



EASTSIDE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~wakcegs/index.htm>

BULLETIN BOARD

Vol. XVII, No. 5

October 1998

OCTOBER IS FAMILY HISTORY MONTH!!!

See the Proclamation made by Gov. Locke on page 2

EGS GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, October 8, 1998
at the Bellevue Regional Library
(7:00 p.m. Supply Table open)

Topic: "Doing an Oral Family History"
Speaker: Barbra Edwards

ABOUT THE PROGRAM: Barbra Edwards is a native Washingtonian, born in Chehalis. Her grandmother was one of the charter members of the Seattle Genealogical Society, and as a child Barbra listened to her grandmother's stories but vowed she would never do genealogy. But of course, she became quite a genealogist herself. For 25 years Barbra has been working on family histories, volunteering her time at the LDS Family History Center in Bellevue, as well as the National Archives on Sandpoint Way. She has taught classes and done private consultations. Special areas of expertise are United State census research, county level research in many US states, using the LDS library system, Civil War records in the National Archives, and writing personal histories. By profession, Ms. Edwards is a medical social worker.

Barbra Edwards will be speaking on doing oral family histories. For those of us lucky enough to have connections with various family members, an oral history is a must. What an opportunity to be able to talk to someone and capture the history and the flavor of their life, to be able to write down more than just dates and places. In order to get the most out of such an occasion, there are ways to enhance the experience: questions to ask we might not have considered, ways to ask questions, and ways to record responses in a meaningful form. This will be a very good evening for all of us who are working to record our family's history for all those future readers.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Name	Phone	Researching
McCarley, Harris & Walta	425-746-7557	McCarely, MacMillan, Kershaw, Harris, Nightingale, Mann
Miller, Jamie & Justin	425-744-2725	Miller, Long, Plush, Hudson, Crouse, Linn, Gable, Bacon, Brown, Mathias, Jordan, Lewis, Rooks, Louis, Reel, Reef, Slipher, Bryan
Nelson, Joyce & Pickering, Rebecca	425-392-6044	
Quirk, Jane	425-392-7084	Chichester, Fowler, Ingersoll, Cascom, Ellis, Applegard, Hazelwood, Keller, Andrus
Reardon, Francis J.		Riordan, Riorden, Reardon, Whalen, Naughton

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

October 1, Thursday	10 am at Firehouse #9
November 5, Thursday	7 pm at Firehouse #9

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, September 23, 1998, marks the 192nd anniversary of the return of Lewis and Clark from their journey of exploration to the Pacific Coast; and

WHEREAS, the Atlantic and Pacific coasts were joined by many historic trails of migration which opened up the American West to settlers; and

WHEREAS, family history in the state of Washington reflects a rich genealogical heritage and ethnic diversity; and

WHEREAS, the Federation of Genealogical Societies is an organization of more than 400 genealogical societies representing over 100,000 genealogists around the world;

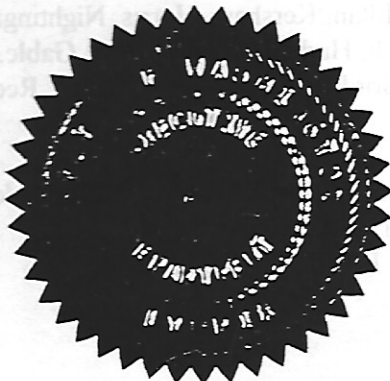
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Gary Locke, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim October, 1998, as

Family History Month

in the state of Washington, and I urge all citizens to join me in this observance.

Signed this 13th day of July, 1998,


Governor Gary Locke



OCTOBER IS FAMILY HISTORY MONTH: In celebration of Family History Month, EGS asked Governor Locke to proclaim October as "Family History Month." On the preceding page you can see a copy of this proclamation. Be sure to celebrate in some way this month - work on your research, do an oral history (attend this month's EGS meeting to find out how), write a letter to a relative, or chat with your own family!

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT - PETER ROBERTSON

In our last newsletter, we reported an EGS Board action from the 6 August Board meeting in which the Board recommended to the general membership that effective 1 January 1999 Special Interest Group members would be required to be members of EGS as well. Well! That idea certainly generated a lot of discussion! People were paying attention.

