



The ACGS Time

The Anoka County Genealogical Society Newsletter

Volume 29 Issue 5 September/October 2007
<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~relativememory>

The ACGS Time

Anoka County Genealogical
Society (at History Center)
2135 - 3rd Ave., No.
Anoka, MN 55303
(763) 421-0600

Hours: .
Tuesday - 10:am-8:00 pm
Wed-Fri - 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Every Saturday-10:00 am-4:00 pm

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****Any family tree produces
some lemons, some nuts and a
few bad apples.**

**** Your grandmother's
maiden name for which
you've searched for years was
in an old letter in a box in the
attic all the time.**



President's Message

By: Cathi Weber

Brickwall Update: DNA Testing

In the last newsletter I told you about my research with my grandfather and breaking through a 20 + year old brick wall.

Bert C Palmer, born July 30, 1873 in Cedar Rapids Iowa, married Clara Engle in December 1896. They moved to California before 1900 and had 5 children. Bert left his family about 1915 to return to Iowa after his mother died. He never returned to California.

Charles B Parmer, claimed to be born July 30, 1882 in Cedar Rapids Iowa. He married Grace Hoffman (marriage record not found yet) and had 2 sons in Wichita Kansas in the early 1930's.

In comparing handwriting, stories and photos with Bert's grandchildren we have, with 99% certainty, decided that Bert and Charles are the same person. To prove our theory we decided to have DNA testing done. I confess that I have not paid a lot of attention to the articles on DNA and Genealogy because I didn't think I would ever use it. Well, never say 'never'. I had to go back and find the articles and study about DNA. We finally settled on a test through Relative Genetics (which has been taken over by Ancestry.com now) at a cost of \$155 each for a Y-DNA - Family Line Verifier test with 26 markers. It is a test used to determine relatedness to a specific individual or family line. It will either eliminate relationships or lend substantial support for your genealogical conclusions. My father (son of Charles) and Richard (grandson of Bert) sent in DNA samples for the test. Within 3 weeks we had the results.

It was a perfect match - 26 of 26 markers! A perfect match indicates that the two men share direct paternal line ancestry, statistically in fewer than 6 generations. They are uncle and nephew.

Bert Palmer left California about 1915 and at some point before 1930 changed his name and birth year, remarried and had another family. Now I have 10 more cousins and their families to learn about. Bert's first 5 children have all passed away and his grandchildren are closer in

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The Anoka County Genealogical Society
Newsletter is published six times a year.

age to my father than they are to me. I will be meeting one of my 'new' cousins in Maine in September and hopefully more in Phoenix

at Thanksgiving. What happened between 1915 and 1930 is another mystery for me to solve – someday.

There are other uses for DNA testing and I encourage you to read up about it and see if it might be useful in your genealogy research. Start with an internet search for "DNA and genealogy".

Never give up on your brickwall challenges. Watch for the smallest clues that may be the connection you need to break through the barrier. Mine was as simple as a signature on an estate record matched with a letter written 40 years later.

Up Coming Events

1. **October 1st 7:00 pm – Meeting at History Center. Topic: School Records.**
2. **October 15th 7:00 pm – ACGS Board Meeting.**
3. **October 27th – Genealogy Conference, Northdale Middle School.**
4. **November 5th – No meeting.**
5. **December 3rd – Potluck at History Center.**

****ACGS will have a display at the Northtown Library in October and Rum River Library in November. Stop by and check them out. ****

"It's Your History"

QCTV Cable Show about Anoka County
History includes a segment on
Genealogy.

Coon Rapids: - Sunday 5 am & 3 pm,
Thursday 3 pm, channel 15 -
Comcast

Anoka, Andover, Ramsey, Champlin:
Monday 3:30 pm, 10:30 pm,
Tuesday, 3:30 pm, 10:30 pm,
Wednesday 11:30 am, 6:30 pm,
channel 15 – QCTV

Blaine, Centerville, Circle Pines, Ham
Lake, Lexington, Lino Lakes, Spring
Lake Park: Wednesday 6:30 pm,
Thursday 2:30 am & 10:30 am,
channel 14 - North Metro



*Copies of old newspapers have holes, which
occur only on last names.*



Remember, undocumented genealogy is mythology.



