

Connecticut Ancestry eNews – delivered January 31, 2012

Hello Fairfield County researchers,

A reminder that our next meeting is Saturday, Feb. 4 at our Western hub, the Stamford Historical Society, 1508 High Ridge Rd., just off the Merritt Parkway. Doors open at 10, and the program begins at 10:30. We will be having a roundtable discussion of genealogical topics and questions brought up by attendees. We have had several meetings like this in the last two years, and they have proved to be interesting and educational. Please make plans to join the group.

The big news is the imminent release of the 1940 United States Census on April 2. (Ancestry.com has a countdown running on its homepage!) Several Web sites will have images available starting at 9:00 a.m. Eastern time on that day. The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) will have them at www.archives.gov and on local computers at each regional archives. Another option for seeing the census is through the consortium of Archives.com, FamilySearch International and Findmypast.com. They will have the census available at <http://www.archives.com/>. Though this is normally a subscription site, the 1940 census will be free. Last, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com/>) will have the images as well, and they will be free there, also.

Unfortunately, there will be no index when the census is released. FamilySearch International will be adding this to their ongoing indexing project, and they are asking for volunteers. You can get involved in this and other indexing projects by visiting <https://www.familysearch.org/> and clicking on the “Indexing” link at the top of the page. It is a good idea to do this soon and to get some practice ahead of the census project. Ancestry.com will also be asking for volunteers to index for them.

The February issue of *Connecticut Ancestry* (in press) has an article that gives more details about availability of the census and about indexing. It also tells about how to get ready for your 1940 census research so that you can hit the ground running on April 2. I will include more in next month’s E-news.

Mark your calendars for the March CAS meeting: March 3 at our northern hub, the Danbury Public Library. Harlan Jessup will give a presentation about Civil War research. We are in the sesquicentennial years of that conflict, and there are a lot of resources available.

I hope to see many of you in Stamford on Feb. 4.

Nora Galvin
President