The Great Utility of Great Guides
by Curt B. Witcher

Early in my career I had the pleasure of exploring in great depth the first edition of Helen Leary's "North Carolina Research: Genealogy and Local History." I was (and still am!) impressed with both the breadth and depth of the work. Starting out with strong chapters on research strategies and resources, the work moves through instruction in the use of libraries and archives, as well as providing advice on abstracting, note taking, and correspondence. The bulk of this substantial tome is devoted to large sections on North Carolina county records and North Carolina state records. The work concludes with sections on federal, private, and non-written records as they relate to North Carolina.

While the entire work is specific to North Carolina and conducting genealogical research in that state, it was obvious to me from the start that one could take all of the research principles and many of the record examples and use them as instruction for researching in just about any state. I have long mused about how awesome it would be to have such a thorough research compilation available for every state in the union. Yes, there are lesser works that are of assistance to genealogists and local historians such as the National Genealogical Society's "Research in the States" series. However, those works are typically well short of one hundred pages, provide quite general treatments, and well less than half of the states are represented in the series. In addition, Leary's depth, insight, and comprehensive treatment are noticeably absent.

A second edition of Leary’s "North Carolina Research: Genealogy and Local History" has since been published, and is still available for sale through the North Carolina Genealogical Society. If I understand correctly, Ms. Leary donates all the proceeds from the sale of her work to the society—a great guide by a great researcher who demonstrates great generosity. Both editions are available in The Genealogy Center—GC 975.6 H47L and GC 975.6 H47La.
On a number of occasions in the past, I have extolled the virtues of another great guide titled "Peopling Indiana: The Ethnic Experience." (GC 977.2 P39) If one is engaged in Indiana research, it is a must-consult work. With its contents arranged by ethnic group, this compilation addresses the where, why, and when of every ethnic group that touched toe in Indiana. We know how consequential it is for genealogical research success to explore the ethnic contexts of our ancestors. In more than seven hundred pages, "Peopling Indiana" provides extraordinary details for the ethnic groups that have been a part of Indiana's nearly two hundred years of statehood. Each ethnic group is covered in its own chapter, with each chapter concluding with a significant bibliography. The work is still available for purchase through the Indiana Historical Society.

A similar type of ethnic compilation at a national level is the "Harvard Encyclopedia of American Ethnic Groups." (GC 973.004 H26) The reason it may not get much attention or use is that it doesn't sound very genealogical and it's typically "hidden" in many libraries under a general Americana call number. The treatments of the many ethnic groups that contributed to the rich history of this country are important for family historians to understand. Knowledge of one's ancestral ethnic identity or group can assist with those brick-wall research challenges and ensure that one has knowledge of and access to the widest and deepest collection of records and resources. While out of print, this work is available at a reasonable cost on the used-book market. For those who are Allen County Public Library cardholders, a second copy is available in the main library collection and can be checked out (REA 325.7303 H26).

Literally moments before leaving for RootsTech 2015, I received a most welcome copy of another absolutely excellent guidebook—this one brand new, hot off the presses. This work, titled "New York Family History Research Guide and Gazetteer," was just published by the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society. (GC 974.7 N424NLF) The work contains more than eight-hundred and thirty pages of research tips and strategies specific to New York—lists, charts, maps, descriptions of repositories from across the state, and extensive bibliographies. I was immediately impressed by the healthy number of editors, project staff members, collaborators and contributors that made this massive tome a reality. Having a publisher fearless about engaging the best, most knowledgeable, closest-to-the-records individuals rather than pushing to meet an arbitrary print deadline is most noteworthy. It is also a tremendous benefit to the genealogical researcher, from the beginner to the expert.

The work is divided into two substantial parts, with the first part containing a historical overview and chapters detailing major record groups found in New York. Also in Part One, the researcher will find a consequential treatment of the peoples of New York as well as details relative to the religious records of New York. Part Two contains what one simply would have to call an amazing collection of detailed data about each of New York's sixty-two counties.