Saving Your Family Treasures Having a Disaster Plan

by Maureen Taylor

If you own treasured family artifacts, photographs and scrapbooks, and who doesn't, then having a home disaster plan is a good idea. Anyone who lives in an area susceptible to floods, hurricanes, tornados and blizzards knows that sooner or later the inevitable will occur. It can even happen due to fire and broken water pipes.

As a librarian and a photo curator, I served on a number of disaster preparedness committees. Museum curators and librarians know that preparing for an emergency before it happens can save their collections. Most institutions have a plan that tells staff what to do just in case the worst occurs. It's contains information on salvaging a collection, a list of helpful contacts and outlines what supplies are kept on hand to help cope with the aftermath. While it may be impossible to avoid a disaster like a hurricane there are steps you can take to prepare beforehand.

Consult Those in the Know

The Council of State Historical Records Coordinators has pulled together an online directory of disaster resources available through state archives and museums. There are articles on water damage, planning and a list of vendors that carry disaster related supplies. Consult their documents to protect your treasures, purchase necessary supplies and to prioritize what to rescue. Knowing what to do if or when disaster strikes is the first step in your home salvage operation.

Prioritize

In any emergency; first and foremost you should protect human life. However, if you have a little time before you have to leave your house, you may be able to rescue a few artifacts. When you have a house full of memories, figuring out what to save first is a dilemma. Family artifacts are not judged just on their commercial value, but their sentimental worth. A few years ago, my daughter created a box of her special items to take if we needed to evacuate the house. This container, that was small enough for her to carry comfortably, contained her favorite baby toys and a few recently purchased stuffed animals. She kept it handy for months just in case she needed to make a quick getaway.

Apply these concepts to your treasures and ask yourself a question: "If you could only save one thing what would it be?" In order for you to realistically grab that one item and run it would need to be light enough to carry. This might be a few family photographs, your grandmother's jewelry, a scrapbook or a piece of your child's artwork. Whatever it is, make sure you know it by heart so that you don't have to think if time is short.

It's also a good idea to have a priority list of what to look for when you're cleaning up afterwards. Mud, chemicals and mold can quickly destroy photographs, documents, textiles, and furniture, so the faster you can locate those items, the quicker you can start cleaning them up and drying them out. Keeping small items like pictures and family papers in one particular storage area will help you find them. Store your family treasures in an area of your house away from windows, fireplaces and water pipes and keep them out of attics, basements and garages. The best place in your house is an interior closet.

Basic Necessities

There are certain things you need to have on hand to deal with the clean-up. Since you might not be able to purchase them in your area in the midst of a disaster, create a home disaster response kit or purchase one ready-made from ProText. Their React Paks (\$189.99) are designed for libraries and museums, but you can purchase individual supplies to make your own either from ProText or your local hardware store.

Here are a few items to keep on hand:

A plastic tub for transporting materials and for storing all the following supplies

Clean water--for rinsing debris and contaminants off items

Rubber gloves for handling items

Rubber boots for walking in water damaged areas

Large plastic storage bags (for freezing photographs, documents and textiles that can't be cleaned and dried immediately)

Consider purchasing an Emergency Response and Salvage Wheel from the Heritage Emergency National Task Force (\$12.95). On one side are action steps for caring for nine different types of collections and on the other are salvage details. Their website contains additional details on how to save collections.

Who You Gonna Call?

When family items appear to be damaged beyond repair you won't need Ghostbusters, but rather, conservators trained to stabilize collections. The American Institute for Conservation of Historic & Artistic Work, Inc. (<http://aic.stanford.edu>) has a Conservation Services Referral System on their website. Select a conservator based on their area of expertise.

A quote on the ProText website says it all, "How you react in the first hours of a library disaster can mean the difference between a legacy and a total loss." Substitute family for library and the meaning stays the same. Planning for events out of our control will help you preserve that legacy for your descendants.



October is Family History Month!!!!

Celebrate Family History Month with the Ones You Love—Past and Present
by: Tana Pedersen Lord

In 2001, October was officially named "Family History Month." So grab a friend, neighbor, or your whole family and take a few minutes or hours to honor your relatives. Family history doesn't have to be about searching dusty records and looking for long-forgotten facts; it can be a fun way to discover more about the people who shaped your life and also a way to pay tribute to the family you have now.

