



THE DUTCHESS NEWSLETTER

Dutchess County Genealogical Society

P. O. Box 708, Poughkeepsie, New York 12602-0708

<http://www.dcgs-gen.org>

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• President's Notes

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This has been an interesting end of summer for genealogists using online resources, with all the alarms and problems of computer viruses and worms attacking e-mail systems. At the same time that we are feeling more vulnerable to anonymous attacks on our computer systems, it is also exciting to see more and more resources appear online. For example, **Adriance Memorial Library**, the public library system serving the greater Poughkeepsie area, now **makes Heritage Quest Online available to its patrons**. I can sign on from my computer at home and access digital images of every census from 1790 to 1930, with indexes for some of them. The Heritage Quest collection also includes digital copies of over 25000 family and local histories. If you live in the area, but do not have a Poughkeepsie library card, you can still access the database by coming to the library and using their computers. For those who live outside of the area, I would suggest that you investigate what on-line databases are available from your own local public library. You might be pleasantly surprised.

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United States Census Verification Project

As the FGS representative for our society, I have volunteered to be a Project Coordinator for a new project, and I am looking for volunteers. The Federation of Genealogical Societies recently initiated the United States Census Verification Project to correctly identify the Enumeration Districts on each roll of microfilm provided by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). The goal is to review every roll of microfilm from the 1900 through the 1930 census. The following information has been extracted and condensed from an article "Census Verification Project" by Ruth Ann (Abels) Hager, in the *FGS*

Forum, Vol.15(2) p. 9-10 (Summer 2003), also at

<http://www.fgs.org/census/cenStLouis.htm>.

Also see the FGS pages on this subject at:

<http://www.fgs.org/census/cenhome.htm>.

The Census Verification Project was originally started by the St. Louis County Library and the St. Louis Genealogical Society, who found that St. Louis 1910 census films – even with a clearly readable soundex or miracode reference – were sometimes difficult to use.

The order in which the EDs were listed on the film box labels was not always the order in which they appeared on the microfilm. The project discovered that the label showing which EDs were on each film was always correct. But changes were needed to show the EDs on the labels in the same order as they appeared on the films. Thirteen of the fifteen 1910 St. Louis rolls needed significant changes to their labels.

Before and After Example for St. Louis, 1910:

Roll 809 includes EDs 122-132, which the old label showed as being at the very end of the film. As indicated by the revised label below, those EDs are actually situated early in the film and are the very first range of St. Louis EDs, rather than the second range.

Previous NARA label information:

T624 – Roll 809
 1910 Missouri Federal Census
 St. Francois County (EDs 83-88) and
 St. Louis County (EDs 97-111, 122-132)

Revised label information:

T624 – Roll 809
 1910 Missouri Federal Census
Vol. 87: St. Francois County (EDs 83-88) and
Vol. 88: St. Louis County (EDs 122-132, 97-111)

[Revised Apr 2000]

Probably the most decisive finding of the St. Louis project was the importance of adding the volume

numbers to the labels. A single roll of film may contain part or all of a census volume; and as many as three complete volumes.

The project volunteers learned that stamped page numbers are relative to the bound volume of census sheets. Like a published book, the first page of each volume is numbered page one. If a researcher knows the indexed roll and page number for a census entry – and the roll contains three volumes – does the page refer to the first volume, the second one, or the third one? One may need to look in *each volume* on the roll!

The St. Louis project's goal was to produce more user-friendly labels. Based on what they learned from the project, that meant adding volume numbers as well as correcting out-of-order numbers and other minor problems. The St. Louis library has found that patrons save time searching for a reference and are less likely to leave empty handed when using the new labels.

THE PROCESS

FGS is acting as a clearing house by tracking which films are being verified, providing downloadable forms for volunteers to use when reading the census for verification, passing the results along to NARA, and providing a place on the FGS Web site where societies can post their results and other societies can download the information to make new labels for their own collections.

The process is simple:

- Two people check each roll, independently of each other, and complete standard forms recording what they find. This involves checking the header information on each page. You are not reading the family data.
- A third person compares the results and resolves any discrepancies.

We have microfilm of all the Dutchess County censuses at the DCGS library, but if someone at a distance wants to volunteer, and can get access to the census microfilm where they live, then you could still participate. As a volunteer, you benefit as the page by page checking expands your own knowledge of the census. For example, the St. Louis volunteers were amazed how often and in what ways census takers failed to follow instructions.

As Project Coordinator, I am planning on verifying census film for Dutchess County, probably starting with the 1910 census. I need at least 2 volunteers to work with me, but the more the merrier. If you are interested in helping, you can contact me by mail (DCGS, Box 708, Poughkeepsie, NY 12602) or by e-mail

<lckoebler@optonline.net>, or talk to me at our September meeting. Thank you!

• MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Roland E. Ormsby, Membership VP <wf-are@juno.com>

Membership listings are a benefit of membership. Updates are published in the written versions of this newsletter which are distributed to all current members.

• WEB THREADS

Jeanette (Jan) Foster <jfos@fosterswebsite.com>

We have several projects in mind for the website this coming year and are looking for folks who could help! If you are able to devote just a couple of hours of time to assist, perhaps these projects can be done sooner rather than later. Please contact me directly if you are willing to input data (cut, paste, type) and/or proofread pages before they are added to the site.

