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Did You Know? by Libby Feil

As many of you know, St. Joseph County Public Library's Local & Family History Services takes some research questions from out-of-area and homebound genealogists. Although we can't research your whole family tree for you, we are more than happy to help you answer specific questions. For instance, we can send you a copy of an ancestor's obituary, or we can check our birth and death indexes for your ancestor's name. Here's a peek behind the scenes to show you how the system works!

The process starts when you send us your specific research queries. You can send them in by phone (574-282-4621), e-mail (local.history@sjcpl.org), IM (asksjcplh), or mail (L&FH, SJCPL, 304 S. Main, South Bend, IN 46601). Please visit our web page (www.libraryforlife.org/aboutsjcpl/departments/localhistory/query/query.html) that explains our policies.

My colleague Kevin Wadzinski is in charge of patron queries. He collects all the questions, logs them in on our computer, and then turns most of them over to our capable query volunteers, Toni Cook and Irv Morse. (LH staff members answer some of the questions as well.) Toni and Irv pull out each query, in the order in which it was received, and try to answer your question. They will send you copies of any information they find along with an invoice. (We charge \$10 per hour of research, with a minimum charge of \$5.) You then send us a check, and the process is complete!

Upcoming Local and Regional Events, by Sara Allen

- Sunday, September 23: "The War," a film about World War II by Ken Burns, will premiere on PBS. The 7-part series will continue through the next week. "The War: Michiana's Experience," a local documentary, will premiere on Thursday, Sept. 27, 2007 on WNIT. Visit www.wnit.org for broadcast times, and stop by Local & Family History Services to see our related display.
- Monday, September 24: The South Bend Area Genealogical Society will host its first monthly meeting of the fall at the First Christian Church in South Bend at 6:30 pm. First, enjoy a coffee and cake mixer. Then, at 7, listen to local speaker Matt Baumgartner. A full list of meetings and events, as well as information on joining the society, can be found on the SBAGS website at www.rootsweb.com/~insbags/.
- Friday-Sunday, September 28-30: "Polish Genealogical Society of America: Bridges to the Past" is a three-day conference to be held in Schaumburg, Illinois. Featured speakers include Steve Morse, Ceil Jensen, and Paul Valasek. See www.pgasa.org for more information.
- Saturday, September 29: "Solving Ancestral Mysteries with a Variety of Genealogical Sources" will be an all-day conference in Lawrence, Michigan, featuring nationally-known speaker Shirley Hodges. Sponsored by the Van Buren Regional Genealogical Society. \$25 admission. For more details and to register, visit www.rootsweb.com/~mivbrgs/2007Seminar.htm.