

Internet Genealogy

YOUR GUIDE TO ONLINE RESEARCH

100th ISSUE

Pietro Lima: Prisoner of War #224
A Granddaughter's Search for Answers

State-Specific Encyclopedias
Check Out These Hidden Gems!

Surviving Irish Records
BEYOND 2022

Avoiding Perils of Assumption
Strive for Research Accuracy!

Researching Saloon Ancestors
Tapsters, Saloonkeepers
and Bartenders

STARTING WITH
STONE SOUP
Crafting Your
Ancestor's Story

More Transforming
Ancestral Photographs
Using Artificial
Intelligence &
Animations

TALL TALES and Legends

Separating Fact from
Family Fiction

WHAT'S IN A NAME?
Understanding Naming Conventions

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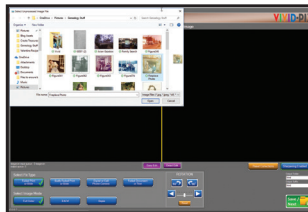
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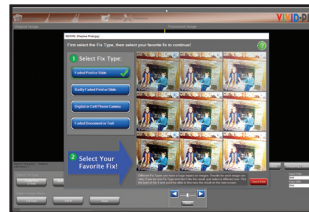
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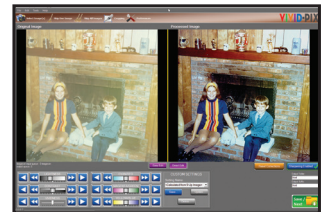
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In This Issue

Internet Genealogy Issue Number 100!

As magazine milestones go, one hundred issues doesn't seem nearly as impressive as the *DAR Magazine* (founded in 1892), or more recent publications such as Leland K. Meitzler's *Heritage Quest* (founded in 1985) and also the *Genealogical Helper*, and *Family Tree Magazine* (U.S., first issue in 2000) just to mention a few. I'd like to thank the numerous authors who have shared their passion for genealogy with our eager readership since *Internet Genealogy's* beginnings in April 2006. It was preceded by *Your Genealogy Today* which debuted in September 1996, and ran for 25 complete issue cycles before being merged into *Internet Genealogy* in September 2021. So, our longevity in genealogy magazine publishing isn't particularly remarkable, but what is important to remember is that genealogy is a community, and the community is what drives the passion. With the support of keen professional and amateur genealogists, and the many genealogy database companies such as Ancestry.com, MyHeritage, FindMyPast, as well as stalwarts such as FamilySearch, the future of genealogy appears to be strong.



In this 100th Issue

Our cover feature, *Tall Tales & Legends*, Sue Lisk turns to websites when trying to understand ancestral legends, and ways to separate the fact from the fiction. Sue's second feature, *Starting with Stone Soup*, looks at multimedia and your ancestors for crafting their stories through the use of video presentations. Michelle Dennis returns with a look at *Surviving Irish Records* after the fire and explosion in 1922 at the Public Record Office of Ireland. And thanks to regular *Internet Genealogy* author Joe Grandinetti for his update on how the *Beyond 2022 Project* is helping to spread the word on what's available in surviving Irish records. Lisa A. Alzo is back with a follow-up to her *Transforming Ancestral Photographs* article from our Aug/Sept issue. Lisa looks at Artificial Intelligence art generators, as well as animation solutions to add "life" to your ancestors. Robbie Gorr returns with *Avoiding the Perils of Assumption*, recommending we avoid assumptions and strive for accuracy in our research. Diane L. Richard says let's look at *State-specific Encyclopedias* and what they have to offer. Stephen L.W. Greene takes us on a journey to understand the "hows" and "whys" of naming conventions. In *Saloon Ancestors*, David A. Norris investigates *Tapsters, Saloonkeepers and Bartenders* who you may come across in your research. In *Pietro Lima: Prisoner of War #224*, Marianne Perry investigates the 1942 arrest and imprisonment of her Italian grandfather in Toronto in World War II. In *Digging Up Cemetery Records on FamilySearch*, Karen L. Newman says that searching to the end of the microfilm roll is a must for successful research. Diane L. Richard offers her usual *NetNote* feature. And check out our regular columns: The Genealogy Center at Allen County Public Library *Research Question* (How Do I Find Slaveholders?); Rick Voight and *Photo Stories* (Roadtripping); and Dave Obee celebrates 10 years of writing his *Back Page* column with *Reflections and Projections* on where the future will take him.

— Edward Zapletal, *Publisher*



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Tall Tales And Legends

by Sue Lisk

YOU MIGHT SAY I'M ON THE TALL SIDE OF "SHORT". BUT MY BEING smaller than average doesn't mean I necessarily recognize others as being "tall". If someone towers over me by more than a foot, I might notice. But I'm rather accustomed to looking up.

I remember one day when I was walking outdoors to a class at university with a very tall female friend. As we passed in front of a building of black glass, I happened to notice our reflection and burst into laughter. I'd never realized how funny we looked walking together.



How tall are the tall tales in your family? The truth may be hidden in the shadows.
(Photo by Bob Bretzlaff)

We often fail to think about or investigate things we take for granted. You may have believed stories or tales you've heard about your family or ancestry without questioning them. But now that you're a self-respecting genealogist, that won't do. You'll have to start wondering and researching to evaluate the probable truth of some of those tales.

Let's take a look at a few websites that offer examples of both specific and commonly encountered ancestral legends and some approaches for discovering the truth of such tales.

Mixtures of Fact and Fantasy

Many types of family stories you've heard passed down through the generations are probably not entirely correct. Don't accept them at face value. You'll often find that at least a portion of the tales are true, but it's up to you to attempt to separate fact from fiction.

LegacyTree Genealogists share three examples of these types of stories that they have encountered when dealing with some of their clients. You can read the article at www.legacytree.com/blog/family-legends-place-genealogical-research.



Portions of the tales you hear may be true. Artist Brendan Rose's sculpture, "The Lock West Monster", in Syracuse, NY, makes use of this idea. Portions of the historic locks of the Erie Canal still run through the town. Photo by Carol M. Highsmith. (Library of Congress)

The first example deals with a family castle and a mismatch between a story involving wealth and a presumed ancestor of humble means. Assembling the pieces of the puzzle involved consulting a will and numerous records to confirm a particular occupation. Although there was no family castle, a castle was indeed indirectly involved.

The second example concerns a famous ancestor. While they found that certain connections existed, they were not those the client supposed.

The third case involves two skeleton-in-the-closet tales. The author explains that the family stories passed down via gossip, and not spoken of openly, are often the hardest to confirm. You may be able to find clues that suggest that certain portions of a story are true, but not the entire tale.

When you have researched a family legend or story and have uncovered certain facts relating to it, by all means share them. But make it clear to others that some parts of the tale are still open to question.

Common Family Legends

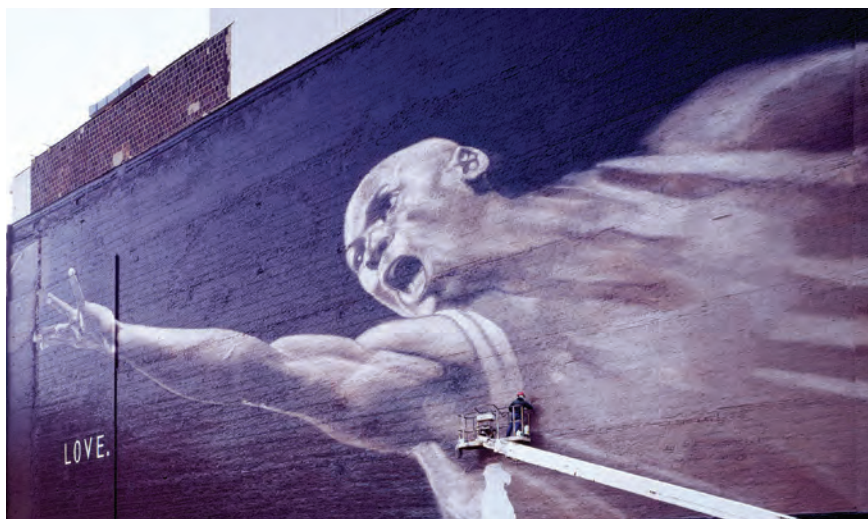
One would think that each family would have its own unique tales. This is certainly true in some instances. But there are some general types of stories that are found frequently in many families. You'll find a list of a few of these sorts of recurring tales at www.genealogy.com/articles/research/90_carmack.html.

It's a good idea to familiarize yourself with these types of stories since you're likely to run into some version of many of them at some point in your research.

In the author's description of the "Cherokee Indian Princess Myth", she explores the importance of understanding how various ethnicities have been perceived at different times throughout history. This can influence the ancestral ethnicity claimed as well as the status of the supposed ancestor as transmitted in family stories.

The "Three Brothers Myth" is another common tale. The author warns researchers to examine all possible angles related to this assertion, since it is frequently not entirely accurate. Were there other brothers? Were the three men described really siblings? And were there any sisters?

Asserting that an ancestor was a stowaway aboard a ship bound to America is another tale to be on the lookout for. And so is the claim that your family descends from a famous individual. Your ancestor likely didn't travel as a stowaway on a ship. And although you may have famous people in



Even if your ancestors weren't famous, they may have legends attached to them. Mural to Chicago Bulls basketball legend, Michael Jordan, in Chicago, IL, Carol M. Highsmith. (Library of Congress)

your family tree, they may not be your ancestors. Perhaps they were distant relatives or acquaintances of your ancestors.

