



Lewis County Genealogical Society

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<http://www.rootsweb.com/~walcgs>

Volume #15 Issue #1

Jan-Feb 2005

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Happy New Year 2005

Hope everyone had a prosperous holiday season and are ready to jump back into our favorite hobby – genealogy. I have been a little slow responding to my genealogical correspondences, so much get back in the swing of things.

Lewis County Genealogical Society is planning a Fall seminar co-sponsored by the Lewis County Historical Museum. More information will be given when the details are confirmed.

We have been busy moving our Research Library into the Lewis County Historical Museum. The library is located in Gallery III and will be self serve. At this time we are unsure when a LCGS member will be available on a regular basis. However, there will be a notice with names and phone numbers to contact with questions. The LCGS Research Library includes research materials relating outside of Lewis County. The LCHM Library will continue to have the most conclusive collection for Lewis County research. Should a visitor of the LCGS Library need copies made, the museum library will make copies at their standard copy price. Our membership can access the Lewis County GS Research Library by presenting their membership card, however, if you choose to also conduct research in the museum library or observe the museum displays, the standard admittance will apply.

The slate of officers for 2005-06 are President-open; 1st VP Victoria Stewart; 2nd VP Carol Johnson; Secretary Joan Hulse; and Treasurer Linda Patton. The President's position is open and waiting for a **VOLUNTEER**. We will vote and install the new officers at the Jan meeting. Teresa Parnell-Jordan and Leslie Parnell will continue as co-editors of the newsletters. Program has not been determined at this time.

Important Note: All of the website addresses in the newsletter are “**click able**” directly from this word document. Hold down the **Ctrl key + click** to follow the links!

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LCGS Meeting – Jan 18th at 7pm PUD Bldg.

Scot Origins

Scots Origins features a Free IGI search, access to Origins Experts research of authentic Scottish records from 1700 to 1990, a Free Scottish Place search, and expert articles and discussion on Scottish history. www.scotsorigins.com

How to write a Successful Genealogy Query

Make the most out of online genealogy message boards and mailing lists by learning how to write a clear and effective query. Here's how:

1. Select a focused topic for your query – you will achieve the best results if you limit your query to a single surname or question.
2. Use your subject line wisely – make sure that it clearly reflects the information you are seeking. "Need Help" is not as likely to get results as a subject heading which contains a surname and location.
3. Separate your information into paragraphs – this makes it easier to scan quickly. The first paragraph should contain the who, what, when and where of your request. This helps to attract the attention of your audience.
4. The second paragraph should state what you already know. Letting people know which places you have already checked for information will help to cut down on unnecessary suggestions.
5. The final paragraph should provide any further details about what you don't know and what you specifically are hoping to find.
6. Include only one surname or question per query. Too many requests may decrease your chances for response. You will have much better results if you post each individual surname/family as a separate query.
7. Include your name and email address at the bottom of your query.
8. Read through your query at least once before sending it. Did you include all of the pertinent information? Does it make sense? It is easy to read?
9. Post your query to the appropriate forum – there are forums available for a wide variety of topics, including surnames, countries/regions and specialty topics such as military research.
10. Keep a log of the times and places where you post your queries. This

makes it easier to go back and check for responses.

11. Be sure to thank anyone who responds to your query, whether you found the information helpful or not.

Tips:

- Include surnames in CAPITAL LETTERS in the Subject line and the first time you use it in the query.
- Be specific. People do not often respond to queries such as "Send me all information about the PARNELL family".
- Check online sources for answers to general research questions before posting to a list. Genealogists love to help those who help themselves.
- Try to stay away from using too many abbreviations unless your space is limited. Many researchers may not recognize the abbreviations you are using.
- Try to use an email address you will be sticking with. There are thousands of queries on the Internet with no way to reach the posters because the email address is invalid.