Based on the initial reaction, I invited representatives of the several Special Interest Groups to come to the 3 September Board meeting to discuss this idea with the Board. And, several representatives came. Everyone discussed this proposal, using a total of about half the meeting. But, the time was well spent since we could review the relationship between the several Special Interest Groups and EGS as a whole. As it happened, examination of the EGS Bylaws revealed that they contained no provision for Special Interest Groups. This consideration along with others caused group to reach a consensus of not pursuing the recommended action at this time.

However, the group seemed to think that it would be a good idea to see how EGS and the several Special Interest Groups could work better together on a cooperative basis and improve the unofficial relationship. Certainly, the existence of the Special Interest Groups enhances the genealogical resources available to members of EGS, and it is clearly in EGS' best interest to encourage the continuation of these groups. At the same time, EGS programs and educational activities strengthen the Eastside genealogical community and enhance the genealogical environment in which the Special Interest Groups operate. Everyone is benefiting, and so, the real question is how can EGS help to make everyone benefit more?

The Board and I regret if our initial proposal caused anyone's feelings to be hurt and hope that we can all move forward and build on what we have learned.

I announced these developments at the 10 September general meeting in explanation of why the original resolution from the August board meeting was not being acted upon. However, this situation has served as a "wake up" call with respect to reviewing the EGS - Special Interest Groups relationship.

Peter Robertson

GET WELL SOON: We hope the following people are feeling better: Bob Mullen's wife, Lucy, and Jackie Bushnell and her husband. Get well soon!

WELCOME BACK: EGS would like to welcome back Connie Balazic, EGS past president and member, who was back for the first time at the September EGS meeting after being in Slovenia for two years. We were glad to see her!

EGS ACTIVITIES OUT IN THE EASTSIDE COMMUNITY: One of the better things EGS can do for itself and the Eastside genealogical community is to make people aware of EGS. In some cases, EGS can increase awareness while supporting other organizations that help people doing genealogy. The following are activities that EGS is involved in:

- On Saturday, 24 October 1998, from 10:30 am to 3:30 pm, Issaquah is having a "Just for Fun Fair" in the Issaquah Community Center, 301 Rainier Blvd. South. EGS will have a booth at the Fair, providing people attending with an opportunity to discuss ways in which they can learn more about their ancestors. Peter Robertson (206-236-2473) is coordinating EGS' participation in this event.
- On Saturday, 14 November 1998, from 2 pm to 8 pm, the Kirkland Family History Center on the corner of Juanita Drive and NE 132nd is having an open house. Curtis Roselle (425-885-5945) is the EGS representative for this event.
- Also on Saturday, 14 November 1998, from 9 am to 4 pm, the LDS Church in Woodinville, located at 16500 124th Ave. NE is having a free genealogy conference. Classes to be offered include: Beginning Genealogy, Genealogy on the Internet, Scotch-Irish-English research, Photo Preservation, Genealogy Computer programs, Getting Organized, Maps, Canadian Research, Writing your own personal history, as well as others. EGS will help provide teachers for this event and the Special Interest Groups will have booths. Kim Nichols (425-402-9050) is coordinating EGS' participation.

If any EGS member would be interested in working in one of these activities, or would like more information, please contact the appropriate EGS representative.

HELP IN IDENTIFYING GERMAN TOWNS/CITIES: To identify a town or city in Germany, go to: <http://www.orte.de/> Click on the "Orteverzeichnis", go to the first letter of the town/city and click on the town or city you are looking for. (From the BADEN-WURTTENBERG-L RootsWeb mailing list, 15 Sept. 1998).

