

KEYS TO SUCCESS

BOY SCOUT FROM WESTON PUTS 1920 BROWARD COUNTY CENSUS ONLINE

By Kenneth D. MacHarg

Do you want to check out your ancestors who lived in Broward County in 1920?

Now, Broward residents can research the entire county census for 1920 online, thanks to Jared Workman, a Weston Boy Scout who has earned the Eagle Scout ranking for his work.

Fifteen-year old Jared took a year to digitize the first Broward County census, taking the raw material from microfilm records at the Broward County Library and transferring it to useable form available on line.

“It was a big job,” says his mother Karen who helped her son with the project. “It helped him to better understand the way that our church treasures the family,” she explained.

The Workman family is a member of the Church of Christ of Latter Day Saints in Plantation, a denomination that places a heavy emphasis on genealogy and family values.

Much of Jared’s work involved coordinating community volunteers to collate the information. Over 50 people assisted during an all day event on May 15th of last year, then continued on to completion with their home computers. Volunteer efforts amounted to at least three “man years” of labor, Mrs. Workman said.

“My interest in the project came both from the church’s influence and my own interest in history,” said Jared who is involved in other family history studies outside of his scouting activities. “It gave me honor and pride to have accomplished it.”

Jared, who attends Pembroke Pines Charter High School, is also active in his church’s youth group and attends a 6:30 a.m. scripture study every day. He plans on attending Brigham Young University and has committed to two years of voluntary missionary service overseas during his college career.

Jared has two brothers who are also boy scouts, and his father, Tod, is the troop’s Scoutmaster.

The census details much about life in Broward County early in the last century, Mrs. Workman explained. “It even counted how many people were Indians and how many were in jail.”

Among the resources found in the records include: names of each family member, place and year of birth, place of birth/country of origin of both parents, occupation, education and more.

According to Earnie Breeding, National Coordinator of recruitment and training for The USGenWeb Census Project, Jared's project is the first time that a major metropolitan area has been done as a single project for USGenWeb.

Jared's work is available on line at:

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~cenfiles/fl/broward/1920/>. Those who do not have access to a computer can visit the Family History Center at the Church of Christ of Latter Day Saints, 851 North Hiatus Road in Plantation where computers are available along with other information.

In recognition of his work, Jared will be awarded the Eagle award on Saturday, November 24 at 7:30 p.m. at the church.

The Eagle rank is the highest award that can be earned by a Boy Scout, but Jared said he is planning on continuing to earn additional scouting merit badges.

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