The individual county guides are awesome! Having a gazetteer of historical and contemporary place names is of great assistance to family historians. Those who know me know that I am a citation analysis "nut!" So I can't help but be over-the-moon about the bibliographies that accompany each of the counties. Found under the heading, "Selected Print and Online Resources," the number of important legacy works listed as well as the number of online resources identified is most impressive.
Using Oswego County as an example, one learns of Oswego data published in New York's "Tree Talks" and in the DAR's Genealogical Records Committee reports as well as on Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org. One is also pointed to the Oswego Public Library's "New York Heritage Digital Collections." A collection of city directories from Oswego from 1852 to 1929 is available for free use, as is the Safe Haven collection, "documenting Jewish people at the Safe Haven compound, including camp newsletters from Nov. 8, 1944 through August 2, 1945, articles, an essay, photographs and documents." Wow! Truly, a researcher can get busy immediately by delving into the many digital assets described in this work. And if you're doing New York research at any level, you really need this work as your research assistant.

Too many times our research focuses so tightly on searching for specific individuals that we may forget that often beginning our research with a survey of the land, the records, the various peoples, the contexts, and the history is a quite meaningful and fruitful approach.

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1641 Depositions
by John Beatty, CG(sm)*
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The Irish Rebellion of 1641 was a watershed event in the history of early modern Ireland, and an important source of genealogical records from the mid-seventeenth century. The rising, initiated by Catholic gentry, broke out in response to widespread fears of an invasion by hardline Protestant forces in England, then in conflict with King Charles I in what would eventually become the English Civil War. The rebels organized a Catholic Confederation and urged attacks on Protestant settlements chiefly in Ulster, but also in other parts of the island. Between 4,000 and 12,000 Protestants died, some from massacre and others from exposure after being turned out of their homes in winter. England launched an invasion to suppress the uprising the following year, but because of the outbreak of the civil war, the Confederation was not defeated until a second invasion under Oliver Cromwell in 1649. At that time the English Protestant forces drove the remaining Catholic leaders out of the country and seized nearly all of the land for settlement by English and Scottish settlers.

A commission in Dublin took depositions from many of the affected Protestants as well as some of the rebel leaders. These were later collected and bound into some thirty volumes and donated to Trinity College Dublin, where they have survived to the present. A valuable though neglected genealogical source, they contain detailed descriptions of events from 1641-42, including lurid stories of murder, robbery, and survival under harsh conditions. The names of thousands of Protestants, many of a middle or lower social class, were preserved, either through their direct testimony or by being mentioned in the depositions of neighbors. For this reason, the depositions represent an important source for a period when few other Irish records are extant.

Until this past year, there has been no definitive transcription of the depositions. Mary Hickson published a select number in 1884 in a two-volume work titled "Ireland in the Seventeenth Century, or the Irish Massacres of 1641-2" (London: Longmans, Green, and Co., 1884) (GC 941.56 H52i). They represent only a fraction of the total, however, and were not indexed, making them difficult to access and leading to their general neglect by Irish genealogists.
A new comprehensive edition began appearing in 2014 under the auspices of the Irish Manuscripts Commission, the editorship of Aidan Clarke, and bearing the title, “1641 Depositions” (Dublin: Irish Manuscripts Commission, 2014) (GC 941.5 C55si). This new work divides the depositions into three volumes, arranged by locality. The first volume includes the counties of Armagh, Louth, and Monaghan; Volume 2 covers Cavan and Fermanagh, while Volume 3 encompasses Antrim, Derry, Donegal, Down, and Tyrone. Nine more volumes are planned for the remainder of Ireland and will likely take several more years to complete.

The depositions are rich in details of names and relationships. Consider the examination of Jame Armstrong of Lissan, County Tyrone, on 3 May 1653. She testified that she was 16 or 17 years old and that her grandfather, Andrew Yonge, kept an inn at Lissan. James McIveagh came to drink and called Yonge out of bed. “Yonge was verry vnwilling, being an Ould Craysie man, yet McIvagh was soe Important, that hee got vp & went to the fyer side.” He picked a fight with Yonge, drew his sword and thrust him in the side, leaving him to die two or three hours later. The volumes preserve original spellings but include some modern punctuation. They also contain where the original deposition is located in the bound volumes. There are separate indexes by person and place, and numbers represent the deposition number rather than page number.

If you have Protestant ancestors in Ulster at this time, these volumes are worth examining.

