



# THE GAZETTE

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

VOLUME XXII, ISSUE 2, APRIL 2008

## *Sweet Land of Liberty*

## *CHAPTER'S ONLINE DATABASE UPDATED*

The first program of our **35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Educational Series, on May 31, 2008**, at 10:30 am in the Huenefeld Tower Room, third floor of the Main Library, will feature **Diane van Skiver Gagel**. Diane is on the faculty of Owens Community College teaching English and History. She is a past president of the Ohio Genealogical Society, was Ohio Records specialist for the Ohio Historical Society, and Photo Archivist for the Toledo, Lucas County, Public Library. Her title for this program is **"Sweet Land of Liberty: Finding, Reading and Using Land Records."**

Land records frequently are resources we simply choose not to use because they seem to be overwhelming. Diane's comfortable and entertaining speaking style will help us all overcome that fear. Because land records can be a very important tool in establishing lineage lines and proving applications for organizations such as the NSDAR, and the Mayflower Society, as well as various First Families and Settlers and Builders organizations, members of the chapter will be available after the program to assist people who have questions regarding their own lineage papers.

Because space is limited, the library asks that you make a reservation if you plan to attend. There usually is plenty of space for walk-ins, but we do need a count to plan for the number of handouts prepared.

The Chapter's website databases at [www.hcgdata.org](http://www.hcgdata.org) now also contain 132,000 marriages from Jeffrey Herberts' books. They cover the 1808 through 1889 time period and include marriages from Catholic and non-Catholic church records, restored marriages at the court house and those published in the **Daily Gazette, Volksfreund, Freie Presse, Daily Times, Volksblatt** and the **Protestantische Zeitblatter**. The database is arranged as simple lists in alphabetical segments. Each entry contains the decade the marriage occurred, the name of the groom and his bride and a code which indicates the source of the original information.

## *Downtown Library Extends Hours During OGS Conference*

The Genealogy and Local History Department of the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County will be open additional hours from 6:30-11:30 p.m. for OGS Conference registrants on Thursday, April 17. OGS Conference attendees have the option of reserving a place on the shuttle bus through OGS or driving directly to the Library. Regular hours for the Library that day are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. To use the Library during the extended hours, enter through the north entrance on Ninth Street. Full access will be available to materials from both the Magazines and Newspapers and Genealogy and Local History Departments. (See the *President's Message* and the *calendar* for more information.)



**Celebrating 35 Years!**

# President's Message

BY KENNY BÜRCK

We are ready for a great **OGS Genealogy Conference** here in the Cincinnati suburb of Sharonville in April 17 - 19. It is your best chance (if you live locally or even within a day's drive) to get this much information at a great price. Even if you do not plan to attend the conference, you are welcome to come and see what the more than 50 vendors have to offer. Your hidden ancestor may be in a book one of the vendors is selling, or you may discover a new product that will assist you in your research. If you have not attended an Ohio or national conference in the past, I am sure that just stopping by to witness what a conference of this size has to offer will make you want to attend a future conference. Many of my biggest genealogical breakthroughs have occurred due to something I learned in a session, something I bought from a vendor, or someone I met at a conference. The conference is held every year somewhere in Ohio, but it is only in southwest Ohio every four years. I hope to see you there. (See <http://www.ogs.org/conference2008/> or calendar on back page for more information.)

Many of the volunteers at the 2008 OGS Conference will be members of the Hamilton County Chapter. I want to thank them for their spirit of volunteerism in assisting OGS with its 47th conference. Many have been working for more than three years to make it a success.

Phyllis Litton passed away in March. For many years she served the Chapter as our Query Editor for *The Tracer*. She also processed the queries for *Ohio Genealogy News*. It takes many volunteers to make genealogy societies a success. Phyllis worked behind the scenes to provide the query service for our society. She was always prompt and accurate. We appreciated her work and will miss her.

All of us in the Chapter and the entire genealogical community interested in Hamilton County, Ohio owe a big and continuing thank you to our Microfilm Chair and Webmaster, Jim Dempsey. He has taken it upon himself to learn how to master the website, create an easy to understand and attractive home page, and add thousands of names from newspaper death notices, marriage records and other databases. He is continuing to add more names and is approaching half a million names already entered. Members have been asking for more information on the Chapter website and now you have it, thanks to Jim. Of course we are also indebted to Jeff Herbert for producing the original abstracted information in his voluminous publications for many years.

I want to thank Doris Thomson, a Chapter member in Georgia, who for many years has been assisting the

Chapter with the series of books entitled *Index to Cincinnati, Ohio Death Records*. Doris read the original death records on microfilm for the years 1878 and 1881 through 1908 and transcribed them in beautiful and easy to read printing so they could be rechecked in the original books and then entered into a database completed by four different members. If it wasn't for Doris volunteering with this first step in the process, I do not believe the effort would have ever gotten off the ground. Doris, at age 81, has decided to retire from this very time-consuming and difficult job. Her effort culminated in eight completed volumes, one nearly completed volume (completing proof reading) and the last volume is halfway completed. We only need to transcribe the years 1879 and 1880 and the mission will be finished. Again a big thank you to Doris Thomson.

The U.S. government sometimes makes life more difficult for non-profit organizations such as our Chapter. In this case, the intent is to make sure non-profit organizations are legitimate and use their funds for the intended purposes, by filling out the dreaded 990 financial form each year. Our Treasurer, Margie Mohr, took it upon herself to learn this tedious process and to reorganize our Chapter accounting to assist in this laborious process. Now that she has come close to mastering this, we can never let her go. These are just a few examples of the many Chapter leaders and volunteers that it takes to make us successful. Thanks to all of our Chapter volunteers.