EGS MEETINGS COMING UP

♦ 12 November 1998

Janice Pankratz on "Prizes And Surprises in Court Houses"

EGS GENERAL MEETING PROGRAM SUMMARY - AUGUST 1998

Chris Webber, a noted student and teacher of heraldry, gave a thorough and witty talk on the subject for our August program. He made several points that might be worth recording here for those who unfortunately missed the meeting. First, one does not have to be royal to have peerage. Americans, however, are prevented from any peerage but can be knighted with the permission of Congress. Heraldry is concerned with the determining and ruling on the questioning of rank and the insignia that accompanies such. There is no such thing as a family coat of arms since a coat of arms is individual. A father and son would not have the same coat of arms, although they would have some of the same symbols. Women under certain conditions might be allowed to bear a coat of arms and they are always shown on a logenze, a four-sided figure in a diamond shape. A coat of arms for a person can be requested from one of the seven countries that has a governing body for issuing one. The countries include Great Britain, Canada, South Africa, and Spain. It can be quite costly to achieve a legitimate one, \$2500-\$5000, depending on the number of items used in the display and validation. Heraldry can give a complete genealogy of a family if one knows the legitimacy of the coats of arms shown and uses resources carefully to read the symbols. (Marty Gale, program chair).

EGS GENERAL MEETING PROGRAM SUMMARY - SEPTEMBER 1998

Blane Coffey, General Manager of Green Funeral Homes, gave an outstanding presentation at our September meeting on the subject of funeral home records. Mr. Coffey started the meeting with a poignant story about the Civil War origins of Taps and retired Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Redd played the haunting melody for our group. Mr. Coffey then went on with a description of the various regulations that make obtaining information from funeral homes extremely difficult. Because of state laws and the threat of litigation, funeral homes are not allowed to just give out information about the deceased and their families. Laws vary from state to state so Mr. Coffey concentrated on those of Washington state. A death certificate is filed by the funeral director with a doctor's signature and if the cause of death is in question, a medical examiner will be brought in. The death certificate is filed with the county in which the person died. The funeral home keeps a "Record of Funeral Service and Personnel." This document, in quadruplicate, gives all the information listed on a death certificate plus the names of family members, obituary information, funeral service information, pall bearers, etc. This form is a requirement of all funeral homes that are part of the National Funeral Directors Association. One copy goes to the family and the other three become permanent records at the funeral home. Funeral home records are kept as long as the home is in business. The state funeral home association can give information about the disposition of records for funeral homes that are no longer in existence. (Marty Gale, program chair).

FGS CONFERENCE 1998:

From the 19th through the 22nd of August, approximately 1400 genealogists descended on the Convention Center in Cincinnati, Ohio to attend the 1998 Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) Conference. In this assemblage of ancestral seekers were your EGS delegates, Peter and Lois Robertson, plus your newsletter editor, Kim Nichols and Kim's mother, Nina Edwards.

Following the usual schedule of events, Wednesday the 19th was devoted to presentations and meetings related to managing a local society like EGS. This year, there was also an opportunity for society Presidents and like officials to meet with their counterparts in other societies. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday the topics were appropriate for the varied group of genealogists attending the conference. There were "how to" lectures, ethnic-oriented talks, and "hands on" workshops. Additionally, there were a variety of luncheons, dinners, and the FGS banquet providing the attendees an opportunity to become acquainted with one another.

In fact, one of the benefits of regularly attending these conferences, FGS or NGS (National Genealogical Society) is building up a circle of acquaintances who in time become friends. After all, genealogy is a friendly hobby since everyone involved has to be focused on other people.

Next year's conference will be in St. Louis, Missouri from the 11th through the 14th of August, 1999. Hope more EGS people come next year and enjoy the fun! Peter and Lois Robertson

NEW GENEALOGY BOOKS AT THE BELLEVUE REGIONAL LIBRARY: The following book, purchased by the Eastside Genealogical Society as a result of members' recommendations, or donated by EGS members, was added to the genealogy collection at the Bellevue Regional Library since the last listing in the September *Bulletin Board*:

- *Beginner's Guide to Using Tax Lists* by Cornelius Carroll, 1996, reprinted 1997. Tax lists are one of the most valuable, but also one of the most neglected sources of genealogical and historical information. They can not only be used to trace the migration routes of ancestors, but they can often be used to prove parentage, birth dates, and death dates, plus many other uses that genealogists do not even suspect. This book has been compiled to help researchers and historians learn to use tax records to unlock valuable information.

