

Heritage Library News

Volume IV, Issue 2

March — June 2000

MyFamily.com, Inc. Acquires RootsWeb.com

San Francisco, CA — June 21, 2000 — MyFamily.com, Inc., the leading online family network, announced today that it has entered into an agreement to acquire RootsWeb.com, the oldest and largest free community genealogy site. RootsWeb.com, a San Francisco, California company, is among the most popular genealogy sites on the Internet. With more than 149 million page views in the month of May 2000, RootsWeb.com was second among genealogy Web sites only to Ancestry.com's over 187 million page views, according to Nielsen NetRatings combined home and work statistics. With the acquisition My Family.com, Inc. will add RootsWeb.com to its portfolio of Web sites, which includes MyFamily.com, FamilyHistory.com, as well

"This is a winning combination for both organizations and for the millions of users who make up our audiences," said Greg Ballard, CEO of MyFamily.com.

as Ancestry.com, collectively recognized as the premier Internet destination for families. Financial terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

Following the acquisition, the RootsWeb.com site will continue to be free to all users and will maintain its own unique Web site address, www.RootsWeb.com. The acquisition by MyFamily.com, Inc. will provide the RootsWeb.com site the financial backing to expand its focus on preserving, sharing and exchanging family history research. As part of the MyFamily.com network of sites, the RootsWeb.com site will expand with additional technology tools, increased family

research content and a great range of genealogical resources.

With genealogy as one of the most popular hobbies online, the addition of Rootsweb.com extends MyFamily.com's offerings in genealogy research and further enhances its leading position in genealogy research and family services on the Internet. This new combination creates a central destination for the genealogy community online, offering something for every family historian. This move comes at a time when a recent Pew Internet and American Life Study reported that 54 million people belong to a family in which someone used the Internet to research family history or genealogy.

"This is a winning combination for both organizations and for the millions of users who make up our audiences," said Greg Ballard, CEO of MyFamily.com. "We believe that we are in an excellent position to expand our offering to consumers through a number of acquisitions like this one. There is no question that consumers are using the Internet to connect to their families, and we plan to put in place an aggressive program that will enable us to have the most complete network for families online."

Strategically, the acquisition of RootsWeb.com will provide MyFamily.com with an increase in advertising real estate and an expanded audience reach, and will provide increased transactions and commerce opportunities. In addition, it will increase exposure to Ancestry.com's free and premium subscription offerings. Currently more than 600 million records and 2,500 databases are online at Ancestry.com, with over half of the data freely accessible to all Web users. My Family.com, Inc. generates revenues from diversified streams, including advertising/ sponsorships, subscriptions and commerce along its net work of sites.

(continued on page 6)

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VP-Dir. of the Library—	Randy Holcombe 342-3388
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Director—	Dr. Robert Peebles 785-3967
Director —	Mark Swetland 705-5661
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Proposed Fee Increase For NARA Documents

The most recent proposal for copies of Military Service Records, Bounty Land Warrant Applications, and Pension Records calls for costs of \$17 for Military Service; \$17.25 for Bounty Land Warrant Applications; and \$40.00 for Pension files. Visit the FGS Current Issues Web site for more information:

www.fgs.org/fgs-recordsnews.htm

From the President

by Tom Hanahan

For the past three years the Heritage Library has provided material for both local genealogists and societies. This has been in many forms. It includes opportunities for conferences, research and classes on genealogy. I know the publications and our web site are just part of our help to genealogists. I hope you continue to let us know how we can best serve you. Please submit ideas and suggestions to our staff..

Our staff continues to be been hard at work. Ben Russell and Bob Scherrer are now Librarians. Cathy Speller has nearly completed the Casper Cataloguing System (see page 8 for details on this new tool). We also get valuable help each week from our volunteers, Johnnie Lee Witt, Dori Dixon and Kathleen Carr, Marv Hoppin, Betty Smith, Inas Otten and Bob Gillespie. Bill Altstaetter and Randy Holcombe were instructors at the State Genealogical Summer Workshop in Columbia. Bill educated attendees to his workshop on "Beginning Genealogy" and Randy enlightened his group on Family Treemaker software. My wife, Sandee, taught a two part Beginning Genealogy to 5th and 6th grade classes at St. Francis Catholic School. She also conducted a genealogy workshop for the Knights of Columbus assembly at St. Francis By the Sea Catholic Church here on Hilton Head Island. I extend a personal thank you to all our dedicated volunteers. Again and again we say, "They are the lifeblood of our organization".

