I have seen a few programs advertised on TV lately that aim to exercise your brain, improving your memory and general “brain” fitness. I have also seen claims that crossword puzzles, sudoku, trivia questions and various speed-based quizzes keep your brain on its toes, so to speak. I find these puzzles fun to do, but keeping our genealogy thinking skills sharp can be fun, too, and even practical in terms of our ultimate research goals.

George Morgan had an interesting article on exercising his research skills in his Ancestry column of 26 October 2007. One of his activities is called “The Tombstone Game”. Every once in a while when searching a cemetery, he will pick a tombstone at random and copy down all the data on the stone. When he goes home, he tries to collect as much data as possible on that unknown person using computer databases. He finds that in following such a trail, he may happen upon new online resources he hasn’t seen before or perhaps hasn’t taken the time to access yet; he will go into new geographic locations that he isn’t used to, or look at unfamiliar types of records. Sometimes he can find a lot of information, and sometimes very little.

I mentioned genealogy blogs earlier this year. I find “The Genealogue” at <www.genealogue.com> entertaining and light-hearted. This blogger has a regular feature called the “Genealogue Challenge” - sort of like pop quizzes in high school but more fun. Even if you can’t figure out how to answer the challenge yourself, the answers offered in the Comments will show you how other people approached the problem. For example, the latest challenge is typical: “I remember Sterling Holloway from his guest roles on The Andy Griffith Show and Gilligan’s Island, but the younger set will know him as the voice of Disney’s Winnie the Pooh. What was the full name of his maternal grandmother's undertaker?”

I really enjoy using the census, wringing as much information as possible out of the data, speculating on why such different answers on the same person can show up at 10 year intervals. Sometimes, when I am more in “fooling around” mode, I practice searching out brothers and sisters, cousins, aunts and uncles of my ancestors. They are still connected to my lines, but I might not otherwise take the time to follow them out. I often have less initial information to work with, so I have to depend on the information in the census entry in front of me to work my way forward or back in time. These little fishing expeditions can come up with some interesting twists - following a migration trail and finding other relatives living together, discovering that a neighbor was really an in-law, picking up varying dates of immigration for a family. Try it yourself when you need a short break from a brick wall.

I’d like to wish everyone a nice holiday and successful New Year, especially in their genealogical searching.

18 Sep 2007 DCGS meeting
“The Hudson Valley in the American Revolution”
Roland Ormsby <reormsby@optonline.net>

Dutchess County was right in the middle of revolutionary activity in the Hudson Valley, sending supplies and equipment both north and south. Victor A. Salamone discussed the strategic importance of Dutchess County and surrounding areas in the Revolution.

Victor A. Salamone is a retired New York State Social Studies teacher. He is a co-author of eight books on World War II. He holds a Master’s Degree in Modern European History from Fordham University and another Master’s from Manhattan College in Religious Studies. He has studied the military history for twenty years and annually attends a Civil War Symposium in Petersburg, Virginia.

20 Nov 2007 DCGS Meeting
by Christine Crawford-Oppenheimer <cco4cats@prodigy.net>

At the November meeting, Christine Crawford-Oppenheimer spoke on the topic “Share Your Heritage with a Family Cookbook.” Family recipes passed down through the generations are one aspect of genealogical tradition, and can help put flesh on the bones—figuratively and literally!—of family history. Learning about the foods your ancestors ate can really make them come alive for you, and it may help you to understand other aspects of the family. Trying out recipes is a way to get other family members, who may not get as excited as we do about family charts, interested in family history.

A family cookbook may contain recipes of one person or many, recipes of the acclaimed best cook in the family or favorite recipes of many family members. A manuscript family recipe book handed down through the generations can be a basis for a family cookbook. Don’t use published recipes directly without permission, either from a cookbook, or from a product box.
Before putting the book together, look at published cookbooks to identify a recipe style that you find easy to follow. Use that style for your cookbook. Write for the lowest common denominator; assume that some users may not cook regularly, but dearly want to make Great-grandmother’s cookies.

Proof-read by eye. A spell-checker will be quite happy with both “cook” and “cool,” but there’s a big difference between them. Have several people, including some who aren’t expert cooks, test each recipe, preferably from proof pages for the book. If anyone has a problem with a recipe, rewrite it.

Give the cook book a catchy and unique title (not “Favorite Recipes”!). Be sure that each recipe is attributed to the person who contributed it. Write an introduction for each recipe, describing why it’s important for the family. If a title has a story behind it, include that in the introduction.

Include family stories that relate to food, poignantly as well as funny, and mealtime traditions such as graces or toasts. Photos of people whose recipes appear, the family at dinner, family picnics, etc., and some of the food items will add interest. Also include genealogical charts to show the relationships of the recipe donors.

Index recipe titles, and cross-index by other significant words. Make a second index to proper names, people and places mentioned in the book.


