a list of genealogical resources, scrapbook resources, top websites, and a photo gallery for ideas.

Crafting Your Own Heritage Album is useful for genealogists, scrapbookers and family historians.

(Family Search Microfilm Rental, continued)

5. Use library lookup and photocopy services. Some libraries fill requests for lookups and photocopies for a fee. Check the website or call for instructions.

6. Hire a researcher. If you need someone to search through records—not just check an index or flip to the page you specify and copy it—consider hiring a researcher by the hour.

7. Find original records. It might be easier to access original records, if they exist, than microfilmed versions. Start with the FamilySearch catalog listing. Look for the name of the repository that provided the original records (often under "Author"). Search that repository's website to see if the records are still there.

Sunny Jane Morton, *Family Tree Magazine*

June 28, 2017

The Unusual Cause of Death of Allan Pinkerton

Allan J. Pinkerton (25 August 1819 – 1 July 1884) was a Scottish American detective and spy, best known for creating the Pinkerton National Detective Agency. Born in Glasgow, Scotland, Pinkerton emigrated as a young man to seek his fortune in the United States of America. A self-educated man, he had little formal training in any of the professions usually available to immigrants. However, that never slowed the ambitious young man.

He settled in Dundee Township, Illinois, fifty miles northwest of Chicago. He built a cabin and started a cooperage (making barrels). His home soon became a stop on the Underground Railroad, smuggling escaping slaves northward to Canada.

Pinkerton worked with the local sheriff to identify some counterfeiters who were working nearby. Soon he was appointed as the first police detective in Chicago, Cook County, Illinois. In 1850 he partnered with Chicago attorney Edward Rucker in forming the North-Western Police Agency, one of the nation's first private detective services. The company later became Pinkerton & Co and finally Pinkerton National Detective Agency, still in existence today as Pinkerton Consulting and Investigations, a subsidiary of Securitas AB.

There is a bit of a question about the cause of Pinkerton's death. As an older man, he developed several ailments, including malaria, which he had contracted during a trip to the southern United States. He also suffered a mild stroke when he was about 65 years of age. However, the most common story is that this man – who had spent his life personally chasing many of the most dangerous outlaws in the country and being a spy in wartime – was walking his wife's poodle one day when the dog reportedly wrapped its leash around Pinkerton's legs. Pinkerton tripped, fell to the concrete, and severely bit his own tongue. He died of a gangrene infection of the tongue a few days later.

After Pinkerton spent a lifetime of danger, a poodle brought him down, something the most notorious badmen of the time had been unable to accomplish.

For more of this article, visit Dick Eastman's blog, EOGN, July 25, 2017

What Your Ancestors Thought About Solar Eclipses

The solar eclipse on Aug. 21 was the first total eclipse in nearly 40 years that's visible from the continental United States.

The first recorded reference to an eclipse is a 5,000-year-old depiction of an aligned sun, moon and horizon carved into a stone monument at Loughcrew in County Meath, Ireland. It likely represents a solar eclipse on Nov. 30, 3340 B.C.

Many ancient cultures explained solar eclipses with legends involving mythical figures eating or stealing the Sun. In southeast Asia, a giant frog or turtle eats the sun. The Vikings believed it was a wolf named Sköll. The Chinese thought it was a dragon.

Hindu mythology holds that the demon Rahu stole an elixir that would make him immortal, but the god Vishnu beheaded him before he could swallow it. His head, as a result, still floats around and occasionally devours the sun.

Other cultures believed an eclipse was a bad sign. The ancient Greeks believed an eclipse meant the gods were angry and foretold disasters and destruction. In Babylon, a stand-in king would sit on the throne during an eclipse to prevent harm to the real king.

King Henry I of England died in 1135, two years after an unusually long solar eclipse, but observers still linked the two events. A 14th-century European astrologer, Geoffrey of Meaux, predicted a plague after an eclipse in 1345. The Black Death struck Europe not long after.

The first known photograph of a total solar eclipse is a daguerreotype Johann Julius Friedrich Berkowski took July 28, 1851. By then, newspapers explained eclipses and carried maps of their predicted paths.

Even today some still see an eclipse as a sign from above or as an evil omen, blaming it for poisoned food and birth defects. Scientists, though, say all you have to fear from a solar eclipse is damaging your eyes if you look right at it.

Diane Haddad, *Family Tree Magazine*
August 18, 2017

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General meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the Titusville Public Library, Hannemann Room.

Board meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the Titusville Public Library, study room 2. All members are welcome.

No meetings are held in June, July and August.

THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF NORTH BREVARD, INC. (GSNB)

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