Ethnic origins are often confused in family stories. The author explains that claiming general ethnicities is not sufficiently specific to be useful. And if a family's surname was changed, it was not altered at Ellis Island. Immigrant surname changes can usually be traced back to the family itself, particularly in cases where the family may have wanted to avoid

being associated with an unpopular ethnic group or place of origin.

The Real Deal

AncestralFindings.com offers tips to help you discover whether or not your family legends are true, to the extent that this is possible in any given case. You'll find the article at <https://ancestralfindings.com/how-to-use-family-lore-to-discover-the-real-stories/>.

You may discover that the true stories behind the tales that your family has passed down from



Some improbable stories still contain a grain of truth or inspiration. Prevailing winds in this gorge inspired the legend of a Cherokee man who leapt from this rock and was then blown by gusts of wind back to the same rock where his lover awaited him. Blowing Rock, NC, Carol M. Highsmith. (Library of Congress)



generation to generation are at least as fascinating as the family legends they spawned.

The author suggests that you start by confirming the names and dates in the story. You can certainly use census records, but don't neglect the host of additional record types available online. To obtain other records, you should contact relatives, consult old newspapers, and visit or consult archives and historical societies, to name a few possibilities.

You might be able to confirm tales involving homesteaders by reviewing land records. In the U.S., land records are held by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. Town records also may contain important information related to your ancestors that could help you determine the truth of specific stories.

The author recommends that you look for written versions of the tales you're trying to confirm and consider how reliable a specific story is likely to be. Consider who wrote the story, when it was written, and what information that person could have known.

DNA testing may yield other useful results. But there are limits as to what you can glean from it without further research.

The Community Tale

Towns or villages where your ancestors resided may also have tales associated with them that can help put your relatives' lives in context.

In a brief article titled "Genealogy, History, Tall Tales & Ghost Stories", you can read an intriguing example of one such tale related to Fernie, a small town in the East Kootenay region of British Columbia. Access it at www.genealogybeginner.com/genealogy-history-tall-tall-tales.

The writer found nuggets of



Places where your ancestors lived may also have legends associated with them. The Ace of Clubs House in Texarkana, TX was said to have been built with money won from a poker game, Carol M. Highsmith. (Library of Congress)

truth related to a curse by researching historical events that affected the town. She also uncovered related information in studying the history of the founding of Fernie and the genealogy of a gold prospector who passed through the area.

I'm familiar with an oral history project produced in the 1970s in

Shawville, Quebec. A group of students interviewed long-time residents and asked them for information concerning a large fire in the town and for details of a murder. The interviewees shared what they knew related to the fire. They also opined as to the justification for the murder and described the circumstances surrounding it. Although certain points in these community stories could not be confirmed, the end result of this creative use of the knowledge of elderly townspeople helped paint a clearer picture of the community as it had existed decades earlier.

Now it's your turn. Look for those small grains of truth in the family legends you hear, and use them as signposts on your journey of discovery. Will you find that the tall tales in your family are true, or will you discover that they're probably a little bit smaller than you once thought? ©



Some legends never die completely. The legendary figure, Elvis Presley, in Williams, AZ, Carol M. Highsmith. (Library of Congress)

SUE LISK, a freelance writer, genealogist, and linguist, is a frequent contributor to *Internet Genealogy*. She works for a news agency in Washington, DC.



Surviving Irish Records

Michelle Dennis looks at records that survived the 1922 fire and explosion at the Public Record Office of Ireland

ALMOST 100 YEARS AGO, IN APRIL 1922, THE LARGEST EXPLOSION ever seen in Dublin occurred in the Public Record Office of Ireland. Unbelievably the Anti-treaty forces had stored their mines and ammunition in the building. Two days into the Civil War hundreds of years of Irish history exploded into flames and were lost forever.

Ernie O'Malley, author and IRA director of the organization, and a member of the garrison stationed there, wrote of the event in his book *The Singing Flame*: "A thick black cloud floated up about the buildings and drifted away slowly. Fluttering up and down against the black mass were leaves of white paper; they looked like hovering white birds."

In those precious papers, were the records of our ancestors. Census records from 1821-1851, wills and probate, military records, church registers and legal court records, transportation registers, land transfers and Church of Ireland parish records dating back to the 17th century – all gone up in smoke.

But it's not all bad news if you have Irish ancestry. There are many other sources of records that did survive, such as the 1901 and 1911 census records which were held at the Registrar General's Office. Land revenues, civil births, marriages and death records, many parish registers, Griffith Land Valuation and property records, indexes to wills and probate bonds, muster rolls, and poll tax records all survived to help us research our ancestors' lives. A new project called *Beyond 2022 – Ireland's Virtual Record Treasury* research project has sought to retrieve as many documents as possible through duplicates in other archives.

[*Editor's Note: See the article on Beyond 2022 directly after this article for a recent update by Internet Genealogy author Joe Grandinetti.*]

Let the Search Begin

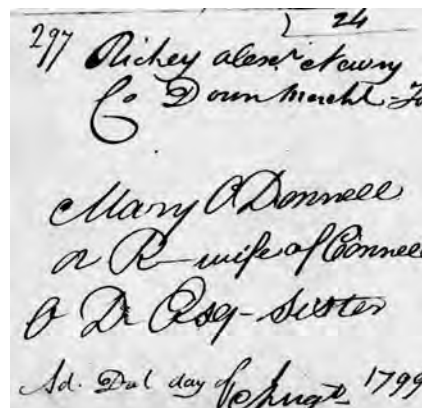
My 5x great grandfather Alexander Richey was born into a protestant family in 1750 in Newry, County Down, Northern Ireland. He worked as a merchant in Newry, probably in the linen trade like his sons, that were all involved in either the linen, silk or woolen trades in Dublin.

Alexander married Mary O'Donnell and had at least five children, probably more given the gaps between the boy's birth years – Alexander b 1770, William b 1771, Robert b 1779, Andrew b 1780, James b 1799.

Given so many of the Irish records were destroyed by fire, what evidence could I find for him and his family? Several documents survived

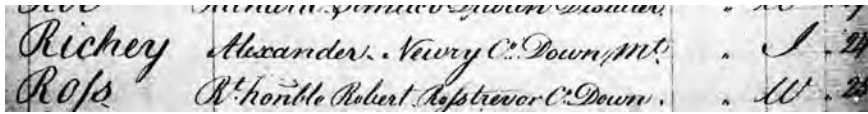
which helped me uncover more about their lives -

Betham Genealogical Abstracts for Ireland were created by Irish herald Sir William Betham, whose notebooks are a substitute for some of the records lost in the 1922 Public Record Office fire in Dublin. Some of these records give clues to spouses, occupations, will beneficiaries, dates, and locations. They are available online at <https://search.findmypast.com.au/search-world-records/betham-genealogical-abstracts>.



Record for Andrew Betham of Newry, Down Northern Ireland. ([FindMyPast.com.au](https://www.findmypast.com.au))

Andrew's Betham record states he is of Newry, Down, Northern Ireland, and mentions his probate of August 1799 and that his beneficiaries were his wife Mary O'Donnell, and a sister "a wife of Mr Connell Esquire."



Index entry for Alexander Richey. (FamilySearch.org)

The Betham entry for his daughter-in-law's father Thomas Ridgely, gives the information that he was of Booterstown, Dublin, and that his will was dated on 11 March 1780, but proved on 12 May 1787, and that his beneficiaries were his wife Honory, and his son Thomas Ridgely. This is the only time I have seen mention of either of the wives' names.

Ireland Diocesan and Prerogative Wills & Administrations Indexes 1595-1858 can be found for free on FamilySearch at <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/3460908>. Although this is an index-only document, it tells me that Alexander Richey was of Newry, County Down, that he was a merchant, and died intestate (without making a will). I can also find Thomas Ridgely in the index, and that he did make a will.

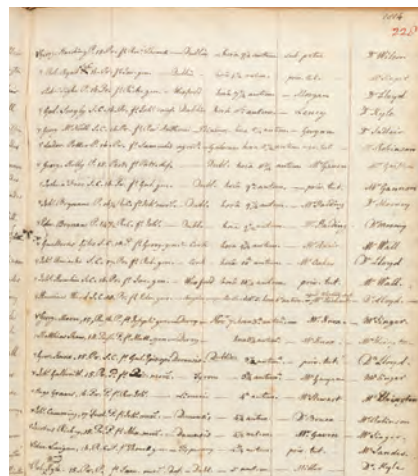
To ensure the legality of a will of a deceased person, a grant of probate must be made by the courts. As part of this process, the original will is logged with the courts. If someone dies intestate, without having made a will, the courts can grant letters of administration for the disposal of the estate, which is what happened in Alexander's case.

You can also search the National Archives of Ireland Calendars of Wills and Administrations 1858-1922, www.willcalendars.nationalarchives.ie/search/cwa/index.jsp and the Ireland Diocesan and Prerogative Wills 1595-1858 on Find My Past at www.findmypast.co.uk.

Trinity College Registers 1769-1825 – the indexes to these Dublin University registers can be found

online at the Digital Collection database of Trinity College Dublin at <https://digitalcollections.tcd.ie>. They are indexed by surname, and then you can look up the full Admission Record in the chronological register once you find the year of admittance. I found Alexander's son James Richey admitted in 1814 at the age of 15 and went on to train as a minister.