Irish Origins

Irish Origins is the most authentic source for Irish genealogy information online, featuring the definitive version of Griffith's Primary Valuation of Ireland records and maps, the most important Irish genealogy research source prior to the 20th century, as well as the one-of-a-kind Irish Wills Index (1484-1858), THE 1851 Dublin City Census, Irish Royal Garrison Artillery Records, and our new Irish Origins Image Gallery, all accessible via a free Irish name search. www.irishorigins.com

Historic Map reproductions in Digital Form

www.goldbug.com/digitalmaps.html

Cemetery Records

Lots to search from, even other countries!
www.interment.net/default.htm

Scanning Tips for Digital Photos

1. **Check your photos** for dirt, lint, or smudges. Gently remove surface dust and dirt with a soft brush or lint-free photo wipe.
2. **Check the scanner glass** for lint, hair, fingerprints, or smudges. Use a lint-free pad or wipe to thoroughly clean the glass (basically anything which is sold as safe for cleaning camera lenses will also work for your scanner). Household glass cleaner can be used to clean your scanner glass, as long as you're careful to spray it directly on the cloth before wiping, not directly on the glass surface. When using your scanner or handling photographs, it is best to wear clean white cotton gloves (available from photo stores and hardware stores) to avoid leaving skin oils on your scanner or photos.
3. **Specify the type of scan.** If you're scanning photos, you have a basic choice of color photo vs. black/white. When scanning family photos, it is usually best to scan in color, even if the source photo is black & white. You'll have more manipulation options, and you can change a color photo to black & white (grayscale), but not the other way around.
4. **Determine the best scan resolution** to assure the quality and usefulness of your digital photos. The optimal resolution depends on how the image will be printed, saved, or displayed. A good rule of thumb is to scan your photos at the minimum of 300 dpi (dots per inch) to assure decent quality for enhancement and restoration techniques. 600 dpi or greater is even better if you plan to eventually store these photos on CD or DVD, and have the space on your computer hard drive to handle such large images short-term.
5. **Carefully position your photo** on the scanner face down on the glass, just like on a photocopy machine. Then hit "prescan" or "preview". The scanner will take a quick pass of the image and display a rough version on your screen. Check to see that it's straight, that no part of the photo has been cut off, and that the photo appears free of dust and lint.
6. **Crop the previewed image** to include only the original photo. For archival purposes you should not crop only a portion at this point (you can do that later if you want a cropped photo for a specific

purpose), but you should make sure that all you are scanning is the actual photograph. Some scanners and software will do this step for you automatically.

7. **Avoid corrections** while scanning. After scanning, you'll be able to edit the image in a graphics software program which offers much more control. The order should be: 1) Scan a basic image, 2) Save it, 3) Play with it.
8. **Check you file size** to make sure that the resolution you have chosen isn't going to create a photo that is so large that it's going to crash your computer. Some computers have enough free memory to handle 34mb photo files, and some don't. If the file size is going to be larger than you thought, then adjust the scan resolution accordingly before making the file scan.
9. **Scan the original image.** This shouldn't take too long, but could take a few minutes if you're scanning at a very high resolution. Take a quick bathroom break, or get your next photo ready for scanning.

Next time: Storage tips for digital photos & enhancement tips for digital photos.

Isn't genealogy fun? The answer to one problem, leads to two more!

Newsletter items need
to be in by March 1st
please.

*Friends come and go,
but relatives tend to accumulate*

Membership Dues

Lewis County Genealogical Society membership runs January through December. Cost for one person is \$12 and for a couple in the same household is \$15. Membership includes a bimonthly newsletter. We meet January-June, September-November at the Lewis County Historical Society Museum meeting room, 599 NW Front St., Chehalis WA, on the third Tuesday evening of the months listed. Research trips are planned periodically. Please return the membership form to: LEWIS COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, PO BOX 782 CHEHALIS WA 98532-0782.

My/Our membership should read:

Name & Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Preference to have newsletter by **email** _____ (attachment), or **standard postal mail**? _____

_____ Check for \$12 enclosed for 2005 membership

_____ Check for \$15 enclosed for 2005 membership

Permission to print member information in the newsletter? ___yes ___no

Please list surnames and states being researched: _____

Free Queries can be submitted for the newsletter.

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