We are working hard to get the word out about our genealogical jewel on Hilton Head Island, but we can always use the help of our members either monetarily, as volunteers or in the form of donations.

In an effort to cut expenses, we have contacted the landlord to try to reduce our current space by 1/2. Hopefully, this will help us to continue to provide access to genealogy on Hilton Head Island. Any ideas of suggestions on budgetary issues are also welcome. You can contact me via email at Sandee-Tom@aol.com, or Bill Altstaetter at bill@heritagelib.org.

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Hilton Head Island, SC 29938

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Hours — Monday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday
9 AM - 2 PM
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"MISCONCEPTIONS"

by Michael John Neill

This is a semi-serious look at some misconceptions that genealogists (and non-genealogists) have about family history.

1) WE ALL HAVE A FAMOUS ANCESTOR, SOMEWHERE. I've got the names of over three hundred of my ancestors and have yet to have any of them qualify as "famous." In some cases, you may want to reconsider being related to someone famous. Hard-working, law-abiding relatives are nothing to be ashamed of. Try and document your ancestors accurately, whether they were famous or not.

2) THERE ARE NO "EARLY" BABIES OR SHADY STORIES IN MY FAMILY TREE. Trace your ancestry completely for six generations and then we will talk.

3) THERE WERE THREE BROTHERS WITH THE LAST NAME OF [TAKE YOUR PICK] WHO CAME TO AMERICA. WE DESCEND FROM THE YOUNGEST (OLDEST, MIDDLE, TALLEST, SMARTEST, ETC.) If this is true, then the number of families who had three sons is beyond statistical expectations. Check it out.

4) IMMIGRANTS WERE ALL POOR. There's no doubt that the vast majority of them were and came to America with only the clothes on their backs. Once in a while though, you'll find one who had a little bit of money and came to America hoping to make more.

5) LIFE BEFORE 1900 WAS ONE OF BUCOLIC PASTORAL BLISS, DOTTED BY BARN RAISINGS AND CHURCH SOCIALS. Life before 1900 was hard. No running water, no electricity no law (in some areas), rudimentary medical care (if any), child labor, and few of life's creature comforts. This only scratches the surface. I'm not even so certain life was "simple." If I want a loaf of bread, I go to the store. Great-great-grandma likely did not.

6) EVERYONE LIKES TO HEAR THE TALES OF "NOTORIOUS" ANCESTORS. Not everyone will think the story of great-great-great-grandma's four husbands, two divorces, involvement in a murder, and the running of a tavern should be included in the family history.

7) CENSUS AGES ARE ALWAYS CORRECT. You must be kidding.

8) OFFICIAL RECORDS SHOULD NOT CONTAIN ERRORS. They do. The best way to deal with it is to try and research around it where possible.

9) GENEALOGISTS ARE ALL RETIRED. Not so. There are genealogists out there who have yet to hit forty or retirement. If you see one who has yet to hit puberty, tell them to

interview their grandparents now. Most of all encourage them, gently.

10) GENEALOGY IS NOT AN INTELLECTUAL HOBBY. Ever tried to read through (and understand) sixty pages of court records from the 1840s? I've taken calculus exams that made more sense. Same thing goes for platting property in metes and bounds. Talk about applied mathematics.

11) MY FAMILY HAS A CASTLE IN EUROPE. Some did, but don't believe it until you see it. Don't really believe it until you see the deed, title, etc.

12) MY ANCESTOR SERVED WITH WASHINGTON, LEE, GRANT, ETC. Choose your war . . .take your pick. There are lots of these stories. Check them out before believing them. Document your ancestor's service, accurately.

13) I GOT IT ON THE INTERNET, THEREFORE IT MUST BE TRUE. Nope.

14) I GOT IT ON THE INTERNET, THEREFORE IT MUST BE FALSE. Nope.

15) I CAN DO MY GENEALOGY ENTIRELY VIA THE INTERNET. Nope.

16) I CAN DO MY GENEALOGY WITHOUT THE INTERNET. Possibly, but it really saves time.