Do you have a genealogy-related reference book or CD to donated to the growing collection at the Bellevue Regional Library, or have a suggestion for one? If so, let the Book Acquisition Committee know by calling the Acquisition Chair Margery Perdue Thorson at 425-643-3502. (Carl Cason, Library chair).

CIVIL WAR DRAFT RECORDS: The first national draft in the USA was signed into law by President Lincoln in 1863, to help supply men for the Union Army. All eligible males between the ages of 20 and 45, white citizens and aliens who had declared their intent to naturalize, were eligible for the draft. Males 20 to 35 were to be drafted first; males 17 to 20 could serve with a parent's permission.

These draft records include men born between 1818 and 1843 who served in the Union Army during the Civil War and those who did not. This draft applied only to men residing in those states under Union control. The records are in the National Archives I in Washington, DC, and National Archives II in College Park, Maryland. Some are available by mail, and some by research on-site only.

By mail, you can access the Consolidated Lists, which contain information about the full name, residence, age, occupation, marital status, birthplace, and prior military service on the individual draftee.

The Consolidated Lists are contained in Record Group 110 at National Archives & Records Administration Archives I, 7th and Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20408. A mail request should include as much identifying information as possible, such as name, county of residence, age, marital status, and Congressional District in which the man resided at the time of registration. The Archives will provide a transcription of the record for free, or a microfilmed copy for a minimum fee of \$10.

Those records NOT available by mail are also in Record Group 110: Medical Records of Examinations, Descriptive Rolls, Statement of Substitutes. These records are at National Archives I and, as above, the Congressional District of the man must be supplied.

One other category is Case Files on Drafted Aliens concerning only aliens who were drafted and released between 1861-1864. These records are part of Record Group 59; Congressional District in not necessary. The records in this one category are at National Archives II, and are not available by mail.

If anyone is interested in pursuing this lead and needs to know what Congressional District the male ancestor was in, call Gloria Brown at 425-746-1875, who has a book with the index to the 38th Congressional Districts on 1863. You will need to know what county and state are involved to learn the Congressional District. (submitted by Gloria Brown; from *The Irish at Home and Abroad*, Vol. 4, No. 4, 1997).

FISKE GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY CLASSES: Everyone is invited to participate in the Wednesday Seminar Series at the Fiske Genealogical Library at 1644 43rd Ave. East, Seattle, in the Madison Park neighborhood. The classes meet from 10 am to 12 noon. The ten session quarter has a tuition fee of \$35, although individual sessions may be attended for \$5. Unless otherwise indicated, all sessions are led by Gary A. Zimmerman. Call the Fiske Library at 206-328-2716 for details/registration. Classes are: Sept. 16 - Genealogical resources in Alabama and Mississippi; Sept. 23 - Canadian genealogical resources on the Internet; Sept. 30 - Use of immigration and naturalization resources; Oct. 7 - Legal documents as a source of family information with Robert H. Stevenson, attorney; Oct. 14 - Doing genealogy in Indiana and Illinois, part 1; Oct. 21 - Doing genealogy in Indiana and Illinois, part 2; Oct. 28 - Panel discussion of research strategies for current problems proposed by seminar participants; Nov. 4 - field trip to Washington State Regional Archives in Bellevue; Nov. 11- Introduction to Irish and English research by Patricia Flores; Nov. 18 - Researching maiden names by Mary Peters. The Fiske Library will also be offering its New England Institute during the Fall quarter. On the first Saturday on each month, persons may meet with Peggy Kleyn at the library from 10 am to noon. These Institute discussions will be held on Oct. 3rd, Nov. 7th, and Dec. 5th. Topics to be discussed will be set in consultation with participants at the beginning of the quarter.

ITALIAN INTEREST GROUP TOURS PUGET SOUND REGIONAL ARCHIVES: The IIG toured the Puget Sound Regional Archives located in the ground floor of the Northwest Technology Center at Bellevue Community College on Sept. 12. The tour was led by Michael Saunders, Archivist. What a wonderful repository of documents for King, Kitsap, and Pierce Counties. The documents are housed in a temperature and humidity controlled room in order to preserve them. The Archives are open Monday through Friday, and it is best to call for an appointment as they will have time to help you search and pull the needed records for your perusal. (Mary Sangalang, IIG leader).

