



THE GAZETTE

A PUBLICATION OF THE HAMILTON COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE
OHIO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME XXII, ISSUE 1, JANUARY 2008

Society Announces 35th Anniversary Educational Series

BY JEAN MORRISON

The Hamilton County Genealogical Society celebrates its 35th Anniversary in 2008 and to recognize that milestone the program year will be devoted to education. The HCGS has planned its 2008 programs to enhance your personal research skills and expand your knowledge of sources and resources. There are many people doing family history and genealogical research who use the internet for their source of data, and often their sole source. Those of us who are committed to high standards of genealogical research know how dangerous this is, and we appreciate the opportunities for education that the chapter promotes. With the explosion of "home pages" and personal web sites, the amount of incorrect information placed on the internet is growing at a rapid pace.

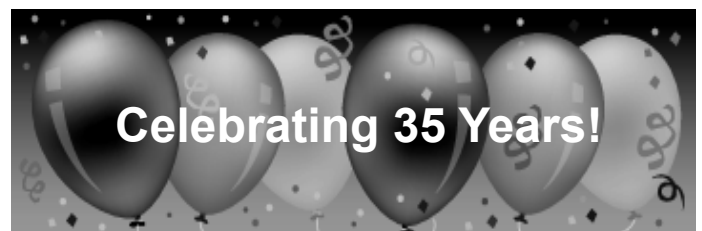
- ◆ The first program of the year on February 2, 2008, sponsored by the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County with some assistance from the Chapter, brings nationally known lecturer and author, Tony Burroughs, to the Main Library. Mr. Burroughs, a recognized expert in African American genealogical research, will present two programs of interest to researchers. One will focus on DNA research, both the pros and cons. An insert in the *Gazette* gives all of the details.
- ◆ On May 31, 2008, the Chapter will present Diane VanSkiver Gagel, a well known national lecturer. Diane is a past president of the Ohio Genealogical Society and a frequent guest speaker for the Hamilton County Chapter. She will speak on using land records. Following the program, chapter members will be available to help

members with lineage applications and personal research.

- ◆ September 20th is the local celebration of the German Oktoberfest-Zinzinnati. The Chapter will host a German program with a presentation by Don Litzer, the Reference Librarian, at The Genealogy Center, Allen County Public Library, Ft. Wayne, Indiana. His lecture is entitled, "What's in a German Place Name?" Sarah Litzer will conduct a workshop type program with audience participation. Her program will also have a German focus.
- ◆ November typically has a program near Veterans Day with the focus on some facet of military research. Curt Witcher, Director of The Genealogy Center, Allen County Public Library, Ft. Wayne, Indiana, will be with us to share information to strengthen our use of military resources.

All of the programs will be held on Saturday mornings at the Main Library, in the new Genealogy and Local History and Department on the third floor. Parking is available nearby at the Garfield Garage for only \$1.00 for the day. With the move of the connecting bus stops back to Fountain Square, it is a less congested walk from the garage to the Library. Specific time and subject titles not available at press time will be in future *Gazettes* and *Tracers* as time gets closer.

We look forward to seeing you throughout the year at Chapter programs.



President's Message

BY KENNY BÜRCK

At a recent Chapter Board meeting, Pat Van Skaik, manager of the Genealogy & Local History Department (as it is now named) gave a report about a grant that was approved for a wonderful duplicating machine that will accelerate greatly what the library can digitize and place on their website at no cost to users. I'll let her give you the details; however, I want to thank Pat and her employees who are working on this effort, the grant writers at the library and anyone else who contributed to this terrific asset.

Chapter members so far in 2007 have donated over \$1500.00 to the J. Richard Abell Trust Fund. Normally our members donate throughout the year and the Chapter writes a check to the Library at the end of the year. If we don't have donations of at least \$1000, the Chapter makes up the difference so the Library can purchase additional genealogy books with an emphasis on Ohio material. So thanks to all those members for their generosity to the Trust Fund. The Chapter is also donating all proceeds from our book *Index to Hamilton County, Ohio, Special Census: 1890 Union Veterans and Widows of the Civil War* to the Library as this was a Make-A-Difference Day Chapter Project with the Library's assistance.

I want to thank all those who took the time to fill out Chapter surveys that were sent in the 2008 membership packet. The results have been tabulated and the Board is assessing your comments. This will give the Board some direction on upcoming programs, projects, items to add to the website, etc. I want to thank Jim Dempsey for tabulating all the results which can be found on the insert.