Also, please remember! We are unable to take inquiries of any kind at the website. We encourage you to use the e-mail address provided on the webpage to submit corrections, improvements or suggestions for changes to the website. All other inquiries should be addressed to the society at:

Dutchess County Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 708
Poughkeepsie, NY 12602

• EDITOR'S NOTES

J. Douglas Leith <jdleith@comcast.net>

An 1880 every name census index is now available on-line at the FamilySearch web site. Visit this URL to begin: http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Search/frameset_search.asp?PAGE=census/search_census.asp
It indexes all 50 million of us.

(checked on 5/30/03 by JDL)

FROM: Ancestry Daily News 06 Mar 2003:

"New York Times, 06 Mar 1858, p. 3: 408 emigrants arrived during last week at Castle Garden. Since 01 Jan., 4,340 against 10,211 arrived during the corresponding weeks of last year."

FROM: Passaic County Genealogical Society (excerpt from Myra Vanderpool Gormley's Genealogy Column, 5/29/94, Prodigy Network):

"... If your ancestors arrived at the port of New York City between August 1, 1855 and the end of 1924, here's where they were processed:

1 Aug 1855 - 18 Apr 1890	-- Castle Garden
19 Apr 1890 - 13 Dec 1891	-- Barge Office
1 Jan 1892 - 13 Jun 1897	-- Ellis Island
14 Jun 1897 - 6 Dec 1900	-- Barge Office
17 Dec 1900 - 31 Dec 1924	-- Ellis Island."

Contr. by Marie Koestler

“The One-Step 1930 Census Website: Subtleties in Its Use,” by Stephen P. Morse explains the use of his interesting web site (Winter issue of the *FGS Forum*, vol. 14, no. 4, page 7 ff). The current address for the site is: <http://www.stevemorse.org/census/>

This site lets you find the Enumeration District (ED) for a known street address. It currently covers over 200 cities with 1930 populations over 45,000, including NYC and about a dozen other NY cities. The only other Hudson River city is Troy. I tried it for a Manhattan address, using its MapQuest option to identify the streets forming the block of interest and thus the ED. It worked perfectly: I just had to scroll through one ED (on Ancestry.com - you must be a subscriber to its census series) in order to learn that my target family (Tremper) no longer lived there in 1930. (Great. Now they are really lost!)

Also mentioned in the article are some name indexes in print, and some exact-address indexes for some cities - including in NY only New York City (5 boros). Also, note that **Ancestry.com** now offers a ‘complete’ every-name index to the 1930 census including spouses and children, but if the name is seriously misspelled or has been missed, then the address can be pursued via this ingenious site. See also our **Newsletter for Spring, 2002 (vol. 10, no. 3)** for other good ideas on finding people in 1930.

From the NEHGS web newsletter, seen 3/6/03 by JDL (also from Alaska State Library, 2/28): On February 12, the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) made available their **"Access to Archival Databases (AAD) System"** to the public via their website, http://aad.archives.gov/aad/title_list.jsp

AAD provides researchers access to over 350 misc. databases with over 50 million historical electronic records created by more than 20 federal agencies. Researchers first choose a search from subject,

geographic area, organization, time span, or creator agency if known. A few of the databases available follow with descriptions taken from the AAD website:

Korean War File of American Prisoners of War , ca. 1950 – ca. 1953.

World War II Prisoners of War File , ca. 1942 – ca. 1947.

Index to the Gorgas Hospital Mortuary Death Records (contains "records of 26,213 U.S. military soldiers and officers, employees of the Panama Canal Commission and its predecessors, and Canal Zone civilians processed through the Gorgas Hospital Mortuary between 1906 and 1991").

Famine Irish Data File (identifies "604,596 persons who emigrated from Ireland to the United States during the era of the Irish Potato Famine [1846–1851], and the ships on which they arrived").

Civil War Events File, 4/12/1861 – 5/13/1865, of 384 principal battles (out of 10,500 total!)

Census Images & Indexes (Subscription)

As you probably know, the 1890 census was destroyed by a devastating fire. Ancestry.com offers a growing 1890 Census Substitute for some places, pulling together more than 20 million substitute records for inclusion - from fragments that survived the fire, state censuses, city and county directories, and much more.

Gold in Dutchess County?

(Rhinebeck Gazette, Thu 1 Apr 1880, p. 3, col. 1)

A load of gold quartz from the newly discovered gold mine in Milan passed through this village on Friday last.

(Rhinebeck Gazette, Thu 1 Apr 1880, p. 3, col. 2)

“The following from the Rondout Courier, has a local interest: --There has been great excitement in Rhinebeck during the past week over the discovery of a new gold mine. The discovery of the Freligh mines set everybody on the alert over there, and among others Harry TREMPER, of the Rhinebeck hotel and formerly of this city. Accordingly he roamed over the COOPERNAIL farm, near Rock City and about five miles from Rhinebeck in an easterly direction. In his wanderings he found traces of gold, and showing the specimens a company was formed, and the farm secured. The company is composed of Harry TREMPER, John J. WILLIAMS, James and Lewis LIVINGSTON, and Pierre LORILLARD, of the great tobacco firm of New York. A number of barrels of the ore were sent

down to New York last week, and Mr. Lorillard was so much pleased with the assay that he wrote to the treasurer to draw upon him at once for his stock and the amount necessary to develop the mine. Everybody in Rondout will be glad to hear that Harry Tremper stands a chance of being a millionaire. Hussey Hill sends a thousand greetings.”

(to be continued.... - ed.