

D-OGS Newsletter – April 2020

News & Articles of Interest to Durham-Orange genealogists

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President – David McCorkle

D-OGS MEETING FOR APRIL 2020

As we announced last week, our April D-OGS meeting will be conducted ONLINE on **Wednesday, April 1 at 7:00PM**. The topic will be *Frugal Genealogy* by Lisa Lisson which is actually quite appropriate for these times.

We will be using the popular Zoom software which runs on PCs and Macs, as well as mobile devices like tablets. It will be free for you to use. This meeting will be conducted like a webinar as opposed to an interactive meeting, so you do not need a microphone or video camera - just speakers and a screen.

We encourage you to test your device prior to the meeting to make sure the Zoom software works properly. To do this, go to <https://zoom.us/test> and click [Join].

Due to technical limitations along with this being our first attempt, we are restricting this meeting to only active and recently expired members. We will email detailed instructions including the meeting link on the day of the meeting.

THE CORONAVIRUS IS NEW, BUT NOT MUCH DIFFERENT FROM VIRUSES SUFFERED BY OUR ANCESTORS

The news stories these days are full of articles about the Coronavirus (COVID-19) infections. I won't repeat them here, but I will point out that this is nothing new. Our ancestors frequently suffered with similar and often much worse epidemics.

About a month ago, before the Coronavirus had become much of a problem in the US, I published a Plus Edition article entitled *Epidemics*. In the introduction, I wrote:

“Our ancestors lived in fear of epidemics, and many of them died as the result of simple diseases that could be cured today with an injection or a prescription.

“If you ever wondered why a large number of your ancestors disappeared during a certain period in history, you may want to investigate the possibility of an epidemic. Many cases of people disappearing from records can be traced to dying during an epidemic or moving away from the affected area.”

You can read that article at <https://eognplus.com/2020/02/24/epidemics/>. A Plus Edition user name and password are required to read it.

Of course, one of the more recent epidemics (“only” 102 years ago) was the Spanish Flu epidemic of 1918-1920. It infected 500 million people around the world, or about 27% of the world population of between 1.8 and 1.9 billion. The death toll is estimated to have been anywhere from 17 million to 50 million, and possibly as high as 100 million, making it one of the deadliest epidemics in human history. Some historians

and epidemiologists have theorized that the flu originated in Kansas while others believe it started in the close quarters of the trenches and military encampments of World War I. Whatever the origins, the Spanish Flu quickly spread worldwide.



Frederick (Friedrich) Trump (or Trumpf)

Then as now, the virus showed no favoritism. After a one-day illness, on 30 May 1918, Donald Trump's grandfather, Frederick Trump (or Friedrich Trumpf in the original German) succumbed to a case of pneumonia that would later be identified as a complication of the "Spanish flu." In fact, the President's grandfather was one of the first domestic casualties of the world's worst modern pandemic, which ultimately killed millions.