NEWBERRY LIBRARY CURATOR DIES: David Thackeray, Curator of Local and Family History at the Newberry Library, died July 17 after suffering a heart attack while jogging in Chicago, at age 45. Anyone who has used the genealogy materials at the Newberry will have met Mr. Thackeray, who was helpful no matter what the question, and who showed interest and encouragement to the researcher. He himself was an enthusiastic researcher, a speaker for seminars, a columnist for *Ancestry* magazine, and an author of a book about the 66th Ohio Volunteer Infantry in the Civil War (to be published in 1999).

NEW IRISH EMIGRATION LIBRARY: An Irish Emigration Library, expected to be one of the most comprehensive sources for genealogical information in the USA, will be ready to open late this autumn at the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center, Milwaukee. The library will include books, ordinance maps, a private collection of Irish research materials, the Emigrant Bank records, copies of old Irish-American newspapers, church records, and public manuscripts of various kinds. The library will be open to the public; phone 414-345-8800. (From *The Irish American Post Magazine*, Aug/Sept 1998).

CHICAGO TOURS: If you have open time when visiting Chicago, give a call to Chicago Neighborhood Tours at 312-742-1190 to learn if any ethnic neighborhood tours are scheduled. There was a "Threads of Ireland" tour on Sept. 12. Still to come this year are "The Great Chicago Fire" tour on Oct. 4, "Italian Heritage" tour on Oct. 10, "Puerto Rican Culture" tour on Nov. 28, and "Hanukkah in Chicago" on Dec. 20th. If you are with a group, you can customize your own tour based on the group's special interest, timeframe and budget. E-mail to: citytours@mcs.net (From *Chicago Magazine*, July 1998).

KIN AND KITH: Kin are your blood relatives, the co-descendants of a common ancestor. They are also called "kindred" and "kinsmen." Kinship can be either patrilineal (on the fathers side) and or matrilineal (mothers side). Collaterals are kin who have common ancestors not in your direct line of descent (e.g. siblings, aunts, uncles, cousins, nephews, and nieces). Kith are persons with whom you have a close relationship, not necessarily by blood. They may be friends and acquaintances of your ethnic background, culture, or language. (From *Heritage Quest Magazine*, Sept./Oct. 1998).

CANADIAN NEWSPAPERS: The National Library of Canada is the official custodian of Canadian newspapers and most are available through inter-library loan by writing to 395 Wellington St., Ottawa Canada K1A 0N4. If you would like a copy of the microfilm inter-library loan catalog, #IBM-9293713, of the Ontario Canada Archives, write to Archives of Ontario, Interloan Service, 77 Greenville St., Toronto, Canada M7A 2R9. (From *News From The Northwest*, Mount Prospect, IL, March-April 1998).

FILBY'S PASSENGER AND IMMIGRATION BOOKS: If you find an entry in Filby's Passenger and Immigration books, the Detroit Public Library has all the books referenced and will make copies at \$.20 per page and \$2.00 for postage and handling. You need to give the source number for each entry you wish copied. Write to: Burton Historical Collection, Detroit Public Library, 5201 Woodward Ave., Detroit MI 48202. (From *Yakima Valley GS Bulletin*, Mar 98 via *So King News*, May/June 1998).

QUICK ANSWERS: If you have a quick question that needs a quick answer, you may be able to get help by calling the Family History Library at Salt Lake City. Their switchboard number is 1-800-453-3860. You get a recording, but afterwards an operator comes on the line. You say that you need a question answered by someone at the library and are connected. If your question is involved, don't expect a long, involved answer. However, they may know where you can turn for help. (From *The Genie's View*, Jul/Aug 97, LaSalle Co, IL via *So King News*, May/June 1998).