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Library Obituary Collections: Michiana Region
by Sara Allen

Obituaries provide key information about an ancestor’s life. Beyond names, dates and places, obituaries can shed light on the decedent’s personality, interests, affiliations and vocation. In order to locate an ancestor’s obituary, the first places to check are the local libraries and genealogical societies in the town or county where the person died, which often hold copies of the town’s historical newspapers (in print, microfilm, or online) and usually will provide copies by mail for a small fee. Many of these organizations have compiled print or online obituary indexes to help facilitate finding the correct obituary, if the date of death is unknown. Obituary indexes can be searchable by name, date, address, name of newspaper, and/or keyword (which might include survivors, cause of death, or other details from the obituary itself).

For example, if you seek the obituary of a person who lived in Michiana (North Central Indiana and Southwest Michigan), many of the libraries and societies there have posted links on their websites to obituary indexes or to actual digitized obituaries for their communities. In the Michiana area, the South Bend newspapers run obituaries for persons from all of the smaller communities within St. Joseph County and for many persons from the seven surrounding counties. Check out the impressive online obituary sources for this region:

“Bremen Enquirer” Online Obituaries, April 1884-2009
"Elkhart Truth" Obituary Index, 1921-present
(www.myepl.org/epl/cgi-bin/obituary_search.php)

Michigan City Obituary Index, 1887-present
(www.mclib.org/genealogy/obituaryindex.html)

Nappanee Obituary Index
(http://history.nappanee.lib.in.us/obituaries.asp)

New Carlisle Online Obituaries, search the keyword field for the word obituary and the name of the deceased
(https://ncpl.follettdestiny.com/common/welcome.jsp?context=saas19_1301713)

Niles, Michigan, Obituary Index, click link off the home page
(www.nileslibrary.net/)

"Plymouth Pilot" Obituary Index, July 1922-May 1983
(www.plymouth.lib.in.us/resources/genealogy/plymouth-newspapers-obituary-index.aspx)

"South Bend Times" Index, 1881-1913
(www.sbags.org/times.htm)

"South Bend Tribune" Obituary Index, 1913-present
(www2.sjcpl.org/db/obits)

Wakarusa Online Obituaries
(http://wakarusa.lib.in.us/historical/obituaries.asp)

"Walkerton News" Index, 1886-1929
(http://sbags.org/walkerton.htm)

No matter where the person lived, once it is determined where the local newspapers are archived and if there is an index, chances are an obituary can be found if one exists. If the search comes up empty at the local and regional levels, there is often a statewide organization that collects newspapers from all over a particular state, usually the state library, archives, historical or genealogical society. In Indiana, this organization is the Newspaper Division of the Indiana State Library in Indianapolis. Not does the Indiana State Library retain print or microfilm copies of newspapers from every county in the state of Indiana, it also lends most of the microfilm copies on Interlibrary Loan to other libraries. Interlibrary loan requests should be initiated at your local library. The Indiana State Library also has a small, but growing collection of online newspapers at:
https://newspapers.library.in.gov/

To get started searching for family obituaries, consult a list of libraries in the United States by following this link: www.publiclibraries.com/ or by checking in the print source, "American Library Directory" (GC 027 AM3a, 2010-2011).

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Technology Tip of the Month--Adobe Elements 12 Guided Tab
by Kay Spears
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As I mentioned in a previous column, there are three tabs to choose from with the most recent Elements software: Quick, Guided and Expert. We are going to explore Guided with this article. I will start out by saying I wish this option had been available to me when I was learning how to
maneuver through Photoshop. Almost every tool you will want to use when restoring photographs is here, and just by pressing buttons you can see what all those tools do. I would suggest that to see just what some of these buttons do, you choose a color photograph with a little bit of dirt on it. As a beginner, you really want to see what a tool is doing and some of the effects using a black and white photo are too subtle.

The first thing you should notice when you open up the Guided section, is that on the left-hand side where your tools are usually located you will find only two, the Zoom and Hand. All the other tools are on the right-hand side and they are arranged by category. They are: Touchups, Photo Effects and Photo Play. The very first tool is Brightness and Contrast. You maneuver through each tool basically the same, although some tools have more than one option. The Brightness and Contrast tool has an Auto-Fix and a Brightness and Contrast slide bar. Under each of those are very simple instructions as to what you should do. Because your photograph is open, you can watch how each one of these options affects it. When you are finished, you either click Done or Cancel. If you choose Done, the image will be changed. If you choose Cancel, your changes will be canceled and the image will remain as it was before.