Talk to several copy and print shops about reproduction options. You may get ideas from different shops that you end up combining. The best binding option is one that allows the cookbook to stay open when someone is using it.

Ms. Crawford-Oppenheimer is the reference librarian and archivist at The Culinary Institute of America, as well as a genealogical author and speaker. Her publications include a book, Long-Distance Genealogy, and articles in several national and regional genealogical periodicals, including the National Genealogical Society Quarterly.

***************

Library Report
by Linda C. Koehler

The following book and CD-ROM titles have been added to the library over the last year. Most of the titles have already been included in the library catalog that is posted online on our website at <www.dcgsgen.org>. To see the complete online listing, click on the link “Library Info” and under the section titled “What’s available” click on the link “for a sample of our library holdings”.


Barr, F. Richard, transcriber. Church of the Assumption, Syracuse, NY. Baptisms 1844-1860. Central New York Genealogical Society, December 2004. 160 pp., indexed. Specially bound volume of the quarterly Tree Talks, Vol.46 #4 (December, 2006) -shelf with regular issues of Tree Talks quarterly [Call number 974.77 / Ono]. This Catholic Church was incorporated by German immigrants, but also served the general area, including the many Irish who were immigrating in large numbers at the time. Entries usually include names of child, parents and sponsors, date of birth, date of baptism, and name of officiating priest.


Bruno, Maryann and Elizabeth A. Daniels. Vassar College. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publ, c2001. The College History Series. 128pp, laminated softcover, photos. Photographic history of the college with extensive captions covers the period from the founding of the college in 1861 to the present. [Call # 974.77/Dut]


Chisamore, Donald R., transcr. The 1875 and 1891 Diaries of George K. Taber, Pawling, New York. [2006] Computer manuscript, 168pp. The compiler has transcribed the contents of 2 diaries from the original volumes kept for the year 1875 and for 1891 by George K. Taber, a farmer of Pawling, NY who was active in his local Baptist Church. Most diary entries are relatively brief and straightforward. They always mention the weather, often record financial transactions, and cover farm chores done. The compiler has abstracted some of the events for each year into separate lists - funerals noted, notable events of the year, goods purchased by Taber, Baptist Church members. There is no index, per se, but Mr. Chisamore does include a list of all the names noted in each diary, with a separate list of family members mentioned. [Call # 929.2/T]
Crego of Dutchess County to be appointed guardian of Martha Dean, Josias being a step-son of Richard Sackett.

Crego, Roy. Update to A Selective History of the Crego Family (Number 10, 12 July 2007) 1-page update with some new information to add to Roy Crego’s family history originally published in 1993. Donated by the author.

DAR Patriot Index Centennial Edition. Washington:1990. 3 vols. Published by National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution Centennial Administration. Copyright 1994. 3363pp. Part I A-F; Part II G-O, Part III P-Z; map and list of abbreviations. Indexes men & women whose service in the Revolution has been established by the DAR. Data extracted from original applications for membership in DAR in addition to name may include date and place of birth & death, name of spouse, rank & type of service, if pension papers are known to exist. [Call # 929/D] Donated by Robert Jackson.

Haslam, Patricia Liddle. Richard Patrick or Partrick of Norwalk, Conn. And Some of His Descendants. (Barre, VT, 1978). Paper, 129pp, index, photos and maps, appendix. A genealogical work in progress, presenting various primary and secondary sources, covering descendants (some as far as 9 generations) of the Richard Patrick who appears in Norwalk, CT records by 1725. Some descendants were in Dutchess County by the early 19th century. There are additional handwritten notes added to the text by the author. Donated by author. [Call # 929.2/Pat]


Records of the Reformed Dutch Church of Bergen, N.J. now Jersey City “containing an account of the founding of the town, the early families and the registers of consistories, members, marriages, baptisms and burials”. Collections of the Holland Society of New York Vol. IV. Reprinted from the Holland Society Year Books of 1913, 1914, 1915. Baptisms 1666-1788; marriages 1665-1788, burials 1666-1788, members 1664-1788 (each section indexed). Includes historical sketches of the church, the founding of Bergen and its firstsettlers. [Call # 974.9/R]

Reese, William Willis, compiler. Eighteenth Century Records of the portion of Dutchess County New York that was included in Rombout Precinct and the original Town of Fishkill. Presenting Historical Source-Material Regarding Land and People. Edited by Helen Wilkinson Reynolds. Poughkeepsie, NY: 1938. (continued next issue)
Membership
By Roland E. Ormsby, Membership VP
reormsby@optonline.net

New members and those submitting address corrections or a new set of surnames are listed by membership number. NOTE: E-mail addresses are updated only if a new US Postal address or surname list is included. Names being researched are in **bold** type, * indicates there are additional derivations of the name, but not submitted.

These lists are available by mail to members only.