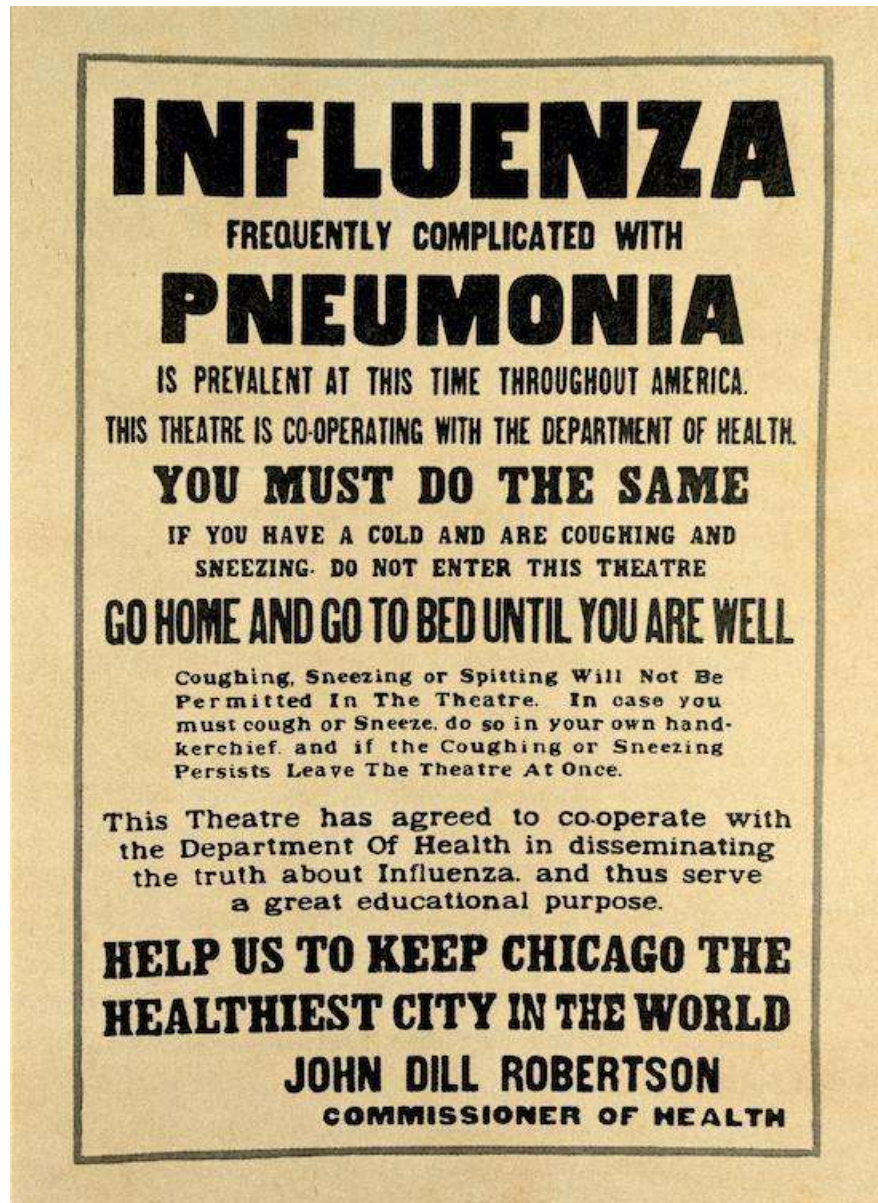
Reference: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frederick_Trump

The death toll from the Spanish Flu was undoubtedly worsened by the efforts of President Woodrow Wilson's administration to talk down the health risk. Even President Wilson could not avoid the contagious disease; he became ill in the midst of the World War I peace talks held in Paris. In April 1919, Rear Admiral Cary T. Grayson, personal physician to the President, wrote to a friend, explaining that: "These past two weeks have certainly been strenuous days for me. The President was suddenly taken violently sick with the influenza at a time when the whole of civilization seemed to be in the balance."

The extent of President Wilson's illness was not revealed to the American people, however. Instead, to maintain confidence in the President, Grayson informed the press that it was merely a cold caused by the "chilly and rainy weather" in Paris.

Sound familiar?

An interesting history of the Spanish Flu, as observed in Chicago, can be found in an article in the Chicago and Cook County Cemeteries web site at: <https://chicagoandcookcountycemeteries.com/2020/03/15/bring-out-your-dead-chicagos-1918-flu-epidemic/>.



The article provides an interesting historical perspective of the experiences of our ancestors in the days before penicillin and other modern drugs.

Over 8,000 Chicagoans died in a matter of months despite signs placed in theaters, streetcars and elevated trains to warn against the danger of spitting, coughing, and sneezing. Undertakers and cemeteries were overwhelmed. There were orders that wake attendance be limited to 10 people at a time. Public funerals were totally prohibited for a time.

Yes, life and death from diseases and viruses is not a modern peril. In fact, it was far worse in “the good old days.”



NORTH CAROLINA VITAL RECORDS GUIDE

“FINDING NORTH CAROLINA BIRTH, MARRIAGE, AND DEATH RECORDS” - A new resource from the North Carolina Genealogical Society

One of our goals at NCGS is to assist you in discovering your North Carolina story by connecting you with valuable records and resources. This year, we are launching a series of research guides that are meant to assist you with North Carolina research.

The [Vital Records Guide](#) is officially available today! New Free Resource - Available to the Public
This guide will help you know where to look for vital records based on when and where the birth, marriage, or death occurred and how to locate and request a copy of a vital record if it is not available online.

Be on the lookout for a Historic Map Guide and Comprehensive Online Record Collections Guide that will be released later this year.

If there is a topic you would like covered in a future guide, please email your suggestion to our Web Content Editor, Anne Merrell, at content@ncgenealogy.org.