There are some choices that have thumbnail photographs at the top of the Options pane. By rolling your cursor over a thumbnail, you are able to see a before and after view of the photo. This gives you an idea of just what the effect will do to your photo.

There are some options that have more than one tool, for instance Restore Old Photo has 11. And some options, for example the Tilt Shift, force you to do steps in order. You cannot start on step 2 if you haven’t done step 1.

You can jump between Quick, Guided and Expert to see what you are doing. The problem I had with this was that after I did all of my adjustments in Guided and jumped over to look at them in Expert, I just saw a number of layers in the Layer Palette. If I wasn’t familiar with the Layer Palette, just looking at the different ones in Expert probably wouldn’t help me learn. However, for beginners and some not-so-new beginners, the Guided portion of Elements is really handy.

I suggest you pick a couple of different photographs and go through every single option in the Guided portion. There are some really fascinating effects available.

Next article: Adobe Elements 12 New Tools.

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Quick-Tip of the Month for Preservation--Plan Now to Attend Preservation Lecture Sessions!
by Dawne Slater, CG(SM)*
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Each year in April, the American Library Association celebrates Preservation Week: Pass It On and encourages libraries, individuals and other organizations and institutions to initiate and participate in events and projects to preserve personal history and community history. You can join The Genealogy Center this year for a series of free presentations having to do with photographs - taking them, manipulating them, sharing them, and preserving them. Our lecture sessions will be Sunday, April 26, through Saturday, May 2, and are described in the “Programming” section of this
issue of Genealogy Gems. See if the lectures will fit into your schedule, and then call us at 260-421-1225 to register.

One of the special events during Preservation Week is this year’s A Day in Allen County. On Friday, May 5, we encourage everyone to take photos of virtually anything - or nothing - that is happening within the borders of Allen County, Indiana, during those 24 hours and to send the photos to us. The objective of this annual project is to capture the great events and the mundane, the beautiful sights and the boring ones - anything goes as long as it is on May 1 in Allen County. This is a Friday, so teenagers and teachers and college students could photograph something happening at school and working adults could snap pictures of something in the workplace. Retirees, those who work from home, and stay-at-home parents can take photographs around their houses. Maybe there will be extracurricular or sporting events going on at the local high schools, colleges, recreational leagues, or with our minor league sports teams. Going out to dinner with your significant other or hitting the clubs with friends? Take a selfie! Staying home watching TV or playing games? Let’s see what you look like in your bunny slippers! What will Mother Nature bring us on May 1? We want to see that, too! Several people took photos of the moody sky on 2014’s Day in Allen County day. Let your imagination be your guide and help us build the widest possible snapshot of our county, frozen in time on that single day.

We will welcome your Day in Allen County submissions via email at Genealogy@ACPL.info; on Twitter with the hashtag #DayinAllenCo2015 or by tagging us @ACPLGenealogy; on Instagram with the same hashtag, #DayinAllenCo2015, or by tagging us @GenealogyCenter; or on our Genealogy Center Facebook page: www.Facebook.com/GenealogyCenter.

For more ideas about how you can celebrate Preservation Week, visit the Preservation Week page on the American Library Association’s website, www.ala.org/alcts/confevents/preswk.

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Yes, It’s March Madness, Genealogy Style

Rebound into your research with March Madness, Genealogy Style! Hear about the life of basketball great, John Wooden at the History Center, and then join The Genealogy Center staff and friends for some back-to-basics research essentials.

Sunday, March 1, 2015, 2 p.m., The History Center, 302 East Berry Street, Ft. Wayne, Indiana - “Hardwood Glory: A Life of John Wooden” by Barbara Olenyik Morrow.

Monday, March 2, 2015, 2 p.m., Allen County Public Library, Meeting Room A - “Colonial Southern Overview: What You Need to Know Before You Start Your Research” by Delia Bourne.

Tuesday, March 3, 2015, 2 p.m., Allen County Public Library, Meeting Room A - “Genealogical Research in Colonial New England” by John Beatty.
Wednesday, March 4, 2015, 2 p.m., Allen County Public Library, Meeting Room A - “Using Clues in the 1880 Census to Solve Earlier Research Challenges” by Cynthia Theusch.