The full record provides the date of entry, name, age, religion, father's name and profession, country of birth, and place of previous



Trinity College Admission Records entry for James Richey. (<https://digitalcollections.tcd.ie>)

RICHEY, ARTHUR, Pen. (Mr Jones), Nov. 2, 1829, aged 17; s. of Andrew, Mercator; b. Dublin.
RICHEY, EDWARD, Pen. (P.T.), July 2, 1838, aged 17; s. of Andrew, defunctus; b. Dublin. B.A. Vern. 1843.
RICHEY, JAMES, Pen. (Mr Gaven), Nov. 7, 1814, aged 15; s. of Alexander, Mercator; b. Down. B.A. Vern. 1821.
RICHEY, RICHARD, Pen. (P.T.), July 1, 1833, aged 19; s. of Andrew, Mercator; b. Dublin. B.A. Vern. 1845. M.A. Vern. 1857.
RICHEY (RICKEY), WILLIAM, Pen. (P.T.), July 7, 1828, aged 15; s. of William, Mercator Sricarius; b. Dublin. B.A. Vern. 1834.

Trinity College Registers Alumni Dublinenses 1924 edition for Alexander Richey, father of James.

education. James' entry gives the Latin form of his name 'Jacobus,' religion 'Pr' (Protestant), age '15' and states his father is Alexander Richey, a merchant, born County Down, and his last schoolmaster's name 'Mr Gaven.' If we consult the 1924 published edition of Alumni Dublinenses on Find My Past UK, we can also find his entry, and it gives additional information regarding his degree (BA - Bachelor of Arts) which he achieved in Vern (Spring) 1821. Two of Alexander's sons attended Trinity College, William a silk merchant in 1828 and James a minister of the Church of Ireland in 1814 and three grandsons, sons of Andrew, Arthur (surgeon 1829), Edward (minister 1838), and Richard (minister 1833).

Dublin Ireland, Probate and Marriage License Index 1270-1858 – This index, on Ancestry, www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/2719, has been extracted from wills, letters of administration, and marriage licenses within the Diocese of Dublin. A fabulous resource and often the only place you will find reference to a marriage bond or will entry.

Several of Alexander senior's children and grandchildren appear in this index which gives the name of both parties, the year, and the source of the information e.g., M.L. (marriage license).

Newspapers can be a wonderful way to flesh out the bones of our ancestor's stories, and Find My Past has a great collection of newspapers and periodicals in its Irish Newspaper Collection which can be searched by a keyword or name, <https://search.findmypast.com.au/search/newspapers>. You can also search the Dublin Gazette 1750-1800 or the Belfast Gazette 1922-2018, Irish Marriage and Death



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" Thomas and Mary Anne James	1846	M.L.	216
" Thomas and Mary Anne Mackey	1829	M.L.	191
" Thomas and Henrietta Sixsmith <i>alias</i> Auden	1846	M.L.A.	—
" Thomas and Jane Smith	1833	M.L.	308
" Thomas and Ellen Walsh	1856	M.L.	435
" Thomas Verner and Eli at eth Robinson	1807	M.L.	189
" William, Ballyrogan, Arklow, co. Wicklow, farmer.	1831	W.	468
" William and Mary Anne Close	1861	M.L.	131
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Dublin Ireland Probate and Marriage License Index for Alexander Richey. (Ancestry.co.uk)

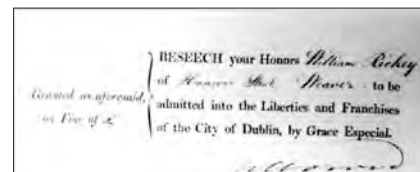
Notices in American Newspapers, and the Irish Newspaper Transcript Archive 1756-1850. Try searching for an address an ancestor lived at in the search field.

I found articles about two of Alexander senior's sons in the Dublin Evening Post. In November 1805 Mr. Alexander Richey of Dame Street, Dublin and his brother had commenced business

selling linen drapery items in his large warehouse, with extensive vaults and wine bins to be let. Alexander junior was involved in supporting the building of an Episcopal chapel in 1832 in connection with the Asylum for Penitent Females (where his nephew the Rev Richard J C Richey would later be chaplain). Son Robert Richey advertised his

Cap, Gown and Surplice Warehouse in Grafton Street Dublin in 1827. Birth, marriage, and death notices are also extremely useful and may give clues that lead you elsewhere.

Freeman of Dublin City records 1774-1824 – If your ancestor worked in a trade in Dublin, these records can provide lots of information such as name, year, county, term and year of admittance, occupation, how they were admitted, whether by birth (signifying the eldest surviving son of a freeman), service (having duly served an apprenticeship to a Dublin freeman of the relevant trade), grace (by special request, favor or recommendation) or gratis (admitted by special arrangement and without

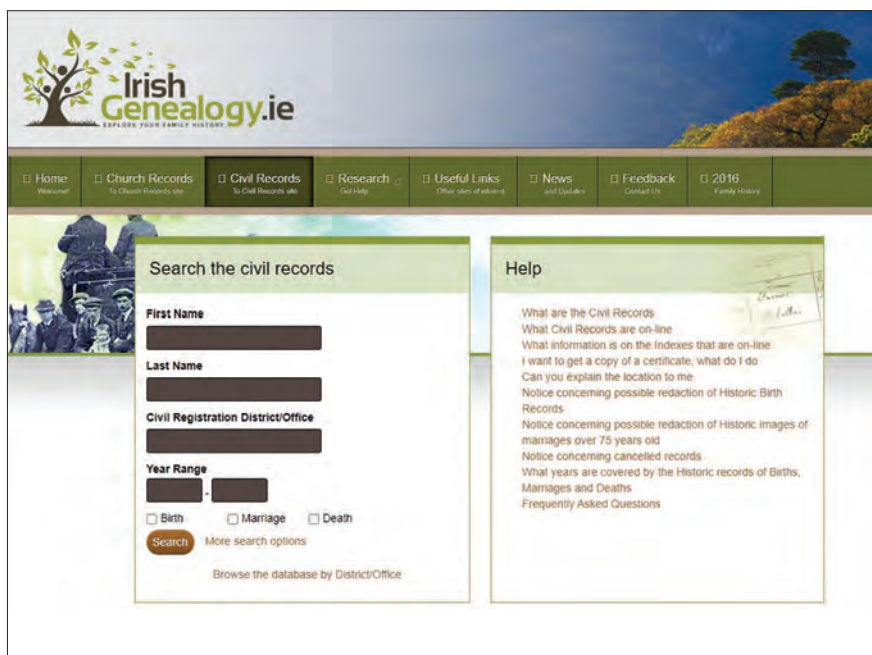


Entry for William Richey in Freeman of Dublin City records 1822. (<https://search.findmypast.com.au/search-world-Records/freemen-of-dublin-city-1774-1824>)

payment of fees).

The medieval term 'freeman' meant someone who was not the property of a feudal lord, but who had the right to earn money and own their land. People who were protected by the charter (rules) of their town or city were often 'free,' hence the term 'Freedom of the City' and could trade in the city without restriction.

One of Alexander's sons, a silk merchant, was admitted as a Freeman in Midsummer 1822. The record advises that William Richey of Hanover Street, Dublin, a weaver, was admitted into the Liberties and Franchises of the City of Dublin, Midsummer 1822 by Grace (special recommendation).



Download free PDF images from the central civil repository in Dublin.

These records are also on Find My Past, <https://search.findmypast.com.au/search-world-Records/freemen-of-dublin-city-1774-1824>.

Irish Civil Records - The General Register Office in Dublin is the central civil repository for records relating to births, stillbirths, deaths, marriages, civil partnerships, and adoptions in Ireland. The Indexes cover Births 1864-1919, Marriages 1845-1944 and Deaths 1864-1969 with non-Roman Catholic Marriages recorded from 1845.

Download the free PDF images. Genealogically speaking, the births give us the child's name, sex, place and date of birth, father's name and occupation and the mother's name. Sometimes they also include a baptismal name. The marriages include the parties and witnesses' names, bachelor/spinster/widow, residence, father's name and occupation. The deaths are particularly informative providing the date, place, name, age, married/single, occupation, cause of death, and informant. I've found

the Irish death certificates to also include extra information such as 'wife of John Cullinan, labourer,' etc., <https://civilrecords.irishgenealogy.ie/churchrecords/civil-search.jsp>.

You will also find some Irish church records on this website, but the coverage is limited to Dublin, and the Counties of Kerry, Carlow, Cork and Ross. Roman Catholic, Church of Ireland and some Presbyterian records are also included.

Catholic Parish Registers at the National Library of Ireland - These registers contain records of baptisms and marriages from most Catholic parishes in Ireland and Northern Ireland up to 1880. Unfortunately, the only way to search these records is by bringing up the parish by keying in a parish name and trawling through the individual baptism, marriage, and burial registers year by year to find the entry you are seeking. You can select individual years to look through. See <https://registers.nli.ie>. You may find them indexed on Ancestry too.

Dublin City Council Library Records - This website houses a great number of free to search and download records for the county of Dublin. Some databases include graveyards, electoral lists 1908-1915, burial registers, Ancient Freeman of Dublin, plaques and memorials, Dublin Directories 1647-1706, parish registers, Dublin Guild Merchant Roll and many other obscure records. The whole database or individual sets are searchable by surname and first name and/or location at <https://databases.dublincity.ie/index.php>.

Keying in my unusual surname of 'Richey' gives me three datasets to look at. The first, the Ancient Freeman of Dublin lists four records - one being my William in 1822. The others are for a 1762 cutler, a 1743 shoemaker and a stationer in 1766. Clicking on the index record will display the full original document.

The database has also found William on a Jury List and an Electoral List. The Electoral lists give their full address, occupation, and a description of their property e.g., house and yard.

