

Connecticut Ancestry eNews – delivered December 18, 2011

As the days continue to shorten and we approach the winter solstice, I hope you are finding a little time to look for your elusive ancestors. This edition of the E-news has some sad news and something to look forward to.

First, Roderick B. MacKenzie, a member of the CAS board of directors, passed away on 09 December 2011. You may have known him as the assistant librarian and genealogist at the Fairfield Historical Society (now the Fairfield Museum and History Center) and at the Pequot Library in Southport. He spent over three decades in those positions, helping countless patrons research their family histories. I am certain he recruited many people into Connecticut Ancestry Society. For that, and for his many years of service, not only to our society but to the genealogical society at large, we all owe Rod a big thank-you.

A graveside service is scheduled for Wednesday, 21 December, at 11:00 a.m. at Oak Lawn Cemetery, 1530 Bronson Rd, Fairfield. A reception will follow immediately (beginning at 11:30) at FMHC, which is on Beach Road immediately south of the Fairfield Town Hall.

Rod MacKenzie Memorial. A memorial fund has been established in Rod's name at the Fairfield Museum to help support their ongoing genealogy programs, lectures and internships, which were a central passion of Rod's life. Tax-deductible contributions can be made to the Fairfield Museum / Rod MacKenzie Memorial Fund, 370 Beach Road, Fairfield, CT 06824.

CAS will be partnering with FMHC to bring good genealogy programs to Fairfield.

Genealogy news: 1940 Census information

The National Archives announced recently that its partner for FREE access to the 1940 census is Archives.com. Digital images of the census will be available there starting 02 April 2012. Keep in mind that there will not be an index available on the release date. You will need to browse the images, searching for your families of interest. On Friday, Archives.com announced a collaboration with familysearch.org and findmypast.com to form the 1940 US Census Community Project. The purpose of this project is to quickly create and place online a searchable index. The indexing will be done by online volunteers. This means you and me! To get more information and to learn how to volunteer, go to <http://the1940census.com/> .

Other companies have acquired the images, and you can be sure they will be hustling to create indexes for their customers. Ancestry.com announced that it plans to offer the images for free through 2012 and 2013. Their release date is mid-April. They will also offer the index for free as it becomes available. Ancestry.com is a good company and a wonderful resource, but it's good to see some other companies offering serious competition in the genealogy marketplace.

That's it for this time. I expect I will see some of you at Rod's memorial.

Nora Galvin
President