We have just updated our list of members who are willing (for a price) to assist you in your Hamilton County or local area research. This list is (and has been for many years) on the Chapter website. While it is great to find all the information about your ancestors all by yourself, you may want to have a local expert take a look at a difficult research problem, or you may not live in the area and need someone to check on local records. While the Chapter assumes no responsibility for the success or conduct of any listed researcher, we have never had any complaints from anyone using their services. The Chapter also has a research service for Hamilton County records and that information is also listed on the website.

It is not too early to think about working on your application for First Families of Hamilton County (those residing in Hamilton County before 1821) and Settlers and Builders of Hamilton County (those residing in Hamilton County from 1821 to the end of 1860). The deadline is August 31, 2008. The combined lineage society luncheon is scheduled for October 11, 2008 at the beautiful Vernon Manor Hotel in Cincinnati. It was a great gathering there last year and we will repeat it in 2008. I hope you take advantage of this way to honor your ancestors and document their existence in Hamilton County, Ohio.

(Kenny's contact information...Home: 513-851-9549  
Email: [kburck@juno.com](mailto:kburck@juno.com))

# Library News from The Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County

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

## **VIRTUAL LIBRARY GOES LIVE**

Thanks to a generous grant funded through the Library Services Technology Act, the Public Library posted online our first scans of original content. We targeted the local city directory collection as our first major project. As this column goes to press, we have added Cincinnati directories through 1866. At a scanning rate of 2,400 pages per hour, the list should grow quickly. Scanning, however, represents only part of the work required to produce this website. Each page is individually cropped and cleaned, run through programs for optical character recognition (OCR) and PDF creation, and verified by a technician before compressing and uploading.

The searching capabilities of the virtual directories exceed those of the paper versions. It is now possible to sort listings by street names, occupations, or employers, effectively creating street indexes, profiles of residents, and employee lists. Exhibits in the Cincinnati Room (formerly Rare Book Room) are also on display in the Virtual Library. Visit the Cincinnati Room to see the originals in person and the Virtual Library to flip through the pages of works, many of which are too fragile to handle.

- ◆ When accessing our site, <http://www.cincinnati.library.org>, click on the "paint spot" on the right margin labeled "Virtual Library."
- ◆ To enter the digital collection, click on "Browse Virtual Library" and select materials for viewing.
- ◆ To browse the item, click on the icon of pages on the top left side of the screen. To search, click on the icon of the binoculars.
- ◆ For help or downloading features, consult the other icons in the left margin. Watch for an upcoming presentation offered by the Library on maximizing online city directory searches.

## **1940 CITY DIRECTORIES**

Genealogists know that 2012, the year that the National Archives releases the 1940 census, will be here soon. As was the case with the 1930 census, indexing and digital images will not be immediately

available from commercial databases. Instead, a geographical approach will be required to access the records. To support the 1940 census and other mid-twentieth century genealogical research, the Library has begun adding microfilm copies of 1940 city directories from across the United States. Our recent acquisition of directories covers more than 500 cities. This is another instance where making the materials available goes beyond the simple task of labeling boxes and putting them on the shelf. City directories from larger cities often contain nearby municipalities. Unfortunately, the vendors have not included complete listings of small towns and villages in their descriptive information for the directories. As a result, Genealogy and Local History (G&LH) staff members are viewing each page of 420 reels of film to verify contents. For the most up-to-date listing of our city directory holdings, call the G&LH reference line at (513) 369-6905 or email us through the Library website (click "Contact Us" at the bottom of the homepage).

## **LEARN MORE THAT THE LIBRARY HAS TO OFFER AT THE OGS CONFERENCE**

We invite you to learn more about our genealogy department by attending one (or more) of three sessions offered by the Library at the **OGS Conference** on Friday, April 18. The conference opens with a picture of mid-nineteenth century Cincinnati, *Step into the Past Through the 1848 Riverfront Panorama*. Explore Irish research through *Taking the Blarney Out of Irish Research* and pre-view our many new resources and services at the NEW Genealogy and Local History Department. When attending other sessions, remember that many resources discussed are available at the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County.

## **COMING SOON**

The Library is installing new software making it possible to reserve a Library computer up to two days in advance. To make a reservation, call (513) 369-6905 or register in person. Save the date of May 31 to attend Diane Gagel's program, *Sweet Land of Liberty: Finding, Reading and Using Land Records*. See the calendar for more details.

## **THE GAZETTE**

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<b>April 17-19</b> Thursday-Saturday	Ohio Genealogical Society's 47 <sup>th</sup> Annual Conference: <b><i>Navigating the Past: Charting a Course for Your Family Tree</i></b>	50 sessions, Exhibit Hall, Ancestors Road Show	Sheraton Cincinnati North, 11320 Chester Road, Cincinnati. Information: (513) 851-9549, www.ogs.org, ogs2008@ogs.org
<b>May 31</b> Saturday 10:30 am	<b><i>Sweet Land of Liberty: Finding, Reading and Using Land Records</i></b>	Diane Van Skiver Gagel, OGS past President	Huenefeld Room, Main Library 800 Vine Street, Cincinnati no reservation required
<b>May 31</b> Saturday 11:30 am	Lineage society application assistance. Bring unfinished applications and questions concerning the next steps.	Hamilton County Genealogical Society board members	History & Genealogy Dept. Main Library, 800 Vine Street, Cincinnati (369-6905)
<b>September 27</b> Saturday 10 am	<b><i>WHAT'S IN A GERMAN PLACE NAME?</i></b>	Don Litzer, Ref. Librarian, Allen Co., IN Library	Huenefeld Room, Main Library 800 Vine Street, Cincinnati call (369-6905)

**Gazette Deadline: June 27, 2008**

**Tracer Deadline: June 30, 2008**