1901 and 1911 Ireland Census - A systematic government census of the Irish population was taken every 10 years from 1821 until 1911. No census was taken in 1921, due to political unrest because of the War of Independence and Civil War, but the work of taking census resumed in 1926. Unfortunately, because of the fire at the Public Record Office, only the 1901 and 1911 censuses survive. These are free to search at the National Archives of Ireland, <http://census.nationalarchives.ie>.

Ireland Census Search Forms 1841 and 1851 database - The Irish government used these forms



No. on Map.	Denominations.	Tenant's Names.	Gale Days.	Yearly Rent	Quantity of Land, Statute Measure.	Tenure of Tenant.	Observations.
2	No. 40, PEMBROKE ROAD	Alexander G. Richey, repve. of Alexander Richey.	Forward, 25th March and 29th September	£ s. d. 28 12 0 30 0 0	A. B. P. 0 0 16 0 0 16	Lease dated 26th November, 1827, from Charles La Grange to Alexander Richey, for 146 years, from 29th September then last, at the yearly rent of £50, payable 25th March and 29th September, above all taxes or other charges whatsoever, of house and premises in Lower Baggot Street, now known as No. 40, Pembroke Road. A fine of £400 was paid by lessee to lessor upon the execution of said lease. This Lease contains a covenant for the fining down of the rent of £50, and the lessee subsequently in pursuance of said covenant fined the said rent down to £30 a-year, by payment of a sum of £286 0s. 0d. The said lease reserves unto the Right	These premises will be sold subject to all such rights and easements as shall legally affect them at the date of the sale.

Entry from the Landed Estate Court Rentals of Dublin in 1827. (Accessible on www.findmypast.com or www.ancestry.com)

to search the 1841 & 1851 Census to prove the age of people applying for the Old Age Pension was over 70 years. Birth certificates did not exist because the person was born before Civil Registration had begun. The census search forms contain the applicant's name, address, and residence in 1851 with the county, barony, parish, townland and street as well as the parent's names and head of household in 1851. These forms can be a great substitute for the missing census, and if a descendant applied for the pension, they needed to provide information on their parents including their 1841 or 1851 address.

In the case of my ancestor Michael Fennessy, he applied to the Irish Government for the pension in 1916 and stated his mother Mary Conheady (giving me her maiden name), and his father Edmond Fennessy were living at Laccaroe in Lower Feakle, County Clare in 1851. The document includes a note that this information was drawn from the 1851 census.

These records are freely available on FamilySearch at <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collect/ion/2346275>.

Landed Estates Court Rentals 1850-1885 – These documents were printed to facilitate the sale of bankrupt estates and include

information about tenants, the lots they rented, the terms of their tenancy, as well as a map specifying the boundaries. By the time of the Irish Potato Famine, many Irish estates became insolvent as debts exceeded earnings. The Rentals are effectively printed sale catalogues, which were circulated to prospective purchasers in advance of the sale. They were compiled with the intention of attracting purchasers and of providing information on the estate.

On the entry for Alexander Richey junior's property at 40 Pembroke Road, Dublin, there is a great long description advising of the sale of the property. The lease dated 26 November 1827 was from Charles La Grange to Alexander Richey for 146 years, with a year rent payable of 50 pounds. Many covenants are also described. The property was now offered for sale for a term of 150 years with an annuity of 20 pounds. The tenement valuation is 103 pounds. These databases can be accessed on both www.findmypast.com and www.ancestry.com.

So, using these online databases and records I discovered many details about Alexander Richey and his children. Where they were born, addresses they lived and worked, trade records, marriage, property rental and sales, electoral rolls, church officers, deaths and

where they were buried.

Some of the Richey sons struggled with insolvency, as their linen drapery and woollen businesses were affected by imports. This too was reported in the papers.

The 1829 newspaper recorded son William speaking at a public meeting in Dublin, entitled "Distress in the Liberty of Dublin – regarding the present state of distress in the manufacturing districts of the city, in particular silks and other products of the loom due to the free admission of foreign silks." William was a churchwarden and claimed an exemption from parish fees in 1841 because of his office.

One son James moved across to England and served as a parish curate, and a memorial plaque survives today at St George Nympton in Devon.

Unfortunately, the daughters of Alexander Richey are not mentioned, and without being able to look at a full copy of his will, may never be known. Nevertheless, do not give up if you have Irish Ancestors, as you can see, there is still plenty to find! ©

MICHELLE DENNIS is a blogger, family historian and freelance writer living in Melbourne, Australia. She has been researching her own family history for the past 30 years.



The Launch of Beyond 2022: the Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland

By Joe Grandinetti



The frightful scene on June 30, 1922, at Dublin's Four Courts Building, as the Record Treasury was destroyed. (Image from Wikimedia Commons)



The aftermath of explosions, flames, and collapse at Dublin's Four Courts Building on June 30, 1922. (Image accessed at <https://beyond2022.ie>)



The reconstructed, highly detailed 3D version of the Record Treasury building on the Beyond 2022 website. (Image accessed at <https://beyond2022.ie/>)

IN THE SUMMER OF 2018, I WROTE AN article on the *Beyond 2022 Project*, mentioning that its scheduled unveiling was planned for June 2022 in time for the 100th anniversary of the tragic event that caused its necessity. Right on schedule – the Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland website was launched at the end of June at <https://beyond2022.ie>.

A Little History

On June 30, 1922, in the early days of Ireland's Civil War, Dublin's Four Courts building came under bombardment. The six-story repository, known as the Record Treasury, was heavily damaged. Seven centuries of Irish written history that was filed away in a vastness of cabinets and shelves, were destroyed in explosions, burned by ravaging flames, and drenched by water of futile fire hoses. Among the victims were estate papers, land ownership documents, maps, Church of Ireland parish registers, and countless other manuscripts of antiquity. But perhaps most heartbreaking for genealogists was the loss of essentially all the 1821-1851 Irish census records. (The 1861-1891 censuses had already been obliterated by the government in years prior through a variety of administrative objectives). This great abyss of pre-1901 censuses is one of the reasons that Irish roots hunting is so challenging.

What it is and What it's not...

The Beyond 2022 site is “freely and permanently available online to all those interested in Ireland's deep history” via an “extensive and growing treasury of digitized records – scattered over space and time, but now reunited on-screen.” The replacement of the lost documents is mostly not about physically piecing together brittle bits of burned



Some Silver Linings in the “Gold Seams”

For now, three collections are showcased for genealogical and historical researchers - labeled the “Gold Seams.”

The Medieval Exchequer

www.virtualtreasury.ie/gold-seams/medieval-exchequer

English dominion in Ireland was established during the latter half of the 12th century. Institutional governance in financial matters was also imposed, through the “exchequer.” The exchequer bore the responsibility of collecting rents, fines, taxes, and various fees in Ireland on behalf of the crown. The resultant paper trail was substantial. The website has exchequer documents from 1250 through 1450. There are “receipt rolls” and “issue rolls” for incoming and outgoing payments to/from the Irish exchequer, and the corresponding “enrolled accounts” from the English exchequer. The records reveal the crossroads of power, war, economics, land, religion, and politics through financial administration, giving a glimpse into life during the period. Not very genealogical for most; but contextually important.

Cromwellian Surveys of the Seventeenth Century

www.virtualtreasury.ie/gold-seams/cromwellian-surveys

Irish Catholic revolts against English rule in the late 1600s ended badly. In the wake of defeat, the island’s titles and property were confiscated from privileged Catholic nobles and landowners and redistributed to their Protestant counterparts. Conveying the spoils (and soils) of victory required extensive mapping. The Cromwellian Surveys section has three inter-linked collections: the Books of Survey and Distribution (the 1670s through 1703) listing over 13,000 landowners, with descriptions of 48,000 parcels of land; the Civil Survey, containing mid 1600s land surveys; and the Down Survey of Ireland, featuring approximately 1,150 hand-drawn parish and barony maps from the late 1600s.

The 1766 Religious Census

www.virtualtreasury.ie/gold-seams/1766-religious-census

This census was ordered by the Irish House of Lords, instructing the Church of Ireland to compile lists of families within their parishes, noting householders’ religion, as well as disclosing where Catholic clergy lived. Over 90% of the original census documents were destroyed in the 1922 flames. The Beyond 2022 project has assembled the surviving fragments, plus extracts and transcripts from other Irish sources. This endeavor resulted in more than half of the original census being reconstructed in whole or in part – about 50,000 individual names for research via digitized copies, along with detailed descriptions.

parchment. Rather, it’s a collaborative effort with archival institutions, linking up their mutual holdings, and cohesively assembling them. There were dozens of participating organizations, but core partners were:

- National Archives (Ireland and the UK)
www.nationalarchives.ie and www.nationalarchives.gov.uk
- Public Record Office of Northern Ireland
www.nidirect.gov.uk/proni
- Irish Manuscripts Commission
www.irishmanuscripts.ie
- Library of Trinity College Dublin
www.tcd.ie/library.

In Summary

The Beyond 2022 website delivered on its promise to virtually replace some of what was so disastrously taken away. In setting expectations, we were forewarned that the project would not be “resurrecting” any of the lost Irish 1821-1891 censuses. The site tends to be a little unwieldy and distracting since much of the design efforts were aimed at an immersive/interactive visual experience. The 3D modeling of the old Record Treasury impressively melds original architectural plans and historical photographs. In lieu of the “bells and whistles,” we genealogists generally prefer practical comprehensive ways to do our digging. Nonetheless, the Beyond 2022 site is a welcome new arrival to Irish family history research and well worth a visit! ©

JOE GRANDINETTI is a CPA and an avid family historian. His genealogical interests include his paternal ancestry in Calabria, Italy, and his maternal Irish lines from Ardara, county Donegal, and Keeloges East, county Galway. He is a member of the Northeast Pennsylvania Genealogical and Luzerne County Historical Societies. He resides in Mountain Top, Pennsylvania with his wife and children.



