



THE GAZETTE

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

VOLUME XXII, ISSUE 3, JULY 2008

HCCOGS CELEBRATES OKTOBERFEST – SEPTEMBER 27

The 35th Anniversary Series continues on September 27 at 10 am at the Main Library with two programs with a German focus. The first, *“Hands on German Script Workshop: Customized Translation Help”*, will have a registration limit and will require registrants, prior to the meeting, to provide the speaker, Sarah Litzer, with a copy of a German document from their research that needs translation. Sarah, a well-known transcriber and translator, will conduct a workshop with special aids to assist registrants, working in small groups that she assigns. She has also agreed to remain available after her presentation for short “consultation” on translation matters. The second program, *“What’s in a German Place Name?”* by Don Litzer, is open to all German researchers. This program will help all of us identify towns, cities and regions of our ancestors in Germany. See the August *Tracer* for the poster insert, an enclosed form with instructions, and more information about these two important Chapter programs.



ANOTHER MADD ADVENTURE TO BENEFIT PLCH

Our Make a Difference Day projects this year will be two pronged. As in years prior, we will begin our volunteer project on November 1, at 10 am, at the Main Library. This is a week later than the National MADD. Our 2006 & 2007 *Local History Card File* project has two more steps to complete the work. In November, we will begin by finding the texts and references we have already identified from the Local History Card File in the online card catalog. Then in January, we’ll begin actually finding the book or reference text. After an orientation at the Library in November, you may continue working on the on-line portion at the Library, online at home or the terminals at your local branch.

The last facet of this big project is the **Great Scavenger Hunt**, which we have scheduled for the first Saturday in January (1/3/09) and the first Saturday in February (2/7/09). We will be oriented to the stacks as well as to other departments that might hold some of these genealogically rich resources, and then determine if they are to be brought into the new Genealogy and Local History Department. We will ask everyone to register, as the numbers will be limited, particularly for the January and February workdays. Watch for additional information and sign up details in the October 2008 *Gazette*, but save the dates! Questions? Call Jean Morrison 513-232-1827.

NEW ST. JOSEPH CEMETERY PROJECT UPDATE

BY JEFF HERBERT

Many thanks to the handful of dedicated Chapter volunteers that stepped forward last year and early this year to help with the New St. Joseph (Irish) Cemetery index project. We have successfully completed an index of burials from 1850 through 1894. The 700+ page book is now at the printer and should be available through Little Miami Books later this summer. In addition to the name of the person and the date of burial, the index contains the book and page number where the original entry can be found in the microfilm record, the name of the parents, the

place of birth, and in some cases the parish where they were buried from. The original records also contain the address where the deceased lived at the time of their death and the cause of death. This early index of burials will be a great aid to the Irish researcher in Hamilton County.

It is amazing how fast these important projects can be accomplished with a little help from volunteers. Again thanks to our Chapter volunteers for "making a difference" in Hamilton County research.

President's Message

BY KENNY BÜRCK

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

CHAPTER MEMBERS **MARY REMLER** AND **JIM DEMPSEY** WIN AWARDS!

I am happy to announce two awards that were recently bestowed upon two Chapter members. The first award was presented on 31 May 2008 at our Chapter meeting that featured Diane Gagel on Land Records held at the Public Library's Huenefeld Room. The Griffin Yeatman Award was presented to Mary H. Remler by Rebecca Groppe, the Hamilton County Recorder. For several years the Recorder's Office has been presenting this coveted award to a person or organization that has been dedicated to preserving the records of Hamilton County. Previous Chapter members who have won this award are Bill Graver and Jeff Herbert. The County receives many applicants for this award and it was heartwarming to see Mary accept this honor. I had to use a dubious reason to lure Mary to this program. She was very surprised to find out she was the person that was to be recognized when our Hamilton County Recorder began stating the litany of accomplishments of her work over the last several years.

Most of you will recognize the name Mary Remler as she has been the editor, or the chief promoter, of the 18 volumes of cemetery books that the Chapter has produced since 1984. She is currently working on additional volumes. Mary was one of the Chapter's earliest members. She has organized groups of Chapter members and others to clean up abandoned cemeteries and located many other cemeteries. She has assisted the Ohio Genealogical Society in completing their book on Ohio Cemeteries. She was acknowledged as a Volunteer of the Year by the Federation of Genealogical Societies in 2003 and 2004 and has also earned the Distinguished Service Award of the Hamilton County Genealogical Society in the year 2000. We are proud of Mary and her accomplishments and for all the hard work she and others have done to provide information to help locate our ancestors.