17) THE RECORDS IN STATE Y ARE CLOSING BECAUSE IT WAS POSTED TO THE GENEALOGY MAILING LIST FOR THAT STATE. Check out rumors before you spread them. Think before you forward or copy and paste this type of information to other people or lists.

18) I CAN DO ALL MY RESEARCH ONLY USING VITAL RECORDS, OBITUARIES, AND CENSUS RECORDS. Goodness! There's a vast treasure trove of other sources out there that you can utilize.

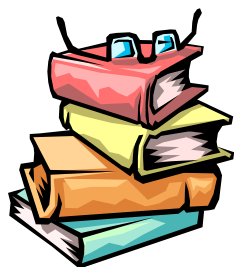
19) MY SURNAME HAS ALWAYS BEEN SPELLED THE SAME WAY, WE NEVER CHANGED IT. Maybe, but then again, maybe not.

20) EVERYONE REPLIES TO E-MAIL IMMEDIATELY. Some genealogists have non-genealogy commitments, such as family and employment. Be patient and wait a few days before posting a follow-up e-mail.

21) I CAN TRACE MY ANCESTRY IN ONE AFTERNOON AT THE COMPUTER. Time for a reality check.

22) I CAN TRACE MY ANCESTORS IN AN AFTERNOON AT THE FAMILY HISTORY CENTER. See 21 above.

(continued on page 6)



Looking for Some Summer Reading...

Did you know by logging onto www.heritagelib.org and ordering books, tapes and CD's online through the library's link to amazon.com, the Heritage Library Foundation receives a small percentage of your order total. Every little bit helps. If you haven't already added the library site to your favorites or bookmarked us, simply type our URL — www.heritagelib.org into the address line of your browser and click GO. Once at the Library site, click the LINKS button and scroll down to Amazon.com.

If you are looking to add to your reading list, and help the library, some newly published general reference genealogical books available this summer include the following. *And, once you're finished with your summer reading you can donate these valuable tools to the Heritage Library.*

The Writer's Guide to Everyday Life in Colonial America from 1607-1783, by Dale Taylor*—\$11.99 through Amazon.com

This book provides accurate information illuminating the events that framed Colonial American life, from existing under England's dominion to clashing with Native Americans. Enhanced by extensive timelines, photographs, maps and illustrations, the text includes details about:

- food, drink, clothing and accessories
- marriage, the family and making a living
- money, the economy and trade
- government, politics, warfare and the military
- travel, architecture, arts and sciences
- overviews of the regions of Colonial America
- exhaustive bibliographical information

*Dale Taylor has worked in or with living history museums for 17 years. He was ranked among the top historical interpreters by the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. He has access to research facilities at Colonial Williamsburg, Jamestown and other museums. He lives in Florida.

The Writer's Guide to Everyday Life in the 1800s, by Marc McCutcheon—\$13.29 through Amazon.com

The wonderful and fascinating details of the 1800s have been gathered into one interesting volume, in which McCutcheon has included quotes from 19th-century citizens concerning or describing hairstyles and fashion, favorite swear words and slang, jokes of the period, courtship and marriage rituals, and more. A must for both fiction and nonfiction historical writers. *Literary Times* says: Few reference books include as many fascinating, informative facts as this one does! Packed with details of nineteenth-century life, Marc McCutcheon leaves no stone unturned. This dictionary-style reference guide includes details of every facet of life-- fashion and clothing, courtship and marriage rituals, slang terms, popular foods, common occupations, health and medicine, and much more. Of particular interest are the sections on the Civil War and life on the range.

These books are a collection of studies of historical events occurring during our ancestors' lives including details of their every day lives. Both contain information on culture during these respective time periods—food and drink, clothing, money and coinage, government and politics, health and medicine, marriage and family, religion, occupations and employment, arts and science, and amusements and pastimes. Each book provides a look at the time period through the eyes of our ancestors. Many fascinating tidbits are found in these two books. One example—Did you know that “about twenty-five percent of all women were killed in Colonial America as a result of cooking accidents, notably burns from long dresses and active fires?” This and much more interesting history and trivia are contained in these two publications.

Confederate Research Sources: A Guide to Archive Collections, by James C. Neagles—\$16.95 through Amazon.com

A definitive book on the subject, Neagles provides insight for the family historian searching for his/her Confederate soldier ancestor. He provides historical knowledge of the conflict in chronological detail from enlistment to injury, death, or discharge. Reading this book will prevent countless hours lost in wrong turns and dead ends for the confederate ancestor researcher.