MONTHLY BACKUP REMINDER

It is the first of a new month. Don't forget to backup your data files, photos and other any valuable documents.

ENJOY FREE AND UNLIMITED ACCESS TO MYHERITAGE IN COLOR™

MyHeritage revolutionized the world of online genealogy web sites when the company announced that anyone and everyone could upload black-and-white photographs to MyHeritage.com and then the web site would **AUTOMATICALLY** convert each photo to a color image. It works well for old photographs of people but I also found it works well for photos of houses, farms, workplaces, and a lot more. Even a black-and-white picture of Main Street in a town in the Old West works well.



Now **EVERYONE** can obtain **FREE** and unlimited access to MyHeritage In Color™ from March 23 to April 23 (that's an entire month!), so that people everywhere can join in the fun of colorizing their black and white photos. Ordinarily only 10 photos can be colorized by users who do not have a Complete plan, but now, you can colorize as many photos as you'd like for free.

To get started, go to <http://www.myheritage.com/incolor>.

Colorizing photos is the perfect activity for anyone who is isolated at home. MyHeritage invites everyone to pull out their family photo albums, colorize their photos, and start reminiscing. Over the coming month, anyone who shares their colorized photos on Twitter, Facebook, or Instagram with the hashtag #ColorBeatsCoronavirusBlues and tags @MyHeritage will enter a weekly draw. Each week MyHeritage will select one lucky winner who will receive a **free MyHeritage Complete subscription!**

You can read more about this new technology in the MyHeritage Blog at <https://blog.myheritage.com/2020/03/myheritage-in-color-is-now-free-and-unlimited-for-one-month/> and at <https://www.myheritage.com/incolor> and also in my earlier articles about it at <https://blog.eogn.com/2020/02/12/myheritage-in-color-breakthrough-feature-to-colorize-family-photos/> and at <https://blog.eogn.com/2020/02/17/myheritage-in-color-goes-viral-over-a-million-photos-already-colored/>.

A NOTE FROM ANCESTRY'S CEO

We're opening up Ancestry® in new ways. With school closures in effect across the US, we're making all of our AncestryK12 lesson plans available for free. We've also partnered with the [US National Archives](#) to provide free access to search their nearly 500 million records and images on Ancestry®. And here on our social channels, we'll be holding live learning sessions and sharing tips from our experts.

Hear more from our CEO: <https://www.ancestry.com/s107565/t43443/rd.ashx...>

WEBSITES OF POSSIBLE INTEREST

GRAVESTONE CLEANING TIPS FROM BILLIONGRAVES

Check out this blog from Billiongraves:

“Gravestone cleaning can turn back the wheels of time to make your ancestor’s final resting place nearly as beautiful as the day their family members gathered there to wish them farewell.

Time has been hard on gravestones that were originally considered nearly permanent. Weathering, erosion, neglect, and vandalism have all taken their toll.

While some of this damage cannot be reversed, in other cases, preservation and prevention can make all the difference. And as more people become interested in genealogical research, there is a greater desire to preserve what is left of our ancestor’s legacies in stone.

By cleaning and caring for historic resting places you can provide an opportunity for future generations to glimpse the past. Then burial grounds will become treasures of information that would otherwise have been forgotten or lost.”

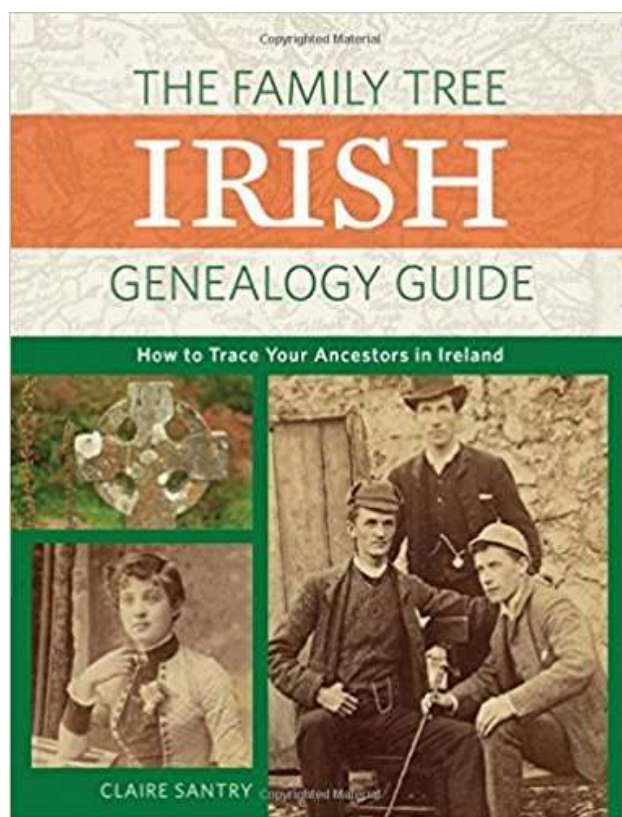
They offer good background and tips on should you or should you not clean. They also offer so safe products to use in the event you want to move ahead with cleaning.

