

Variety of tools at genealogists' fingertips

Here are some odds and ends genealogists can use:

- Check out the Brigham Young University Web site www.lib.byu.edu/fhc/.

Thousands of family histories from six libraries have been scanned onto this searchable Web site.

You can search by surname, title, author or all, and print out a copy of specific pages or the entire original book. This collection is expanded weekly.

- Another Internet source I have just discovered is the Images Database Category on Yahoo, Google and other search engines.

There are several categories to choose on these search engines: Web, images, audio, shopping and others.

Choosing "Images" lets the search engine search only scanned items. You can search a surname or subject. You can expect to find: new and old photographs of people, animals, scanned original records, obituaries, cemetery stones and many others.

- Also found recently is Web site for The Polis Center at IUPUI, www.polis.iupui.edu/ruc. It has several local timelines



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GENEALOGY

that are helpful. One that interested me is A Timeline of Faith and Community: Greenwood, 1823-1996, from the Religion and Urban Culture section.

- Did you know that the present Johnson County Courthouse is the fifth specific building for courts in Johnson County since 1823?

Actually, there were two houses used for court before a courthouse was built. Court was held in 1823 at Sheriff John Smiley's two-room log cabin five miles east of Franklin and George King's home in Franklin in 1824.

The first courthouse, where the Artcraft Theatre is located, was a two-story log building with a side wooden staircase to the second floor.

The second courthouse was

built in 1832 at a cost of \$1,776.50. It was deemed unsafe in 1847 and burned in 1849.

The third courthouse was built in 1849 by Edwin May, the architect of the Indiana Statehouse at a cost of \$10,084. It was a two-story building located in the same courthouse square as the present building.

It burned in 1874, and a temporary building was built on the southeast corner of Monroe and Main streets until a new building could be constructed.

Construction began on the fifth and present courthouse in 1870. It was designed by architect George W. Bunting and built by the firm Farman and Pierce for an original bid of \$79,000.

After some additions were agreed on, the price amounted to \$100,000. The courthouse was completed in December 1881. A \$2.3 million renovation was begun in June 1983. It was rededicated Aug. 12, 1984.

- William Bissett, a weaver born in Scotland, lived in Franklin in the 1850s. His way of advertising included tacking up a piece of coverlet on a board on the front of his house.

He did a thriving business, and it is said for one family alone he

wove 12 coverlets. He left Franklin the year after the Civil War and died in Chillicothe, Mo., in 1888.

Something I have recently learned about genealogy: Other people aren't as interested as I am in my family history project.

Have you ever begun to tell someone, even a family member, about an interesting fact about your Uncle George or the great-great-grandfather who was a

Civil War veteran, and that person's eyes become half-closed with boredom?

Remember that when you visit a library or a historical society. Only tell the librarian or volunteer information that is necessary to help you find the answers to your questions.

Contact Linda Kelly Talley of the Johnson County Museum of History at ltalley@co.johnson.in.us.



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Ceramic tile with bronze glass inserts over the sink complements a granite countertop and backsplash in the Willman home on the southside.



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and custom cabinets.

Extensive discussions between the homeowners and decorators at Cornerstone Interiors in Greenwood preceded the work.

Designers needed to determine how the space was used, especially in the kitchen, before recommending a plan, said decorator Barbara Olmstead.

The Willmans moved out of house for two months of the six-month project.

Two islands were installed to accommodate traffic flow in the kitchen. French doors leading to the patio were moved to the eating area, concentrating the cooking area in the center of the room.

An island on bun feet and the refrigerator and dishwasher, with paneled doors that match the cabinets, look more like furniture than practical kitchen necessities.

Countertops and the backsplash above the sink are granite. Ceramic tile in a diagonal pattern with bronze glass inserts adds elements of style over the sink.

Wallpaper and drapes in a per-simon shade surround the eating area, which leads to the deck.

A 4-inch plank Brazilian cherry floor extends into the connecting living room, foyer, dining room and hallway.

Cabinets in the living room mimic the style in the kitchen for a country French feel throughout the house.

"Pulling all the rooms together helped me the most," Kathy Willman said of the advice from her decorators.

A smaller-scale project was the decorating solution for a project Meridian Interiors recently spearheaded.

After 10 years of teal, cream and beige, the southside home was ready for a different look.

Meridian Interiors, which originally decorated the house when it was built, developed a design that incorporates warm hues and a new floor plan for furniture in the great room.

The space adjoins a large kitchen and seating area separated by a fireplace open to both rooms. Everything in the great room except a piano was replaced or repainted.

The sofa, chairs and decorative pillows are covered in warm brown and golden beige tones.

Accessories include a black-and-gold stone vase for the hearth, a wrought iron wall hanging over the mantle and a brown chenille patchwork throw.

• Dance

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Several appeared uncomfortable as they made their way down the hall, past the lockers, to the cafeteria-turned-dance-floor.

Kelli Shelton, 12, accepted her parents' presence as photographers at the dance only because they both agreed to stay in the hallway.

Mingling with middle school students in the darkened cafeteria was an absolute, adolescent-inspired, my-friends-would-never-speak-to-me-again no-no for the parents.

The action for the evening was found through the cafeteria doors, where lights were dimmed and students huddled in primarily same-sex groups, giggling and talking and giggling some more.

For this evening, most of the cafeteria tables were stacked against the walls to make room for dancing. Red plastic tablecloths covered long, thin tables with attached benches.

The designated table for refreshments included a tower of Styrofoam cups next to a large bowl of wrapped candies and another bowl, where dollops of ice cream floated in pink punch.

Most of the girls towered over the boys. Girls flipped their hair and posed in their party dresses, occasionally scanning the darkened room for male interest.

Two boys played a rather rough

game of tag, zigzagging through groups of girls. If the object was to get the girls' attention (in a way only boys that age would think of), the girls' eye rolls and irritated sighs indicated it was working.

A disc jockey in a corner by himself started an old favorite, "YMCA."

This was the ice breaker for several students, mostly female, who drifted onto the dance floor.

Morgan and her friends, Gabby Pavese, 12, Katlyn Senior, 12, and Christina Franks, 12, hurried to the middle of the cafeteria floor. They laughed at each other as they acted out the song with exaggerated arm movements.

When "The Chicken Dance" followed, the girls stayed on the dance floor.

Chaperones weren't really necessary at this dance. Romance didn't appear to be in the air since the boys primarily stayed on one side of the room while the girls gathered on the other.

"The boys won't ask us to dance," Pavese said in a near whisper.

And so the evening went.

Measuring success depends on whom one talks to. For some girls, it was a chance to show off new clothes or hairstyles. For others, it was a chance to be with friends.

Some girls even got to dance — with each other.

For the boys, it was a first jittery step into what eventually will be the dating scene, even if some of them can't imagine such an eventuality.



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