Jim Dempsey has also been awarded the Chapter's Distinguished Service Award at the June 15, 2008 Chapter Board meeting. He was the 7th Chapter member to receive this award. Jim has worked for many years volunteering his talents as our Chapter Microfilm Chair and attending Board meetings. He has microfilmed church records, newspapers, Chapter books, cemetery records, etc. for Hamilton County and other areas. In the last two years Jim has worked with a website developer to redesign our chapter website. In the process he has been learning more about the website and formulating ideas with his committee (which includes Deb Cyprych) of how to add additional information. With the

permission of Chapter member Jeff Herbert, author of many of our Chapter publications on newspaper and marriage indexes, Jim has reformatted the data and included this information on the website. To date he has added over 219,000 newspaper deaths, over 264,000 marriages and over 45,000 names of the index to our publication, *The Tracer*.

In Chapter surveys our members have been informing us that they would like to see more information on the website, particularly our our-of-town members. Jim has now provided members with over one half million names to date. He is working on more databases to add. Jim is currently microfilming the Baltimore Pike Cemetery records. Congratulations to our two award winners.

We continue celebrating the Chapter's 35th anniversary with our series of programs with nationally-known speakers. We thank Jean Morrison for her work for scheduling all of the details for this year's programs. To date our special programs have been drawing large crowds. Please see the calendar for upcoming program dates and details. Programs are all being held at the downtown library on Saturdays. The area is safe and parking is only \$1.00 at the City of Cincinnati parking garage located nearby on 9th street between Vine and Race Streets. It is a great opportunity to not only hear great genealogy programs but to stay before and/or afterward to do some research and network with other genealogists. At our last program in May, the Chapter offered assistance to those working on their First Families of Hamilton County or Settlers and Builders of Hamilton County application forms. Please ask any questions to any Chapter Officer or Board member at future programs for help on your application.

Remember, the deadline for applications for our lineage societies is August 31, 2008. If you are close to completing the form with your documentation and need some more time, phone me or any Board member who can direct you to the appropriate committee chair who can work with you and provide you an extension of time if possible. **Everyone is invited!** You do **not** have to be an applicant or member of either group. It is a delightful location, a great meal, an interesting speaker, and some wonderful camaraderie. I

FIRST FAMILIES MEET SETTLERS AND BUILDERS FOR LUNCH

SAVE THE DATE: October 11, 2008! The joint luncheon for the First Families of Hamilton County and the Settlers and Builders of Hamilton County will be held Saturday, October 11, 2008 at the Vernon Manor Hotel. This will include the induction of new members of both lineage societies. We also celebrate the 20th anniversary of the First Families of Hamilton County.

Please join in honoring our ancestors who helped in the development of Hamilton County. You do not have to qualify as a member of either lineage society to come to the luncheon. Hope to see you there. See the insert in this *Gazette* for further information regarding the luncheon.

Library News from The Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County

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

“Nine Libraries to Visit Before You Die”

If you live in Greater Cincinnati, you do not have to travel far to visit one of the nine libraries featured in the July issue of *Family Tree Magazine (FTM)*. The Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County shared the honor of *FTM*'s prestigious Libby Award with holders of some of the nation's most acclaimed collections, including the Library of Congress, the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, the New England Historic Genealogical Society Research Library, and the Allen County Public Library. *Family Tree Magazine* highlighted our library in several other sections, “Map Happy,” and “Six Libraries with Complete Census Collections” and “Carrying a Course Load,” thanks in large part to the Hamilton County Genealogical Society for its financial support of our census collection and partnerships on many programs. The Library was one of three libraries selected for a video tour, coming soon on www.youtube.com/familytreemagazine.