Thursday, March 5, 2015, 10 a.m., Allen County Public Library, Meeting Room A - “Finding Family in Pre-1850 Census Records and Census Substitutes” by Sara Allen.

Friday, March 6, 2015, 10 a.m., Allen County Public Library, Meeting Room A - “We All Deserve a Second Chance! Taking another Look at the Early Records in Our Files” by Dawne Slater.

Saturday, March 7, 2015, 10 a.m., Allen County Public Library, Meeting Room A - “History and Records of Indiana’s ‘Gore’” by Tina Lyons.

To register for any of these free programs, call 260-421-1225 or send an email to Genealogy@ACPL.Info. For more information, see the March Madness, Genealogy Style brochure at www.GenealogyCenter.org/docs/MarchMadness2015.

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March Is Women’s History Month!
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Female ancestors are difficult to uncover because they are “hidden” within records. Understanding the laws and situations that affected women helps us locate them. Join Melissa Tennant to gain new insight into locating your female ancestors on Tuesday, March 17, 2015, at 3 p.m., in Meeting Room A. To register for this free session, call 260-421-1225 or email Genealogy@ACPL.Info.

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Looking Ahead—Exciting Programs in April and May
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***Preservation Week: Pass It On … Through Photography***

The American Library Association’s “Pass It On” Preservation Week will be highlighted in The Genealogy Center by a focus on photography. What better way to pass along personal, family, organizational or community history than in photographs? The Genealogy Center has a great week planned, with sessions that discuss how to take better photos, organizing and scrapbooking, posting photographs on social media, and historical photographers in Fort Wayne. And a highlight of the week is “A Day in Allen County,” a chance for everyone to contribute images of the events of a single day (Friday, May 1st) to ACPL’s Community Album. Attend the sessions, take photographs, and Pass It On!

Sunday, April 26, 2015, 1 p.m., Meeting Room A: “Photographers and Photography of Fort Wayne, Indiana, 1843-1930” by John Beatty.

Monday, April 27, 2015, 6:30 p.m., Meeting Room A: “How to Look at Your Photographs, Analyze & Organize” by Kay Spears.

Tuesday, April 28, 2015, 6:30 p.m., Meeting Room A: “Scrapbooking Your Photographs” by Sara
Allen.

Wednesday, April 29, 2015, 6:30 p.m., Meeting Room A: “Taking Better Photographs” by Bob Albertson.

Thursday, April 30, 2015, 6:30 p.m. Meeting Room A: “Preserving Photos on Social Media & in the Cloud” by Dawne Slater.

Friday, May 1, 2015: A Day in Allen County - Picture sharing event. See below.

Saturday, May 2, 2015, 2-4 p.m. Meeting Room B-C: A Preservation and Care of Photographs Discussion.

***A Day in Allen County: May 1, 2015***

We invite you to capture a day in Allen County, Indiana! On Friday, May 1, 2015, take pictures of anything and everything that is happening in our county in that twenty-four hour time period, and send them to us! What is your view of Allen County that day? These pictures are not limited to marquee events. We want to capture what is going on throughout the entire community, so pictures can be of people at work, children at play, sporting events, weather and blooming flowers, homes and buildings, traffic scenes, hikers and bikers, and people just hanging out. Include a description you would like put with the picture. If it’s happening in the twenty-four hours of May 1st in Allen County, it’s worth capturing!

Email pictures to Genealogy@ACPL.Info
Twitter #DayinAllenCo2015
Upload pictures at www.facebook.com/GenealogyCenter
Instagram @GenealogyCenter #DayinAllenCo2015

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Area Calendar of Events
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George Mather Lecture Series
1 March 2015 - History Center, 302 East Berry Street, Fort Wayne, Indiana, 2 p.m. Barbara Olenyik Morrow will present “Hardwood Glory: A Life of John Wooden,” 2 p.m. Lecture & book signing.

DAR Research Help
4 March 2015 - Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center, 900 Library Plaza, Fort Wayne, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. The Mary Penrose Wayne Chapter of the National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) is available to help prospective DAR members research their lineage to prove ancestry to an American Revolutionary Patriot.