More Ways of Transforming Ancestral Photographs into Digital and AI Art

Lisa A. Alzo offers more suggestions and investigates use of AI Art Generators and Animations

PHOTOS COURTESY OF AUTHOR

“**W**HAT TO DO WITH MY ANCESTRAL photographs?” I’m sure this is a question that many genealogists ask themselves when tasked with sorting and organizing. It’s certainly something that has occurred to me in surveying the number of archival boxes I have stored away. I was recently reminded of many interesting photographs in my possession. One of them is an oval convex metal display plate featuring my maternal great grandmother, Maria who was a resident of Milpoš, Slovakia under the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Maria’s photograph has been pasted on to the ornamental-bordered plate. The plate measures approximately 20 x 14.5 cm (8 x 6 inches) and weighs around 150 g (5 ounces). This plate and an accompanying one featuring Maria’s son, my great uncle Stefan in soldier’s uniform were originally hung on a wall in my grandmother Verona’s home in Duquesne, Pennsylvania, just outside of Pittsburgh. The photos were obviously a constant reminder to my grandmother of some of those whom she had left behind after she left Slovakia in search of a new life. There is no indication of when the photographs were taken or the name of the plate manufacturer. Despite the lack of information, the photographs are evocative of another era, and I wondered about the now common practice of colorizing or other means of making them more relatable. Specifically, I thought of creating new art from the originals.

An earlier article introduced the concept of creating digital art from ancestral photographs (*Internet Genealogy* 2022 February/March) and included a few suggestions for displaying the artistic creations. This article addresses not just artistically altering photographs of our ancestors themselves, but also those locations that were important to them. I’ll also cover artistic techniques and styles, AI art generators, AI art animations, display options and gift ideas.



Fig 1: Greek Catholic Church, Osturňa, Slovakia; original and altered.

Photos of Ancestral Significance

Although photos of our ancestors are of central importance in our quest to connect to the past, photos of our ancestors’ homes, workplaces, and places of worship are also important. Subjects as varied as pets, cars, ships, horses, and carts, and more, also have intrinsic visual interest, and all these can be altered to help breathe new life into photos that might otherwise just be stored away. For example, consider the contemporary iPhone picture of the



Greek Catholic church (St. Michael the Archangel) where my grandfather was baptized in Osturňa, Slovakia, Fig. 1. I took this picture during one of my research trips to Slovakia a few years ago. It occurred to me that the picture of the church would be an ideal subject for a digital makeover. So, by importing the picture into Adobe Photoshop Elements 2022, I performed a little editing in the 'Expert' Mode to remove a telephone pole and wires, and then selected the 'Quick' Mode. With this selection, I was able to access a choice of 30 'Artistic' filters, and 11 'Classic' filters. The 'Artistic' filters were especially introduced for the PS Elements 2022 version, and it's possible that Adobe may add more filters in subsequent versions. I should also point out there are an additional 15 older established 'Artistic' filters available in a drop-down menu on the top toolbar and a selection of additional filters in the same menu. Consider that you can select one filter for a given image and then follow with a completely different filter from a different menu, and you can see that many effects are possible. To learn more about PS Elements 2022 see www.lisaalzo.com/pslements2022 (Note: this is an affiliate link, and I will receive a small commission if you purchase the product, but this will not increase the price you will pay).

In the case of the church image, I used the Quick/Artistic/Traditional Oil filter to create a transformative image that I hope maintains the integrity of the original.

Artistic Techniques and Styles

Among the techniques I have thought to use in creating and displaying ancestral images are collages and montages. The cut and paste

(or pinned) techniques associated with collages can also use mixed media, so it's nicely suited to ancestral photographs and artifacts. Although collages are often thought of as being a modern era art trend popularized by artists such as Picasso and Braque, they can be traced back somewhat earlier to the exchanging and subsequent cutting and pasting of Victorian-era photo visiting cards. Montages can include the same photographs as collages, but they are made into a cohesive whole in the creation of a new composite image. I used the same technique years ago in the creation of the cover for my first book "Three Slovak Women." You can see the book cover and all the images featured in this article by visiting my photo gallery, www.lisaalzo.com/photo-galleries/ig-more-digital-art. Some might be familiar with ArcSoft's Photo

Montage program introduced many years ago which had its own take on producing montage images.

The *Internet Genealogy* 2022, February/March article drew attention to the 9-block photo representation of my maternal grandfather Janos Figlar following a pop-art theme, or as a means of comparing the various sepia and duotone effects offered in PS Elements 2022. The complete montages comprise nine separate but identical images that have each been individually altered and digitally composited.

With this in mind, the 9-block format (or for the more ambitious, 16-block or 25-block format) seems ideally suited for montages of different artistic styles. Consider the montage that I created using the photograph of my great grandmother Maria. Focusing on Maria's face, I used PS Elements 2022



Fig 2: Maria Straka photo montage of styles.

Artistic filters to surround an image of the display plate with eight variations, Fig. 2.

Some of the Artistic filters in PS Elements 2022 have names or thumbnails indicative of famous artists such as Degas (Blue Hue filter), van Gogh (Post-Impressionist filter) and Munch (Expressionist filter). Similarly, a duotone-based Pop Art Fun Edit in the 'Guided' Mode. Other filters aren't suggestive of any artist, but do produce interesting effects. In using the artistic filters, you can choose to select or deselect two check boxes that allow for the choice of applying the filter to either the background only, the subject in the foreground only, or both the subject and the background (both check boxes, selected). Your choice of filter can be subdued or dramatic, somber, or frivolous.

The Artistic filters appear to sample major color themes (and to a degree brushstrokes) from famous painters' works and apply them seemingly randomly as color swaths to the selected portions of the image. The filters don't really emulate styles. For instance, the Cubist filter blends randomly placed cubes into the selected parts of an image.

There will probably be some filters that you prefer over others, and you could consider printing and then using these pictures in regular picture frames.

To extend your range of options including styles, you could choose to look at the range of artistic Photoshop 'actions' that are available separately. Note though that 'actions' that work with the full version of Photoshop may not work with PS Elements.

Of course, montages can be created in all sorts of different ways, and you can have fun with your own digital compositing ideas.



Fig 3: Color Pop images of Alzo family photographs.

Color Pop and Color Selection

You can choose to selectively add a single color (color pop) or color selection for artistic effect, Fig. 3.

AI Art Generators

AI art generators such as Toronto, Canada-based and free-to-use WOMBO Dream, www.wombo.art, Anguilla-based Hotpot.ai, <https://hotpot.ai> and many others can create art and emulate the style of famous painters merely by entering text prompts. Art created with WOMBO Dream appears geared to the minting of NFTs which I have discussed in another article in Internet Genealogy 2022 April/May). Hotpot.ai, and my own favorite AI art generator, Cairns, Australia-based Night Café, <https://creator.nightcafe.studio> can work with imported images (Hotpot.ai refers to them as 'Seed' images) as well as text prompts.

Night Café AI Art Generator

As an example of the use of Night Café's text-to-art facility, I entered 'Slovakia, Tatra Mountains, Village,

Meadow Picasso' and was presented with a very nice image. I also tested the knowledge base of the generator by invoking the styles of two perhaps lesser-known English artists, William Turner and L.S. Lowry. Again, the generated images were very nice. You can see all these images in my Photo Gallery, www.lisaalzo.com/photo-galleries/ig-more-digital-art.

In addition to text-derived art, Night Café places an equal emphasis on the creation of art from uploaded images. Considering my interest in altering ancestral photographs, Night Café with its selection of 66 styles (aka filters) is perfect for making new art.

Fig. 4 illustrates how an ancestral photograph can be made more dramatic. Night Café allows you to change creation settings such as Color, 'Content Weight', Smoothing, Sharpness and Fidelity, and also blend two or more styles.

No matter the image, you can choose to save and/or order prints from Night Café for display and framing.



Fig4: Maria Straka images; original and blue.

Animated AI Art

Many will be familiar with MyHeritage's Deep Nostalgia™ software for animating ancestral images, www.myheritage.com/deep-nostalgia. On its introduction, I reviewed Deep Nostalgia™, Internet Genealogy, 2021 August/September. Although I had already animated one of my grandfather's restored and colorized images with great success, I wondered how Deep Nostalgia™ would handle artistically transformed pictures. I uploaded a manually created pop art picture of my maternal grandfather Janos featured in Internet Genealogy 2022, February/March, and one of Night Café's treatments of Maria as described above. If your animated images appear to be too large, you can resize them. You can see the results of this marriage of technologies for yourself in my Photo Gallery, www.lisaalzo.com/photo-galleries/ig-more-digital-art.

More Than Just Visual Connections

In spending such a long time poring over my ancestral photographs and experimenting with different artistic techniques, I discovered an unexpected benefit to my work. I discovered the emotional bonds with deceased loved ones I had known

were refreshed. More than this, I found I had forged new bonds with those family members that I had never known. Looking at the photograph of Maria and all the images I had created of her, I reflected on the struggles of her life, and how she handled things with such

strength and grace. I expect if you spend some time with your own ancestral photographs and create your own art, you too will have the time to reflect more on the lives of your ancestors.