GENEALOGY ON THE NET

More than 2.5 million original American Civil War pension index cards are the first available images in Ancestry.com's new Images Online project. For information on the project go to www.ancestry.com/library/view/news/articles/1931.asp. Each Civil War pension card—a record of a veteran's application for federal support—records the veteran's name and the state in which the application was received. If a widow or a child filed the application, his or her name and relevant information is included. Because these pension files were for federal benefits, this collection only contains the names of Union veterans. Until now, the pension cards were only available through microfilm copies contained at the National Archives and limited repositories.

Ancestry's existing Civil War Pension Index contains a link to a digitized image of the index card itself. This image will contain additional information on the individual, such as unit of service, date of filing and application, and certificate numbers for the pension case file (which often contains additional pages of individual information) housed at the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, DC. Going beyond the detail of indexes and information summaries, the online images are an added source for information on Civil War ancestors. Search the Civil War Pension Index and/or read the extended description at: www.ancestry.com/search/rectype/inddb/4654.htm

NAME OF VETERAN <i>Hampester, Daniel</i>				
WIDOW <i>Smith, Virginia A</i>				
MILITARY SERVICE <i>1129th Reg</i>				
DATE OF FILING	CLASS	APPLICATION NO.	CERTIFICATE NO.	STATE FROM WHICH FILED
<i>11/29/47</i>	<i>Widow</i>	<i>687683</i>		<i>VA</i>
REMARKS				
SIGNATURE				

From Ancestry Daily News July 13, 2000

(continued on page 7)

Just the Facts? Not in Mel Gibson's "The Patriot"

There's history and there's Hollywood history. Professors Carol Berkin and Keith Arbour, who are producing "Founding Fathers", a four-hour miniseries to air on the History Channel in the fall, said some of the things they see at the movies make them cringe. The latest offender, Berkin said, is "The Patriot." American history as it is being presented in the Mel Gibson vehicle might as well be science fiction.

Asked about the most egregious historical inaccuracies, Berkin laughed before ticking off a roster of them. "Well, the fact that Mel Gibson had a plantation in South Carolina that grew corn, and the black workers on the plantation were apparently participating in a profit-sharing system, as opposed to being slaves. Also, the fact that a battle takes place in a cotton field in the 18th century. All my students will now insist they did grow cotton before the Revolution because they saw it in "The Patriot".

Cleaning up Hollywood's mess is a lot tougher than dealing with simple ignorance, Arbour said. "It takes hundreds and hundreds of hours of serious programming to make up the errors."

(Savannah Morning News 7/17/00)

Entire 1790—1920 U.S. Census to be Available Online Soon

SierraHome's Generations and Heritage Quest will be launching GenealogyDatabase.com this fall. This subscription-based database will contain an online collection of all U.S. Census images from 1790 — 1920. Indexes for each year is underway, and three are already complete — 1790, 1800 and 1870.

This is a giant step forward for online genealogy resources and saves genealogists driving to local repositories and sitting for hours looking at film after film. GenealogyDatabase.com will also be accessible through HeritageQuest.com and SierraHome.com. Again, this is a subscription-based database, comparable to other genealogy sites now online (i.e., Ancestry.com, FamilyTreemaker.com). The best news is this database contains the actual images of the original records eliminating errors in transcribed records. GenealogyDatabase.com will be the largest collection of primary source documents on the Web, many of which will be searchable through Heritage Quest's painstaking efforts to extract the names into indexes which link directly to the digitally enhanced image pages. This will be the ONLY site offering the entire collection of U.S. Federal Census images for people to access from the comfort of home.

MISCONCEPTIONS

(Continued from page 3)

23) SOMEONE HAS ALREADY TRACED MY ENTIRE FAMILY TREE. I JUST HAVE TO FIND IT. That's the tricky part--finding it! Then comes the fun of documenting it.

24) DOCUMENTATION IS ONLY FOR GENEALOGICAL GEEKS WHO GET CHEAP THRILLS BY ASKING, "WHERE DID YOU FIND IT?" How will you ever compare three different birth dates for Grandpa if you don't know where you obtained each date?

