

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **SUFFOLK PUBLIC LIBRARY HELPS TRACE FAMILY TREES**

*Internet resources let you discover your roots in the library or from home*

SUFFOLK, VA (June 30, 2010) The Suffolk Public Library System has new resources that use technology to make tracing family trees easier. HeritageQuest Online™ and Ancestry® Library Editions, Web-based reference tools from ProQuest Information and Learning, will allow you to start exploring your roots by searching a surname. Even easier, you can pick where you want to do your research. Anyone with a Suffolk Public Library card can log on to HeritageQuest Online through the library website, or come into the library to dig into Ancestry Library Edition's millions of records – as far back as the 1700s.

The library is responding to a growing interest in family history that has captured not only Suffolk, but America as a whole. A new nationwide survey\* shows 73% of Americans want to learn more about their roots, up from 60% in 2000. Twenty-five percent of those surveyed became interested after searching for a family surname online, pointing to the increasing popularity of Internet-based genealogy.

"More and more of our patrons want to explore their past, and these resources make it easy and convenient," said Olivia DiLeonardo, branch manager. "We expect this to be one of our most popular services."

Logging on to HeritageQuest Online at home (or in the library if you choose) you'll find several paths to information – the U.S. Federal Census collection, over 20,000 family and local history books, an index to nearly 2 million magazine articles with genealogical information, or a database of Revolutionary War era records. Select a path and enter a name to be searched. HeritageQuest Online instantly searches for matches and returns the results. Click on a name and an image of the matching record appears. For example, when a name is searched in the census collection, the particular page from the census where the name is listed will be displayed on the screen.

Ancestry Library Edition is available on the library's public computers located at Morgan Memorial Library, North Suffolk Library, and Chuckatuck Library. However, DiLeonardo says to get the most out of the experience, come prepared with a list of ancestors to research. "Make a list of the names of every direct ancestor you can think of," she advises.

Once connected to Ancestry Library Edition, you'll find a friendly opening screen that asks for the name of the person to be searched. Key in the name, click on "Search" and Ancestry Library Edition scans its vast selection of U.S. census data, birth, marriage,

and death records, World War I draft registration information, Social Security death records, and immigration lists. It also includes an extensive collection of information from the U.K., including images from English and Welsh census records, and civil registrations. Additionally probate records dating back to the 1500s are included from England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales. Whether you're using HeritageQuest Online or Ancestry Library Edition, the information you find are pieces of a puzzle that you'll assemble. Records have "clues" to the past – places where ancestors lived, names of relatives, birth or death dates, etc – that lead to more information. Names can be added to form the "tree" or searched to find more clues.

"Genealogy is a wonderful hobby for anyone who wants to know more about where they came from," says DiLeonardo, "and we're delighted to provide resources that are simple enough for beginners, yet provide deep and broad content sets that will help veteran genealogists advance their research."

For more information call 757-514-7150 or visit Suffolk Public Library on the Web at <http://www.suffolk.lib.va.us>

\* Survey by Market Strategies, Inc. For more information use this link: [http://myfamily.mediaroom.com/index.php?s=press\\_releases&item=50](http://myfamily.mediaroom.com/index.php?s=press_releases&item=50)

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