Display Options

You could choose to display your creations by printing and mounting them in a picture frame. You could also upload the image files to a digital picture frame capable of cycling through your creations. With so many available filters from PS Elements 2022, Night Café and others, you could upload ten or more images of the same subject, and then fade one image into another. The subject will remain motionless, but the artistic style will continuously change for a mesmerizing effect.



Fig 5: Maria Straka Images: picture frames and plate.

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Think too of creating your own collage of printed images that emulate the appearance of a single image montage such as that illustrated in Fig. 2. With reference to Fig. 5, I bought some iridescent 10.2 x 10.2 cm (4 x 4 inch) picture frames from my local Dollar Store and created a wood and glass version of the montage with Night Café images. With eight picture frames and the display plate, it occurred to me I could also create a checkerboard display pattern. Since the picture frames also feature support stands, I thought this added still more flexibility to my future display plans.

Gift Ideas

In addition to printing and mounting your creations in nice picture frames for birthday gifts and other special events, you could also consider using your creations on greeting cards, T-shirts for family reunions, mugs and more. If you have an especially significant or dramatic image, you could save a suitably large file, and have your local print shop use a wide format printer to produce a copy suitable for a framed wall hanging over the mantle or behind the sofa.

Adobe/Fuji Film Prints and Gifts

Adobe has made it easy to purchase prints and gifts from Fujifilm by selecting 'Prints and Gifts' from the toolbar of PS Elements 2022. Select the 'Create' Tab on the right-hand side of the top toolbar, and you can access the prints and gifts options from the drop-down menu. It will be for you to decide whether the convenience of Adobe's and Fujifilm's collaboration, compares well with your local services.

Summary

Advances in photo editing software and the use of online tools and AI art generators offer interesting opportunities for creating and displaying digital art from your favorite family photographs. If you're interested in knowing exactly how the images in this article were created, an eBook is available for purchase. For information, see www.lisaalzo.com/photo-galleries/ig-more-digital-art. ©

LISA A. ALZO, M.F.A., is a freelance writer, instructor, and internationally recognized lecturer specializing in Eastern European research and nonfiction writing. She is the author of eleven books and hundreds of magazine articles. Lisa works as an online educator and writing coach through her website, Research Write Connect, www.researchwriteconnect.com. She is a regular contributor to *Internet Genealogy*.



Avoiding the Perils of Assumption

by Robbie Gorr



How “you” and “me” may look, according to the old saying, if we “assume” unwarranted and insupportable conclusions in our genealogical research. (Photo by Klearos Kapoutsis, Creative Commons)

“WHEN YOU ASSUME SOMETHING, YOU MAKE AN”...YES, WE all remember how the old adage goes. It plays on the fact that the letters of the word ‘assume’ may be separated into three smaller phonemes sounding like words, and is intended to suggest that one should not make assumptions because they may turn out to be wrong and cause those involved to appear foolish. And that may be some valuable advice. In genealogy and family history, making assumptions could be devastating to your research, leading you astray down wrong roads, stalling your progress and wasting months, and perhaps years, of your time, effort and resources.

Everyone does it. We assume even the simplest things based on common experience, a likely possibility or what seems to be a logical idea. We assume that our ancestors were all married, that all their children were born afterwards, that missing family members must have died and that people of the same name must be related. We assume that the family immigrated all together, that they settled in just one place and that familial stories and traditions are true, having been passed along unchanged.

An assumption is the belief that some event or circumstance can be accepted as true even though there may be no proof. And even when we find actual evidence, it is still possible to assume that the proof is correct and accurate without correlating that information with other corroborative records. After all, it is possible that an original record might be mistaken in its information because the people who documented it may have misremembered or inadvertently erred. And, knowing the frailty of human behaviour, they may also have lied, denied or possibly even fabricated the facts.

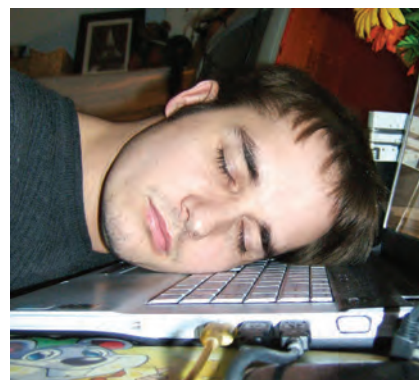
So how, then, can we avoid the pitfalls of presumption and conjecture to discover the truth in our genealogical research? Thankfully, there are some

other, more useful, maxims and mottos that can help you to avoid the perils of assumption.

Don't Be Complacent

It's just too easy to accept new information at first glance. We assume that whatever we have discovered is correct and must be the final word and often make no further efforts to prove or disprove it. That is usually the first misstep.

It might be hard to imagine that any official record or document we discover could possibly contain some erroneous or misconstrued data. But a mother might provide incorrect information on a child's birth certificate to protect her reputation or her child's. A grieving son or daughter might not correctly recall information for their parent's death certificate. Registrars, clerks and other municipal employees could make spelling mistakes, omissions, typos and even use illegible handwriting on official documents. That's why one record is never enough. Multiple sources and different kinds of sources that corroborate the same details are needed.



Being complacent and accepting any new information as fact can be the first misstep that will hinder your research progress. (Photo by spcbrass, Creative Commons)

Proof is the accumulation of acceptable evidence and it would take at least two corroborating sources to substantiate new information. The website *Legacy Tree Genealogists* contains a blog entitled *Connecting the Dots: What Constitutes Genealogical Proof* (www.legacytree.com/blog/what-constitutes-genealogical-proof) that further explains the necessity of using substantive and supportive sources for accurate research. The discovery of new information does not mean that you can complacently accept it at face value. It's just the first step to further research in order to understand the truth of your ancestors' lives and experiences.

Consider All Possibilities



Our thinking needs to consider all possibilities so we can follow where the evidence leads us and not where we think it should, or wish it would. (Photo by Identity Photogr@phy, Creative Commons)

Just one piece of information might possibly mean any of several things and so we also tend to make conjectures in the way we interpret new information. We may have a preconceived idea of what might have happened and so we tend to look for facts to support that notion, while disregarding information that does not. Our assumptions can be resolute and inflexible and create brick walls and stumbling blocks in our use of those facts. Instead, we need our thinking to be more adaptable and adjustable so we can follow where the evidence leads us and not

where we think it should, or wish it would.

In the same way, when facts and evidence are in short supply, we tend to create a possible theory to make sense of the known data. Assuming there is only one possible explanation can be limiting to your ability to uncover the truth. Instead, we should examine all the feasible possibilities that might arise from the information you already know. Presume that any number of theories, no matter how seemingly unlikely, could be possible based on inferences from your data and on probability, and then search for more evidence to support or exclude some of those theories.

Olive Tree Genealogy has a blog entitled *Don't Make Genealogy Assumptions* (<http://olivetreegenealogy.blogspot.com/2021/09/dont-make-genealogy-assumptions.html>) that demonstrates how to create, develop and then prove a working theory. We are also reminded that genealogy is about facts and truth, not guesswork and assumption, and that proof is always needed.

So Prove It

Finding evidence and proof is not always as easy as it sounds. In order to find what is needed, it will be necessary to carefully examine every possible record source regarding an ancestor or family line. Evidence can be sorted into two categories. Direct evidence provides specific information that directly answers a question. Locating a number of corroborating pieces of direct evidence should provide sufficient proof. Indirect evidence, on the other hand, is circumstantial and infers a fact rather than presenting information beyond a reasonable doubt. But multiple sources of similar indirect evidence can lead to a reasonable, if not definite, conclusion just through a preponderance of such



Finding evidence and proof is not always as easy as it sounds. It will be necessary to examine every possible record source and then to spend time considering those sources to determine the reliability of the facts found. (Photo by paurian, Creative Commons)

evidence. But it also will be beneficial to carefully consider the sources of the information to determine the reliability of the facts found.

Checking whether the record comes from an original source or a derivative source is also important. Original records are the actual documents and are obviously more complete and reliable. Derivative sources are copies of originals such as transcriptions, indices, abstracts and summaries and, as such, are subject to errors made in interpretation, transcription and publication of information contained in the original records. Determining whether a record is a primary source or a secondary source is also relevant. Primary records date from the time of the event and were usually informed by someone with direct first-hand knowledge of the event. Secondary records are created at some time period after the event and, for that reason, are more prone to having errors than primary records.

This examination and analysis of record sources is part of the Genealogical Proof Standard used by professional genealogists and researchers to provide reliable information and to prove theories, thereby eliminating the proclivity



to make assumptions. *Ancestral Findings.com* has a podcast with a transcription called *What is the Genealogical Proof Standard and Why Should You Use It* (<https://ancestralfindings.com/genealogical-proof-standard>). It's an important research tool, not just for professionals, but for all genealogists and family historians.

Persistence Pays Off



The key to research success is to keep working at it because persistence is one of a genealogist's best practices and it will pay off. (Photo by paurian, on Creative Commons)

Of course, genealogical research is never complete until you have exhausted as many possible sources and lines of enquiry as can reasonably be found. It is important to look everywhere and to consider even unlikely sources as possibilities. Don't expect to find an answer quickly. It may take some time so be prepared with a list of already-checked resources and another of other possibilities to try. Check regularly and at frequent intervals for new sources and updated materials that are constantly becoming available, especially via the internet. Consider alternate spellings, examine a range of dates, widen the search to nearby communities and extend research broadly to include siblings and cousins instead of just moving back into direct ancestry.