<https://blog.billiongraves.com/gravestone-cleaning-101/>

BOOKS OF POSSIBLE INTEREST

THE FAMILY TREE IRISH GENEALOGY GUIDE

The following book review was written by Bobbi King: The following book review was written by Bobbi King:



The Family Tree Irish Genealogy Guide

By Claire Santry. Family Tree Books. 2017. 238 pages.

For years, Ms. Santry avoided research of her Irish ancestors because she believed that a 1922 fire had destroyed all Irish records. Once she realized the myth for the obstacle that it was, she launched her family search.

She believes Irish research is a whole lot easier nowadays, what with the availability of online records, along with the myriad libraries and archives that still hold valuable old registers. Ms. Santry's experience led to writing the *Irish Genealogy Guide* which she promises "will give you a thorough grounding in genealogical techniques and point you towards the records you need to search, both in the United States and in Ireland. It's full of tips, essential explanations about the collections, and strategic advice."

The book is comprised of:

Part 1: Linking Your Family Tree to Ireland

Chapters are:

Discovering Your Irish Heritage

Jump-Starting Your Irish Research

Identifying Your Immigrant Ancestor

Part 2: Getting to Know the Old Country

Chapters are:

Understanding Irish History

Understanding Irish Geography

Deciphering Irish Names and Surnames

Civil Registrations

Church Records

Census Records

Land and Property Records

Printed Records

Probate, Law & Order, Military, and Occupation Records

Part 3: Using Advanced Sources and Strategies

Chapters are:

Putting It All Together

What To Do When You Get Stuck

Appendices are

Latin in Irish Catholic Parish Registers

Irish Genealogy Research Societies

Irish Graveyard Research

Archives, Libraries, and Other Repositories in Ireland

County and Heritage Genealogy Centers

Publications and Websites

Irish Genealogy presents a broad and inclusive guide to Irish research. I think it would be immensely useful for beginners and advanced Irish sleuths alike.

The Family Tree Irish Genealogy Guide by Claire Santry is available from Amazon at:

<http://amzn.to/2uRhx43>.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Due to the COVID19 pandemic, most classes, tours and forums are being cancelled or at least rescheduled. Your newsletter editor will attempt to inform of any changes.

HUMOR

Duke men's basketball coach Mike Krzyzewski, after living a full life, died. When he got to Heaven, God was showing him around. They came to a modest little house with a faded Duke flag in the window. "This house is yours for eternity Mike, said God." "This is very special, not everyone gets a house up here." Mike felt special indeed and walked up to his house.

On his way up the porch, he noticed another house just around the corner. It was a huge 3-story mansion with Carolina Blue & White sidewalks and drive ways, a 50 foot tall flagpole with an enormous Tarheel logo

flag waving, a swimming pool in the shape of a Ram, a UNC logo in every window, a Michael Jordan #23 mailbox and a picture of Roy Williams & Dean Smith on the front door.

Mike said, "God, I'm not trying to be ungrateful, but I have a question. I was a well known coach, I won a lot of games, and I even know how to spell this weird last name I got stuck with."

God said, "So what's your point Mike?"

Mike said, "Well, why does Dean Smith get a better house than me?"

God chuckled and said, "Mike, that's not Dean's house.....it's mine."

(In case you haven't already guessed, the newsletter editor is a RABID Tar Heel fan)

PARTING THOUGHT

Remember, if life gives you lemons, make lemonade.

If you have any items of interest that you would like to submit for future publication, please contact Richard Ellington at mailto:richard_ellington@unc.edu or 919.967.4168