The Chapter from time to time makes some small donations to other groups. For example, we have donated to the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, DC in the past. We did just authorize another modest donation to the Ohio Genealogical Society (OGS) Library Building

Fund as OGS is getting very close to their goal to build a state of the art library to be completed in 2009. This brings our total contribution into line with what many Chapters have donated. I know we are a long way from Richland County, OH (the location of the library), but the survey results indicate several members like the idea of taking road trips. Our last Chapter trip to the Ft. Wayne, Indiana Library was very successful, so this would be a great research trip in the future.

Earlier in the year the Chapter received a grant from Duke Energy to purchase some type of duplicating equipment so the Chapter could copy photos, books or documents and add them to the website or otherwise make them available to our members. After carefully studying the capability of several systems, the purchase was made, it is all hooked up and we are testing the results. Several projects are under consideration and we will start soon. Thanks to Duke Energy and our webmaster Jim Dempsey for spearheading this effort.

The 2008 Ohio Genealogical Society (OGS) conference brochure is on the OGS website at www.ogs.org. The conference runs from April 17 to 19, 2008. I hope you can attend.

Renewal notices were mailed in October. If you have not done so, I hope you will sign up again to continue receiving our award winning publication *The Tracer*, *The Gazette*, and other useful services we offer. The website is soon to get another 260,000 names in a database of Hamilton County ancestors.

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IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

Member Interest Survey

BY JAMES G. DEMPSEY

A sincere thanks to all of you who filled out the program and website survey included with the membership renewal. The response was incredible. Getting a response of 5-10% might be considered normal but we received 202 so far , over 40 % ! The Board will be utilizing your responses in the months ahead.

I apologize for not being clear as to the intention of all the questions. I asked for your email address ONLY for the purpose of comment follow-up and to distribute our publications when they become available for electronic distribution. HCGS will *never* use your membership information other than to communicate with you.

Of the 202 responses, 66% were from members in the Cincinnati area.

- ◆ PROGRAM INTEREST SURVEY - 146 RESPONSES: Topics for programs: Hamilton County 70% (102), Internet 58%(84), Ohio, 53% (77), Military 21% (30), Ethnic 15% (22). Other states : No. KY, IN, IL, MD, PA, VA, WV, NJ, MO, ME, DC, KS, MA. Miscellaneous: England, Canada, Rev. War, German, Irish.

DAYS AND TIMES FOR PROGRAMS - 64 RESPONSES

DAY	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN
MORNING	5	5	4	4	4	13	6
DAYS	10	10	10	10	10	15	10
AFTERNOON	16	16	15	15	15	26	24
EVENING	17	16	17	17	14	11	9

PROGRAM ACCEPTABILITY - 44 RESPONSES

LOCATION	AVAILABILITY	PARKING	DISTANCE	SAFETY	TOPIC	WEATHER	BASIC
12	8	7	5	4	2	1	1

MEMBERSHIP VALUE - 139 RESPONSES

	TRACER	GAZETTE	BOOKS	PROGRAMS	WEBSITE	ANN. SEMINAR	RESEARCH TRIPS
Yes	106	67	36	35	34	30	18
Pct.	76%	48%	26%	25%	24%	22%	13%

- ◆ CHAPTER DO MORE ? Many said "Good Job" and -- Online B-M-D DB -- Cincy Photographs online -- more programs -- cemetery indexes -- Dearborn Co. Indiana meetings -- documents online -- 1790-1840's speaker - surname list -- research problem contact -- St. John's and St. Mary's cem. records -- Mentors for new members. I will respond to these comments in the months to come.
- ◆ CHAPTER DO LESS ? -- almost nothing
- ◆ DIGITAL PUBLICATIONS AND INTERNET DISTRIBUTION - 184 responses

HCGS had membership in 2007 of 959 (213 life members) and 71.5% have an email address. We believed that many of our members would like **The Gazette** and **The Tracer** as PDF files and the survey confirmed this. Our publications will always be available in print, but if some would accept digital copies, our high publishing and mailing costs can be reduced.

	GAZETTE BY EMAIL ?	TRACER AS PDF?	TRACER BY E-MAIL ?	AVAILABLE ON WEBSITE ?
VOTES	184	169	134	126
YES	80	51	54	50
YES PCT.	43%	30%	40%	40%
No	104	80	80	76
No PCT.	57%	70%	60%	60%



Renowned Genealogist to Speak at Main Library's Grand Re-Opening

In celebration of the Main Library's Grand Re-opening and the new Genealogy and Local History Department, the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County and the Hamilton County Genealogical Society present Tony Burroughs. His many accomplishments include: recipient of the National Genealogical Society's Distinguished Service Award, Councilor of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, author of *Black Roots: A Beginner's Guide to Tracing the African American Family Tree*, featured in *The Experts Guide to 100 Things Everyone Should Know How to Do*, and guest expert on PBS specials *Finding Oprah's Roots*, *Ancestors* and *African American Lives*.