Most records often contain more details than merely the basic facts. Places, witnesses, presiding officials,

occupations and special remarks are just some of the supporting details of source material. As with any document or record, make notes on all additional information whether you can see an immediate use for it or not. The solutions of many family history mysteries may be found among the often overlooked details of existing records.

At times there will be the absence of a record that was expected to be found. Such anticipated information that is missing is sometimes referred to as negative evidence as it proves that something did not happen as assumed. An example might be a person recorded on one census and expected, but missing, on the next census ten years later, even though their known death is recorded many years beyond that second census. Negative evidence is often the catalyst for further research to explain that absence from the census record such as possible divorce or separation, a temporary relocation, participation in war, institutionalization or any number of other viable scenarios requiring continued investigation.

Research also may uncover conflicting evidence between two sources. It may be easy to overlook or ignore such differences or to make an assumption that one is correct and the other in error. For example, a baptismal record and a birth notice might each record a different surname for the mother. It may be as simple to solve as a recording error or it might be something requiring additional research into both surnames, but such inconsistencies need to be addressed. Resolving conflicting evidence is a critical step in any genealogical search for the truth.

The key to your research success is to keep at it. Whether it takes days, months or even years, you will be able to say that you have considered

every possibility and checked every source. Persistence is one of a genealogist's best practices and it does pay off. By making a reasonably complete and thorough search, over time it will be possible to say with some confidence what information is available, how reliable it may be, and whether or not a likely theory can be proven. A video from the *Kentucky Tennessee Research Association* called *Genealogy Requires Persistence* (www.youtube.com/watch?v=AZd4bskMGUM) reminds us that resolving problems and finding real answers needs some extra effort.

Sum It Up

The final step in avoiding the problems caused by making assumptions, and preventing others from doing the same, is to organize what you have done and what you know and write it down. List the possible theories you have considered and any research you have done so far in a logical and coherent manner. Include all the facts you have found and ensure that you have correctly listed all sources you have checked. This means that along with your research you have recorded the origin of any items of proof or evidence you have used to support your summation.

Be thorough in citing all your sources. Include any relevant



Organizing what you know using sound reasoning and evidence, in a logical and coherent way, will allow anyone to follow, understand and verify your research conclusions. (Photo by KatieKrueger, Creative Commons)



Assume nothing, question everything and verify all things – another old saying that will make your research more productive and rewarding and lead you to a satisfactory conclusion. (Photo by muffin on Creative Commons)

information to identify and locate the record including its title, an author, editor or transcriber as applicable, the year of publication and the location of the record. Many online resources include correct citations, often found at the bottom of a page or in a footnote that you can use to document your source. Of course, a copy of an original record also can be added as an attachment. The purpose of being meticulous with your source citations is so that you or someone else can verify the information and rely on your work with confidence.

On the website *Genealogy.com*, genealogist Kory Meyerink has an article entitled *Why Bother? The Value of Documentation in Family History Research* (www.genealogy.com/articles/research/19_kory.html). She explains a number of reasons why a summation of your research, complete with the citation of sources, is important and reminds us that “*without proof there is no truth*”.

In genealogy and family history, assumptions and conjecture have a way of blocking your research instead of aiding it, of creating problems instead of solving them and diverting your progress instead of facilitating it. One final word of advice, offered in another wise old adage – “*assume nothing, question everything, and verify all things*”. It’s the one sure way to avoid the perils of assumption and move your genealogical research forward to learn the truth about your ancestors and your family history. ©

ROBBIE GORR is a long-time genealogist and local historian who continues to enjoy the thrill of the search and the exhilaration of discovery and, of course, writing about and sharing his experiences. He has learned from bitter experience about the problems that incorrect assumptions can cause.



Here's What's Coming...

Friends & Genealogy • DNA & Migration
British National Archives • My Dad Lied
Martha's Story • Medical Ancestors
Commonalities that Make Ancestors Unique
Asylums: Places of Healing & Hopelessness
Regular Columns And More!

Line-Up Will Contain More than the Above • Final Contents Subject to Change



Let's Explore State-Specific Encyclopedias

By Diane L. Richard

I extensively use something called NCPedia, www.ncpedia.org. With almost 9,000 articles, this NC-focused encyclopedia provides great historical context for those researching North Carolinian ancestors. This is my “go-to” page when I have a question about just about anything North Carolinian as I delve into new-to-me historical events, people, geography, and more. I also constantly revisit it as I explore new topics. I can't tell you how often I do a Google™ search on a topic and end up at NCPedia. Maybe I should just start there <grin!>

North Carolina is not the only state that has created a resource like this, a state-specific Encyclopedia. They are all structured differently and have different scopes of what material is and is not included. They typically revolve around articles/posts focusing on a particular person, historical event, etc. The key is that they all provide excellent historical and geographical contextual information, vital to genealogists. Many are housed on a state archive or library platform,



while others via a state historical society. Regardless, they are all searchable and browseable; the latter can help you quickly find relevant material when a search has frustrated you.

Here are a few other state-specific ones that I am aware of. Note that many use Encyclopedia in their name. Look for one for the state you are researching.

- 1) **CALS The Encyclopedia of Arkansas**, <https://encyclopediaofarkansas.net>. Besides the standard options for search or browsing, a link also takes you to a collection of lesson plans, many of which point back to the Encyclopedia <https://arstudies.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/lessonplans/search>. I often find lesson plans a great way to get introduced to a new topic. I hope that if a school student can learn the topic via these, I can as well!
- 2) **Colorado Encyclopedia**, <https://coloradoencyclopedia.org> permits you to navigate via searching, selecting a theme or exploring a digital collection (statewide, regional, county or city). There is also a great collection of Maps and some fun timelines. For the latter, “The Fur Trade in Colorado, c. 1821-1850” and the “Colorado Gold Rush” both caught my eye.

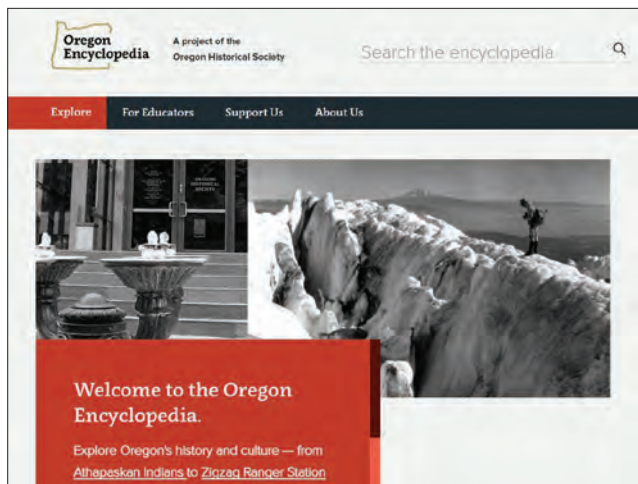


- 3) **New Georgia Encyclopedia**, www.georgiaencyclopedia.org. You can search or browse. The History & Archaeology topic has many sub-topics of interest broken down by periods and information on Historians & Organizations, and Sites & Museums.
- 4) **Kansapedia**, www.kshs.org/kansapedia/kansapedia/19539 “Most of the articles are written by the Kansas Historical Society; but we invite your submissions to add to these narratives. Browse by people, place, or theme, or several sub-categories.” This reminds us that many of these encyclopedias, though spearheaded by a particular entity or consortia, are collaborative and frequently welcome submissions. There are currently almost 2,000 articles included.
- 5) **Mississippi Encyclopedia**, <https://mississippiencyclopedia.org> is organized similarly to others – you can search for content, look through categories or browse an alphabetized list. The category “History Before 1817” caught my eye.



- 6) **Ohio History Central, via Ohio History Connection**, https://ohiohistorycentral.org/w/Welcome_To_Ohio_History_Central is “a reference source for and about the people of Ohio. It covers topics related to the history, ancient peoples, archaeology, and natural history of Ohio.” They stopped updating this platform on 31 January 2022, and direct individuals to Ohio History Connection, www.ohiohistory.org. Just because a website is not being updated [a condition probably true for others listed though your author did not do any digging to ascertain the active/inactive status for these websites] does not take away from the information made available to us.

- 7) **Oregon Encyclopedia**, www.oregonencyclopedia.org can be explored via searching, an alphabetized list of entries or themes like “Oregon Trail and Resettlement,” “Exploration and Explorers,” “Religion,” and more; all relevant to genealogists. Check out the “For Educators” tab, particularly the “Primary Source Packets.” Regardless of age, we are all students sometimes.



- 8) **South Carolina Encyclopedia**, www.scencyclopedia.org/sce, provides a few different ways to explore its content. You can search, browse by categories, select a period (e.g., Pre-Colonial South Carolina (Before 1670), Colonial Period (1670-1764), etc.), focus on Regions (e.g., Lowcountry, Midland, Pee Dee, etc.), or choose a specific county. Depending on what you seek, one or more of these exploration options will suit you.



- 9) **The Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture**, <https://tennesseeencyclopedia.net> divides its content into categories to help you “learn more about the Volunteer State!” The contents appear to be a mix of biographies and then topic overview pieces.