GERMANY AND INTERNATIONAL REPLY COUPONS: The German Post Office has changed their way of handling international reply coupons (IRC's). Regulations now state that only one IRC can be accepted for any letter or package. Postal charges over the value of the IRC must be paid in cash by the mailer. One \$1.05 IRC provides 3DM of postage for foreign mail to your correspondent. This amount only covers about one sheet of paper and the envelope. Thus, postage for anything more must be paid by them. This will lead to a larger expense for them to send us copies of documents. IRC's can no longer be turned in by Germans for cash. They can only use them for mailing a letter, etc. (From *St. Louis GS Newsletter* vi *So King News*, May/June 1998).

NOW WHAT DO I DO WITH ALL OF THIS STUFF?

By Edward Henry Gaulin

(Edwards H. Gaulin wrote this article for the Rochester New York Genealogical Society newsletter, *Hear Ye! Hear Ye!* in which it will appear in the December 1998 issue. The author is the immediate past president of the Rochester Genealogical Society. The article appeared in *Missing Links*, a weekly Internet newsletter for genealogists, Vol. 3, No.36, 4 September 1998.)

A message on the Internet caught my eye the other day and I can't get it out of my mind. A West Coast genealogist had been exchanging information with a researcher in Virginia for some time. Then it happened. Her last message bounced - it couldn't be delivered as the address no longer existed. Fortunately she had received a number of family group sheets from her correspondent which listed a telephone number. When she called the number, a man answered, so she asked for her Internet friend and, after a slight hesitation was told, "Oh, Mary Ann passed away three weeks ago." Shocked, but ever gracious, she expressed her sympathy and commented how close this long-distance relationship had become and how it will be missed by her. The husband explained that he was sorry that he couldn't be of any help because he really didn't know much about what his wife was doing with her genealogy.

Perhaps you too have noticed at genealogical gatherings that the average age of the participants is something in excess of 39 years, at least judging by hair color. Most of us really don't have a lot of time to devote to our hobby until after the kids are grown, out of school, and we've retired. Then it is no longer a hobby, it becomes an obsession. At some point in our continuous search for dead people, our ancestors, we recognize our own mortality and start to think about a permanent home for our research. If our children or grandchildren appear to be interested, we have it made, but frequently that's not the case. Then what happens to our "stuff?"

Genealogists are usually pretty smart people, until it comes to providing for the distribution of their genealogical assets. The latter, in my case anyway, is a room full of books, journals, magazines, pamphlets, maps, photographs, brochures, newsletters, computer equipment and furniture (desks, chairs, file cabinets, tables, lamps, etc.). The files are loaded with folders bearing family and town names, historic events, and a bunch labeled "MISC." There are miles of computer printouts, hundreds of photocopies, and many "original" vital records. My desk is usually loaded with correspondence awaiting an answer - either mine or from someone else. What should my wife do with all this stuff when I make the ultimate research trip - a personal meeting with my ancestors?

Some of our brighter colleagues say "My college library is getting all my stuff" or it's going to the local public library or to the LDS Family History Library in Salt Lake City or even to the Library of Congress. Well, I hate to be the one to tell you this, but unless you are a celebrity or a huge financial donor, these institutions won't want your material - they just don't have room for it. They would be grateful for a copy of your book, but they might not want the manuscript or research notes. The FHL would appreciate a GEDCOM disk of your genealogy database files, but it doesn't want your paper pedigree charts or family group sheets.

So what are your spouse and children to do with all of your stuff? They could really do a couple of dumb things with it if you don't provide guidance to them while you still can. It could be placed in the weekly trash collection and don't say "They wouldn't do that" because it unfortunately happens all the time. How about a garage sale? Now that is really scary, but it also happens every day. Remember all those old photos and tintypes you have seen in flea markets? How about all those bargain genealogy books you bought because you got to that garage sale before the dealers did? They all had to come from someplace.

What should you do to insure the sane distribution of your genealogical assets? Perhaps the first thing is to make a record of what you have and then try to keep it current. Show the acquisition date and how much you paid for each item on the inventory sheets. This is especially helpful for artifacts, collections, and books. A photographic record of these items, including those of rare books, could also be useful. Microfilm, microfiche, and complete photocopies of books and some records have value. Back issues of many journals, newsletters, and magazines are also in demand by genealogists and therefore have value. However, if you don't tell them what is valuable, your heirs probably won't know.