Allen County Genealogical Society of Indiana Meeting
11 March 2015 - Allen County Public Library, 900 Library Plaza, Fort Wayne, Indiana, 6:30 p.m. social time, 7 p.m. Kay Spears will present “Photograph Preservation.”
Driving Directions to the Library
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Wondering how to get to the library? Our location is 900 Library Plaza, Fort Wayne, Indiana, in the block bordered on the south by Washington Boulevard, the west by Ewing Street, the north by Wayne Street, and the east by the Library Plaza, formerly Webster Street. We would enjoy having you visit the Genealogy Center.

To get directions from your exact location to 900 Library Plaza, Fort Wayne, Indiana, visit this link at MapQuest:
http://www.mapquest.com/maps/map.adp?formtype=address&addtohistory=&address=900%20Webster%20St&city=Fort%20Wayne&state=IN&zipcode=46802%2d3602&country=US&geodiff=1

>From the South
Exit Interstate 69 at exit 102. Drive east on Jefferson Boulevard into downtown. Turn left on Ewing Street. The Library is one block north, at Ewing Street and Washington Boulevard.

Using US 27:
US 27 turns into Lafayette Street. Drive north into downtown. Turn left at Washington Boulevard and go five blocks. The Library will be on the right.

>From the North
Exit Interstate 69 at exit 112. Drive south on Coldwater Road, which merges into Clinton Street. Continue south on Clinton to Washington Boulevard. Turn right on Washington and go three blocks. The Library will be on the right.

>From the West
Using US 30:
Drive into town on US 30. US 30 turns into Goshen Ave. which dead-ends at West State Blvd. Make an angled left turn onto West State Blvd. Turn right on Wells Street. Go south on Wells to Wayne Street. Turn left on Wayne Street. The Library will be in the second block on the right.

Using US 24:
After crossing under Interstate 69, follow the same directions as from the South.

>From the East
Follow US 30/then 930 into and through New Haven, under an overpass into downtown Fort Wayne. You will be on Washington Blvd. when you get into downtown. Library Plaza will be on the right.
Parking at the Library

At the Library, underground parking can be accessed from Wayne Street. Other library parking lots are at Washington and Webster, and Wayne and Webster. Hourly parking is $1 per hour with a $7 maximum. ACPL library card holders may use their cards to validate the parking ticket at the west end of the Great Hall of the Library. Out of county residents may purchase a subscription card with proof of identification and residence. The current fee for an Individual Subscription Card is $70.

Public lots are located at the corner of Ewing and Wayne Streets ($1 each for the first two half-hours, $1 per hour after, with a $4 per day maximum) and the corner of Jefferson Boulevard and Harrison Street ($3 per day).

Street (metered) parking on Ewing and Wayne Streets. On the street you plug the meters 8am – 5pm, weekdays only. It is free to park on the street after 5pm and on the weekends.

Visitor center/Grand Wayne Center garage at Washington and Clinton Streets. This is the Hilton Hotel parking lot that also serves as a day parking garage. For hourly parking, 7am – 11 pm, charges are .50 for the first 45 minutes, then $1.00 per hour. There is a flat $2.00 fee between 5pm and 11pm.

Genealogy Center Queries

The Genealogy Center hopes you find this newsletter interesting. Thank you for subscribing. We cannot, however, answer personal research emails written to the e-zine address. The department houses a Research Center that makes photocopies and conducts research for a fee.

If you have a general question about our collection, or are interested in the Research Center, please telephone the library and speak to a librarian who will be glad to answer your general questions or send you a research center form. Our telephone number is 260-421-1225. If you’d like to email a general information question about the department, please email: Genealogy@ACPL.Info.

Publishing Note:

This electronic newsletter is published by the Allen County Public Library’s Genealogy Center, and is intended to enlighten readers about genealogical research methods as well as inform them about the vast resources of the Allen County Public Library. We welcome the wide distribution of this newsletter and encourage readers to forward it to their friends and societies. All precautions have been made to avoid errors. However, the publisher does not assume any liability to any party for any loss or damage caused by errors or omissions, no matter the cause.

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notified with a confirmation email.

If you do not want to receive this e-zine, please follow the link at the very bottom of the issue of Genealogy Gems you just received or send an email to kspears@acpl.lib.in.us with "unsubscribe e-zine" in the subject line.

Dawne Slater, CG & Curt Witcher, co-editors