**THE
PUBLIC
LIBRARY**
of Cincinnati
and
Hamilton County

Huenefeld Tower Room
Main Library, Third Floor
800 Vine Street (downtown)
Cincinnati, OH 45202
(513) 369-6905
www.CincinnatiLibrary.org

Adding DNA to Genealogy*

Saturday, February 2

10:00 a.m.

Learn what genealogists need to know when adding DNA to the research formula.

Identifying the Slave Owner*

Saturday, February 2

2:00 p.m.

Discover strategies for finding elusive surnames for slave ancestors and their descendants.

Tours at noon and eligibility for prizes!

*Space is limited. For more information or to make a reservation, call the Genealogy and Local History Department at (513) 369-6905.

Library News from The Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County

BY PATRICIA VAN SKAIK, MANAGER,
GENEALOGY AND LOCAL HISTORY
DEPARTMENT

Genealogy and Local History's Expanded Space in the Main Library

In late October the Genealogy and Local History Department opened in a renovated and expanded space. The facility is more conducive to research with quiet study areas and tables positioned close to materials--all located in an open and airy environment. Genealogical resources from the former Rare Books Room, now the Cincinnati Room, are in close proximity with easier access to local newspapers.

While everyone appreciates an attractive and convenient space, genealogists know the value of a repository rests on its collections. Here the new Genealogy and Local History Department shines with over 7,000 genealogy books shifted from the closed stacks to the public area, resulting in easy browsing and no wait time for most materials. Similarly, we brought more than 8,000 reels of the highest demand microfilm into a self-service area next to the microfilm machines.

We also culled together collections previously located throughout the Main Library into three special areas: local history, river history and African American research. Neighborhood histories, business directories, school yearbooks, local government reports, maps, steamboat photos and plantation records are among the many resources now available on the open shelves.

Main Library Grand Re-opening

The reorganization of the Genealogy and Local

History Department is part of a larger Main Library restructuring to meet the demands of 21st century users. New services include: a special department for teens, a Technology Center filled with 100 computers loaded with the latest software, a Popular Library with films, music and videos based on a bookstore model and an Information and Reference Department, designed to meet all general reference needs in one stop.

During the first week of February, the Main Library will celebrate its grand reopening with a variety of programs and events. On February 2, the synergy of the Library's reopening, the Chapter's thirty-fifth anniversary, and African American history month make it possible to bring nationally acclaimed speaker, Tony Burroughs, to Cincinnati. This program is co-sponsored by the Hamilton County Genealogical Society and the Friends of the Library. Space is limited, so reserve a space. See flyer for details. We look forward to your visit to the new Genealogy and Local History Department!

Library Receives Major Digitization Grant

The Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County is the proud recipient of a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant for the purchase of state-of-the-art digitization equipment, capable of scanning 2,400 pages per hour without damage to fragile material. The scanner turns the pages by blowing puffs of air under each page. After its installation on November 21, the project began by scanning the first book acquired by the Cincinnati Library, *The Mexican War* by Edward Deering Mansfield. The next major undertaking is the digitization of Cincinnati city directories, followed by other local history and genealogical print materials. Thanks to Chapter President, Kenny Burck, for writing a letter of support, which we submitted with the grant application. Look for more details in the upcoming *Gazette* and on the Library's website, www.cincinnatiilibrary.org.

SATURDAY LIBRARY TOURS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2 AT NOON

SATURDAY, MARCH 1 AT 10:00 AM

SATURDAY, APRIL 5 AT 10:00 AM

<p>Saturday, February 2 10:00 am -- 2:00 pm</p>	<p><i>Adding DNA to Genealogy*</i> <i>Identifying the Slave Owner*</i> *Space limited, reservations required, call 513-369-6905</p>	<p>Tony Burroughs</p>	<p>Main Library Downtown</p>
<p>Saturday, March 1 2:00 pm</p>	<p>Genealogy: Beginning Part II</p>	<p>Barbara Furr</p>	<p>Harriet Beecher Stowe House 2950 Gilbert Avenue 513-751-0651</p>
<p>Thursday -- Saturday, April 17-19</p>	<p>Ohio Genealogical Society's 47th Annual Conference <i>Navigating the Past: Charting a Course for Your Family Tree</i></p>	<p>50 Sessions Exhibit Hall Ancestors Road Show</p>	<p>Sheraton Cincinnati North 11320 Chester Road Info: www.ogs.org 513-851-9549</p>
<p>Saturday, May 31 Time: TBA</p>	<p>TBA</p>	<p>Diane VanSkiver Gagel</p>	<p>Main Library Downtown</p>