25) GENEALOGISTS ARE NUTS. More likely they are truly focused on their research. However, one correspondent told me that working on genealogy "beats spending all my free time at a bar."

26) GENEALOGISTS ARE RUDE AT THE COURTHOUSE OR LIBRARY. Genealogists are people and a few are rude. Just make certain it's not you. No family historian wants to walk into the courthouse just after the most obnoxious genealogist on the planet has left the building.

27) GENEALOGY IS BORING. You must be kidding. I've learned a great deal about history, culture, and myself researching my own family.

28) YOU OUGHT TO BE DONE WITH THAT FAMILY HISTORY BY NOW. Well, I would except every time I find one ancestor I have two more parents to learn about.

29) THERE IS ONE BEST GENEALOGICAL SOFTWARE PACKAGE. Most have their pros and cons. Pick one that works for you, keep alert for new packages, but only make a change when you have good reason to. Time spent upgrading and upgrading and constantly learning new packages can be spent doing research.

30) YOU ARE COMPLETELY ADDICTED IF YOU SEARCH THE INGREDIENT LIST OF YOUR BREAKFAST CEREAL FOR YOUR ANCESTRAL SURNAMES. This is likely true, but I'm not admitting to this one in public!

Originally printed in Ancestry Daily News February 9, 2000. Copyright 2000, Michael John Neill. Michael John Neill, is the Course I Coordinator at the Genealogical Institute of Mid America (GIMA) held annually in Springfield, Illinois, and is also on the faculty of Carl Sandburg College in Galesburg, Illinois. Michael is the Web columnist for the FGS FORUM and is on the editorial board of the Illinois State Genealogical Society Quarterly. He conducts seminars and lectures on a wide variety of genealogical and computer topics and contributes to several genealogical publications, including Ancestry and Genealogical Computing. You can e-mail him at: <mailto:mneill@asc.csc.cc.il.us> or visit his website at: <http://www.rootdig.com/>



*Stop in to see our new
copier and microfilm cabinet.*

*These items were provided by a grant
from the
Hilton Head Island Foundation.*

MyFamily/RootsWeb Merger

(continued from page 1)

RootsWeb.com is a valuable source for genealogy, with interactive guides and numerous tools for tracing one's ancestry; it hosts more than 17,000 independently authored Web sites and approximately 19,000 mailing lists and 153,000 message boards.

My Family.com, Inc. is the largest and most active online community in the world for families. For the last five months, Nielsen/NetRatings has ranked the MyFamily.com, Inc. network of sites in the top 25 among all Internet properties in terms of page views. The company's three Internet sites, MyFamily.com, Ancestry.com, and FamilyHistory.com, which can function independently, work together to form the only family service of its kind. MyFamily.com is the leading provider of free, private Web sites for families, where family members can share photos and news, participate in private voice and text chats, and maintain a calendar of family events.

MORE GENEALOGY ON THE NET

(continued from page 3)

General reference: <http://gateway.library.uiuc.edu/Resource/fulltext.asp>

Internet Public Library — They have online newspapers from around the world: www.ipl.org/

If you click on "reference" and then "genealogy" at the above site, you get some good ones.

Great collection for African-American researchers: <http://www.digital-librarian.com/africanamerican.html>

This reference tells you exactly what you should and should not do in cleaning gravestones: <http://pone.com/ts/preserve.htm>

"Find The Grave" site — Some have photos. <http://www.findagrave.org/contributors/index.html>

The National Archives and Records Administration Genealogy Page: www.nara.gov/genealogy/

Genealogy Resources on the Internet: www-personal.umich.edu/~cgaunt/gen_web.html

The Genealogy Tool Box has search engines specifically for genealogy: www.genealogytoolbox.com/

This site contains a number of historical maps of interest. www.lib.utexas.edu/Libs/PCL/Map_collection/map_sites/hist_sites.html#US

200 baptismal records from the Roman Catholic parish of Enniskeane, Ireland are posted at www.ginnisw.com. Scroll down to Family History.

Kentucky birth index for 1911-1988. Be sure to check all spellings, <http://www.lpl.lib.ky.us/reference/bdindex.html>

Online MO Death Index: Submit Your Info! <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~nettimaef/modeaths/index.htm>

LibrarySpot—here you will find a catalogue to collections of libraries of all sorts. On the main screen is a link to PublicLibraries.com (www.publiclibraries.com) which lists public libraries and other repositories across the United States.