1. Take a field trip.

The house you grew up in. The cemetery where great-grandma is buried. The farm where grandpa used to raise horses. Visiting places that are important to your family can be a great way to remember the past. And each memory might launch another story that has been forgotten. So grab a camera, grab a map, and go! And if you aren't lucky enough to have a family site near you, you might consider visiting a historic building, a museum, or even a cultural center.

2. Create a heritage cookbook.

What could be better than Grandma's fried chicken or mom's homemade Sunday rolls? Contact family members and ask them to send you their favorite family recipes. If possible, have them include personal stories about the dish, how it was passed down, when it was traditionally eaten—maybe there's even a photograph of Aunt Marianne serving her pecan pie. If possible make copies for families and friends; it's sure to be a gift that's enjoyed for years.

3. Take a genealogy class.

Have you been wanting to pursue your great-great-grandfather who emigrated from Spain but you just don't know where to begin? One way to get started is to take a genealogy class. Many local genealogical societies offer classes either for free or at a low cost. You can even find many classes and tutorials online. Genealogy.com offers a multitude of free classes on everything from Internet genealogy to tracing your immigrant ancestors. You

can also learn research tips and tricks in the Ancestry.com [Learning Centers](#).

4. Interview a family member.

Preserve those funny and remarkable family stories for future generations by interviewing the family elders. Nothing shows the personality and uniqueness of an individual quite like a personal interview. Use a video camera or audio recorder to capture the moment. Then transcribe the whole interview as a backup—and don't forget to take loads of photos too.

5. Participate in a DNA project.

We'd all like to be able to prove definitively who we're related to. Most of the time that's not possible. But why not help out a DNA/Surname project by donating a sample of your DNA; you may even find a distant relative.

6. Start a family website.

With so many families living far away from each other, a family website is a great way to stay connected. In just a few minutes, you can create a private family website on [MyFamily.com](#). You can share photos, videos, and voice clips; access calendars of important family events; and even build your family tree—

7. Have an “ancestral” birthday party.

Does someone in your family tree have a birthday in October? Why not throw them a birthday bash? If your ancestor lived during the “Roaring Twenties,” the Civil War, or another easily recognizable time in history, you can decorate, dress, and celebrate, as they would have back then. Gather heirlooms, photographs, journals and letters, and other mementos of the guest of honor and let the memories flow.

8. Create a time capsule.

Many of us have wished that our ancestors would have left us more information about themselves, especially the details that show who they really were. Why not help out future generations by creating a unique time capsule about you or your family. Add photographs, letters, toys, stories about family traditions, anything that says “you.” Your grandchildren will thank you . . . someday.

9. Read a book.

Whether it's the old journal handed down through the generations, your parents' love letters, or just a travel guide about your ancestor's homeland, take a few hours to indulge your imagination and connect with your family.

10. Take a family photo.

How many times do we plan on taking that perfect family photo during the holidays? And often, we watch the busy season pass us by and still, no photo. Why not gather everyone together before the hustle and bustle of the holidays begins and get that perfect group shot? The final product will be great for decking the halls and also a welcome edition to the packages you send to family members who are far away.

In The News

1. ACHS brings home AASLH award from Atlanta. This award is for the exhibit “Vietnam a Veterans Experience.”
2. Monuments To Life tours begin. October 4th – Twin Lake Cemetery in Burns. October 6th – Fridsborg Cemetery in East Bethel. October 9th – Oakwood Cemetery in Anoka. Call the History Center for tickets – 763-421-0600 or visit their website: www.ac-hs.org.
3. ACHS is holding “Civil War Christmas” in Columbia Heights at Murzyn Hall on Sunday, December 2nd.
4. The Anoka County Sesquicentennial Board is planning a “Hanger Dance” at the Anoka airport for Friday, December 7th in celebration of the county's 150 years. Updates will be put on ACHS website.
5. ACHS Ghost Tours run through October. Call for details and ticket info. 763-421-0600.



**Celebrate Halloween in
Anoka
The Halloween Capital
of the World!!!!**