Now that you have identified your assets, you need to tell someone what you want done with them. Maybe the simplest way is to prepare a letter to your heirs, but remember this lacks the force of the law. If they want to, they can toss everything in the trash. A better way to provide for the distribution is in your will, particularly if you also designate sufficient funds to carry out your wishes. Your Last Will and Testament is also where you may make specific bequests: your copy of the 1898 edition of Burke's Peerage to your FGS Conference roommate or your old (continued on next page)

roll-top desk to you newest granddaughter. Your wishes can not be enforced by the courts, if necessary.

If you still want to have any of your assets given to your alma mater or a local library or anywhere else, personally contact that agency and discuss the possibility - right now. It won't come as a surprise to them and they should be able to advise you immediately of any conditions of acceptance. If you can support those conditions, ask for a written acknowledgment that can be placed with your will.

Some other things that you can do right now are to distribute copies of your research among your family, friends, and perhaps, local or national libraries. This is simple if you have progressed to the book-writing stage, but don't be too concerned if you haven't. Many genealogists assemble their pedigree charts, group sheets, pertinent vital records, selected family photographs, and other important documents in notebook form. They write a brief introduction, provide a table of contents, and sometimes an index before having copies made for distribution. Afterwards, the notebook can be kept current with a new year's letter which might include new charts and photos.

Computerized genealogical data can be distributed in the same way on diskette. Sometimes an envelope or jacket is provided in the notebook described above to house data disks. Another way some researchers try to insure the safeguarding of their electronic data is to submit it to the LDS Ancestral File (tm) or one or more of the other commercial collections. If you don't know how to do this, consult you local genealogical society or Family History Center or even the public library for instructions.

Another thing you can do right now to benefit your heirs is to clean up your files. Eliminate unnecessary correspondence and duplicate copies of records. Toss out all those old printouts you made in 1984 on your Apple IIe computer. Sell all the *Genealogical Helper* magazines you have saved since 1973, because you will never open one of them again and you know it. If you get 50 cents for each of them you can have a pretty good dinner. Give away all that old computer software that is taking up room on your bookshelves - it's probably not worth anything anyway. Label your photographs and diskettes, too.

I find it a bit morbid, but you may wish to write your epitaph and select your tombstone now to insure future researchers will not encounter some of the same problems that you've had.

If you decide to follow some of these suggestions, when you do eventually meet your ancestors they may thank you for perpetuating their memory. They may also show you where you made some of your mistakes and be able to fill in a few of the blank spaces in your previous research.

Remember, do it now; there may be no tomorrow.

GENEALOGY - A FAMILY AFFAIR: The definition of genealogy is the study of family history, not the study of one person or even a small group of people. But most of the time, only one member of the family pursues the hobby. But it doesn't have to be this way - the entire family can be involved in family history research.

One suggestion for involving the family, particularly the younger generation in the hobby of genealogy, is for you, the family historian, to pass the torch onto the next generation. You can do this by making these younger people (your children, grandchildren, nieces, or nephews) aware of what you are doing. Explain your project to them, as well as interview them and include some of their stories as part of your family history project. Remember the younger generation have stories to tell, too and that their stories will be of interest to future generations.

Another way of involving family members is to make them aware of family traditions, including the origins of these traditions, if known. These traditions usually center on a special occasion and are memorable to young people. Take advantage of their interest and involve them. Traditions are a bridge to the past and if younger family members learn they are doing something their parents and grandparents did, they immediately share something in common with these earlier generations, and they feel connected. The value of these traditions becomes clear when the traditions are passed on to the next generation. If your family does not have any traditions, sit down together and invent some that everyone can feel a part of.

One idea to get the family involved is by you taking advantage of the computer skills of the younger generation. Have a young person help you surf the Internet and gather information. It is possible that even if you are computer -literate, they may bring a new slant to your research and might even find information that you are unaware of.

Other ideas are to have the younger members of your family help you to create a time capsule, a family coat of arms, a recreation of historic clothing, a medical pedigree, a family history mobile with photographs, or something totally creative of their own design. By involving the family, you will help your own family past come alive in ways not thought possible! (From *Ancestry*, September/October 1998).