The WebCats link at the LibrarySpot page takes you to a page with two very important ways of locating libraries around the world.

The Canadian Library Gateway at http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/gatepasse/index_e.htm is a window into Canadian libraries of all types and sizes, as well as a directory of special collections held in many of them. It provides a choice of English or French.

Library of Congress — www.loc.gov — From the main page, click on the graphic labeled "Using the Library—Catalogs, Collections and Research Services" to go to a page with a collection of links.

An alternative method of searching the Library of Congress is through www.lcweb.loc.gov/catalog. Here you use the Z39.50 Gateway to access the catalog. You will probably find the standard catalog search easier, but if you are familiar with Web-based search engines the "Simple Search" or structured "Advanced Search" options offered by the Gateway.

Also available at the Web page www.lcweb.loc.gov/z3950 is a link to an alphabetized list of links to other libraries and databases in the United States and in other countries.

In our pursuit of our ancestry, we need to develop new skills and form new habits. Attention to standards can help us form good research habits and avoid pitfalls that can waste precious time and money; in the long run, using these standards will enhance the value of our hard work--to ourselves and to the generations to come.

For more information on Standards go to:

Standards for Sound Genealogical Research
Recommended by the National Genealogical Society
www.ngsgenealogy.org/about/content/committees/gene1_stan.html

Standards for Using Records Repositories and Libraries
Recommended by the National Genealogical Society
www.ngsgenealogy.org/about/content/committees/gene2_stan.html

Standards for Use of Technology in Genealogical Research
Recommended by the National Genealogical Society
www.ngsgenealogy.org/about/content/committees/gene3_stan.html

Standards for Sharing Information with Others
Recommended by the National Genealogical Society
www.ngsgenealogy.org/about/content/committees/gene4_stan.html

Guidelines for Publishing Web Pages on the Internet
Recommended by the National Genealogical Society, May 2000
www.ngsgenealogy.org/about/content/committees/gene5_stan.html

Heritage Library Electronic Catalog

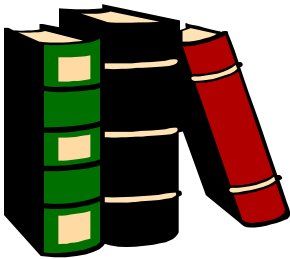
CASPER, The Heritage Library's card catalog is now on the library computer network. In time, we hope to have our catalog online so that researchers may search the catalog from your home. The CASPER system is extremely easy to use. Simply click twice on the icon to start the system. When the opening screen comes up, click on guest and then on OK. The next screen identifies the system as Library World 98. Six options are given for searching: Keyword, Subject, Title, Author, Expert, and Browse the Shelves. I will briefly discuss two of these options—the Keyword and Author.

The most comprehensive is Keyword searching. Simply click on Keyword and type in a keyword. Occasionally, this search will be too comprehensive. A search for the keyword "Virginia" gives you all items on Virginia, West Virginia, authors with Virginia in their name, etc. In some cases, you may need to be more specific about your search. There are more advanced options to limit these searches. The author search is another easy search. Simply type in last name, first name (Holcomb, Brent). This search gives us 67 books in the list. On any search click twice on the book and you will get all the information you would normally find in a card catalog, including the location and the call number, which tell you where to find the book on our shelves. On all searches to go "back" a page, simply click on the aqua colored arrow in the lower right corner of the screen.

Check out our new system the next time you visit the library. Any of the librarians or library assistants can guide you.

Cathy Speller

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In This Issue...

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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

September 6-9

September 12

October 10

October 23

November 1-5

November 7

December 7

2001

January 8-12

February 2-3

Salt Lake City, UT: FGS- "A World of Records "

Hilton Head Island Genealogical Society—10 a.m.—Heritage Library

Hilton Head Island Genealogical Society—10 a.m.—Heritage Library

Chicago, IL: Afro-American Genealogical & Historical Society of Chicago

"Colors Under the Flag: From WWII to the War of 1812"

Ft. Wayne, IN: 3-day Bus Research Trip with Michael Neill

Hilton Head Island Genealogical Society—10 a.m.—Heritage Library

Heritage Library Holiday Gala

Salt Lake City, UT: Sixth Annual Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy

Dallas, TX: GENTECH 2001