Virtual Library Update

Hits on the Virtual Library exceeded our wildest expectations with 266,179 downloads (not hits, but rather, times the material was downloaded and viewed). A significant number were using our online Cincinnati city directories, which currently span the years 1821 through 1894. Besides the obvious advantages of searching from home and enhanced name and location searching options, the online directories improve access to illustrations and portraits. The 1888-1889 directory, for example, includes nearly 100 engravings of Cincinnati buildings and scenes and over 130 portraits. Previously, going to city directories for historic images was a tedious task with limited chance of success. Now, that process is streamlined. We are working with the Library's Catalog Department to include listings of illustrations in the online catalog, which will make it possible to conduct a single search for images across all Cincinnati city directories. (Access the Library's Virtual Library by clicking on the “paint spot” on the right side of our homepage, www.cincinnati.org.)

Hamilton County Genealogical Society Records Index Database

Genealogists with Hamilton County ancestors can start their search through nearly 500,000 marriage and death records with the Chapter's new database, <http://www.hcgsohio.org/vitalrec.shtml>. A growing number of genealogists, both local and out-of-town, are using the database as a springboard before coming (or emailing) the Library for complete citations. Many of the records cited in the index are also available at the Library. Thanks to the Chapter for creating this outstanding research tool!

Collection Development

Following the Ohio Genealogical Society Conference each year, the Library embarks on a heavy ordering campaign of Ohio genealogical materials, supported by the Abell Fund, established and sponsored by the Chapter. This year we spent \$2,500 on Ohio materials, including 1916 Highland County and 1901 Morrow County atlases. Watch for Ohio acquisitions in the next issue of *The Tracer* or view listings of new genealogy arrivals by visiting <http://www.cincinnati.org/feeds/> or clicking on “RSS feeds” at the bottom of the Library's homepage.

Programs

Diane Gagel's program, “Sweet Land of Liberty: Using Land Records,” sponsored by the Hamilton County Genealogical Society in celebration of its 35th anniversary, was a huge success with over 75



people in attendance. Don't miss the next programs in the Anniversary Educational Series in September. These will feature German genealogy. October is Family History Month and we are planning an action packed weekend, October 17 and 18, possibly including a lock-in with pre-preservation required and a new Family History Fair. At press time, we are awaiting the final word from the Administration for the lock-in. Please watch for more details or contact the Genealogy and Local History Department at 513-369-6905 or history@cincinnati.org.

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Complete calendar available at: <http://hcgsohio.org/calendar2008.shtml>

First Saturday, every month, 10 am	INTRODUCTION TO GENEALOGY and tour of Genealogy & Local History Dept.	Librarians	Genealogy & Local History Dept. Main Library, 800 Vine Street
August 1 - 3	Federation of East European Family History Societies Conference	56 sessions	Pittsburg, PA; 1-412-848-1394, http://feefhs.org
August 15 - 16	Midwestern Roots Conference	35 sessions	Indianapolis, IN; 1-800-447-1830; www.indianahistory.org
August 31, Sunday	First Families and Settlers and Builders of Hamilton County	Application deadline	Download applications from www.hcgsohio.org
September 27, Saturday, 10 am	HCGS 35th Anniversary Series: "GERMAN TRANSLATION WORKSHOP" - hands on workshop. Watch <i>The Tracer</i> for details & materials you can bring.	Sarah Litzer, The Translation Office, Ft. Wayne, Indiana	Registration required - Huenefeld Room, Main Library 800 Vine Street, Cincinnati call (369-6905)
September 27, Saturday, 11:45am	HCGS 35th Anniversary Series: "WHAT'S IN A GERMAN PLACE NAME?"	Don Litzer, Ref. Librarian, Allen Co., IN Library	Huenefeld Room, Main Library 800 Vine Street, Cincinnati call (369-6905) for reservation.
November 1, Saturday, 10 am	MADD, The Great Scavenger Hunt (See article in <i>Gazette and Tracer</i>)	Chapter Volunteers	Registration required, Main Library (369-6905)
November 8, Saturday, Veteran's Day program, 10 am	HCGS 35th Anniversary Series: "ROLL CALL: NEW SITES AND SOURCES FOR MILITARY RECORDS & RESEARCH"	Curt Witcher, Director, Genealogy Center, Allen Co. Indiana library	Main Library 800 Vine Street, Cincinnati call (369-6905) - Co-sponsored by HCGS & PLCH

Gazette Deadline: September 27, 2008

Tracer Deadline: September 30, 2008