Genealogy Notes from Emily, April 2012

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The 1940 Census Now Available Online!

April 2, 2012 marks an important event for genealogists (and the curious): information gathered for the 1940 U.S. Census will be released on that day! The National Archives is acting as host, and the staff of Ancestry.com is bracing for the huge task of indexing all this data. Please take heed, though: the public will have access, BUT there is no name index...yet!

The key to finding people in 1940 at this point is geography: location, location, location. In other words, try to determine the street address of your person or family as close to 1940 as possible. Your ultimate goal is to find the ED-enumeration district assigned to that particular spot. You might very well ask what an ED is; it's an area which can reasonably be covered by a census taker. So, search your homes for letters, any legal paperwork or bills, maybe a phone book around 1939. The State Library can help with some

move within those 10 years, you'll be in luck: a handy man by the name of Steve Morse has provided a key on his website which will convert 1930 EDs to 1940 EDs: http://stevemorse.org/census/ed2040.php?year=1940. See also: “How to Access the 1940 Census in One Step”, http://stevemorse.org/census/quiz.php. Ancestry.com has a link with details, too: www.ancestry.com/1940-census. The Census Bureau has an interesting document on its site called “Special Edition - 1940 Census Records Release” (22 Feb 2012), which compares facts in 1940 with those compiled in 2010: www.census.gov, then go to “The 1940 Census is Coming”.

Stay tuned for more details as we find out about them!

RMS Titanic Leaves Legacy of Survivors

On April 15, 1912 one of the most devastating events in the world's history occurred: RMS Titanic sank. We must observe this tragedy to honor those who perished, and those who survived with courage. All left valuable legacies to their families.Ancestry.com offers a list of survivors. Just click on the search tab, then the Card Catalog. Plug in "Titanic", and you will be referred to their database, "Titanic Survivors, Carpathia Passenger List, 1912", which has 481 records. You can also find more information at http://genealogy.about.com, and search for "Titanic".