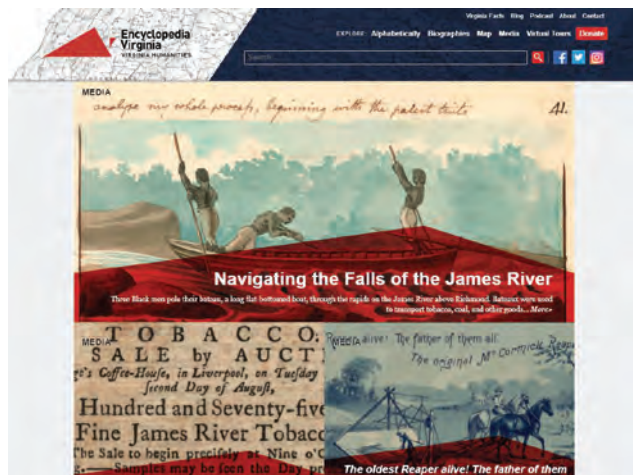


10) **The Texas State Historical Association, Handbook of TX**, www.tshaonline.org/handbook, like the others, contains extensive information. Some “Special Projects” cover topics like Texas Women, Texas Medicine, Tejano History, African American Texas, Civil War Texas, and more.



11) **Utah History Encyclopedia**, www.uen.org/utah_history_encyclopedia presents a simpler interface where your options are to search or trawl through an alphabetized list of topics.

12) **Encyclopedia Virginia**, <https://encyclopediaofvirginia.org>. Like many of these state-created Wiki/Encyclopedia resources, Biographies are also included. You might be surprised to find your family or collateral family members listed or just references to others in a described community. Don't assume your family is NOT listed in a provided biography. This Virginia one also includes Virtual Tours of over 50 places, from slave dwellings to mills to a glasshouse, plantations, cemeteries, and more. If you cannot visit Virginia in person, these Virtual Tours are helpful.



13) **Encyclopedia, WyoHistory.org**, www.wyohistory.org/encyclopedia allows browsing the encyclopedia articles by location or title; you can also search.

Though we focused on state-level encyclopedias, several cities or regional ones exist, e.g., The Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia, <https://philadelphiaencyclopedia.org>, and the Encyclopedia of Cleveland History, <https://case.edu/ech>.

In addition to Encyclopedias, consider if there might be a relevant Wiki. What is a Wiki? Per Slite, “A wiki is a collaborative site where users can add, edit or remove content.” It is as simple and complex as that. It is a form of crowdsourcing, a topic covered in past issues of Internet Genealogy. Familiar and relevant to genealogists are these two popular Wikis, Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page, and the FamilySearch Research Wiki, www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Main_Page.

For states not included above, use Wikipedia (wink!) and its List of online encyclopedias of U.S. states https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_online_encyclopedias_of_U.S._states or the Encyclopedia of Arkansas list of “Other Online Encyclopedias,” <https://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/other-online-encyclopedias> which lists both state and city-level ones. Not all states are listed, and some states don't have a consolidated resource, so two may be listed.

Delve into these freely available encyclopedias that you can access from your phone, tablet, laptop, etc., and also while in your jammies. ☺

DIANE L. RICHARD has been doing genealogy research since 1987. She is currently editor of the *North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal* and a professional genealogy and family historian researcher, speaker, and writer. She can be found online at www.mosaicrpm.com and www.tarheeldiscoveries.com.



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- ___ A Genealogist's Guide to Newspaper Research - **\$12.95** (\$9.95 + \$3.00 S/H)
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What's in a Name?

By Stephen Lyon Wakemen Greene

IF YOU THOUGHT “SMITH,” “JOHNSON,” “WILLIAMS,” “JONES” AND “BROWN” were the USA’s most common surnames, you’d be right on the money. Notice their English, Irish, and Scottish origins.

Spanish surnames, while absent from the list, are coming on strong since the turn of the century. Sooner or later, “Garcia” or “Rodriguez” or “Lopez” or all three are going to push their way into the top contenders. Coming up right behind them are Asian names like “Lee” which benefit from the fact it is also an Irish name. Japanese names are written in Kanji, which are characters usually Chinese in origin but Japanese in pronunciation. Compared to other East Asia languages, these names are remarkably varied, over 100,000, because they date only to the 19th century, following the Meiji restoration. In the beginning, Japanese people could choose their names at will.

The origin of surnames like “Smith” or “Wright” is obvious: two handyman names. Not so apparent unless you speak Welsh is “Jones,” which stands for “God is gracious.” First names “John” and “Giovanni” mean roughly the same thing in their respective languages. Frequent girls’ names include “Emma,” “Olivia” and “Ava.” The popularity of that last one goes back to the 1940s when Ava Gardner was lighting up the silver screen.

You’ll never see the name “Lucia” with an accent mark over the “i” in California. The name itself is fine; it’s that darn squiggle that’s illegal. In Tennessee, the supreme court of that state ruled “Messiah” was not an appropriate name. It’s a title.

My great-great-great-great-grandmother, Nancy Avey (1784-1866), had a profusion of names. Attached to her genealogy is this warning: “NOTE: Avey is also spelled Evey, Eby, Abey, Abee, Abi, Abie, Aby, Abye, Aebi, Aebich, Aeby, Eabi, Eaby, Eavy, Ebbe, Ebby, Ebe, Ebee, Eben, Eber, Ebey, Ebi, Beich, Ebie, Eby, Evi, Evie, Evy, Ewi, Ewie, Ewy and Uebi.” I default to ‘Avey’ since that’s apparently the way Nancy spelled her family name when she married Pastor John Emmert in 1802.

One of the worst name problems belongs to my Lyons family on my mother’s side who migrated from Kentucky to Missouri in the mid-19th century. The head of the family then was “Humberson” or perhaps “Umberson” or maybe “Newberson.” The problem was those initial letters which, when scrawled on a census form, were construed as one of the three above. Humberson, just to pick one of the three, wasn’t prone to settling down. No sooner than moving to Missouri, he took off for the 1849 Gold Rush in California. Returning several years later to Missouri with nary a nugget in his pocket, but with some nasties in his body, he died from yellow fever and was thrown into the Mississippi River.

His son, James P. Lyon (1834-1862), didn’t last much longer. True to his rural Kentucky roots, he joined the Confederate Army early in the war and died in a Montana valley after accidentally shooting himself with his own rifle. A nearby mountain was named in his honor.

Now, you may think such a person would be an unlikely candidate to have his name passed down to a Yankee great-great-grandson, such as me. But, apparently, that thought never entered my mother’s mind. She appended

“Lyon” to my middle name to go along with “Wakeman.” Two middle names was a tradition in both of my parents’ families. Whether it had arisen as a pretense for patrician heritage is unknown, but it is an inconvenient anomaly for statisticians and machines alike in this computer age. That other name was as suspect as “Lyon” because it involved the last name from my great-great-grandmother on my mother’s side, Mary Anne Wiechmann (1834-1906) whose moniker had been anglicized into “Wakeman” by Alpha Wigglesworth Toole (speaking of names, that’s a dilly, isn’t it?) in the late 1930s when the misdeeds of the Nazis had made any German name such as hers suspect.



Alpha Wigglesworth Toole

How could my mother be the same woman who so ardently had defended her acquired family name, “Greene,” from anyone who dared besmirch it by leaving the “e” off the end? And did I mention her outrage at anyone who named her father “Harry” instead of “Harrie” or her youngest son “Jeffrey” instead of “Geoffrey?”

Despite my mother’s insistence



that everyone should conform to her naming standards, she consistently changed the names of everyone she met by creating nicknames for them. On occasion, this included even me, who became “Teev” whenever she wanted to be intimately casual. But, the rest of the time, it was always “Stephen” with a “p” and “h” never with a “v,” thank you very much.

Mom thought her nicknames were an ingenious way of getting to know people better. After every trip of hers, she’d come home loaded with pictures, shot by others, of her in Petra or Tahiti or India surrounded by appreciative fans with names like “Petra Pete” or “Tahiti Tom.”



My Prominent Mother.

Actually, their names were much more distinctive than that. I could never figure out what system she used. It was not the mere substitution of some geographical term, like the above, or some reference to a physical attribute, like “Slim Jim” or “Minnesota Fats.” She would never degrade people like that. She would find some attribute in the person and then “slide it sideways” to come up with a nickname. There seemed little sense to the derivation of her names – Martin, for example, became

“Malcolm” – but there must have been some rhyme to her reason because most people cherished my mother’s nicknames.

My second middle name of “Wakeman” does demonstrate some research by my mother, specious though it be. Still in my possession is a 1930s genealogical study by Alpha Wigglesworth Toole detailing the name of “Wakeman.” That is his anglicized moniker for my mother’s maternal grandmother, Mary Anne Wiechmann (1834-1906). It should have taken little research to figure out this relative’s background. She was definitely not an English “Wakeman” but a Bavarian “Wiechmann.” What had happened? Her Germanic background had been scrubbed clean by Toole.



Mary Anne Weichmanne

Toole was the genealogist who prepared the spiffy report. Alpha was married to the daughter of Mary Anne’s third husband, Charles Egner (1838-1918). In the 1930s when Alpha researched the genealogy, with the ascension of Hitler, anything Teutonic was suspect, even names. In Alpha’s skilled hands, German “Wiechmann” became English “Wakeman.” I still have Alpha’s meticulously typed, multi-page manuscript with red script wherever added emphasis was required.

Lucky old me, a cousin, who is a

genealogist, once facetiously commiserated with me. “You have been maligned by being assigned an “anglicization” for a middle name.”

By the way, Alpha’s perfidy would soon be recognized by a wider audience. The *Jefferson City Post-Tribune*, 14 June 1933, Page 8, summed it up nicely in a clever lead sentence: “Alpha Wigglesworth Toole, genealogical expert who claims descent from Irish kings, went to the Missouri penitentiary today to begin serving a three-year term for embezzlement of \$6,000 while deputy county treasurer last year.

“Toole’s last act before starting for prison, was to lend his large silk American flag, a prized family possession, to a committee of the local D. A. R. which called on him last night. The flag was used today in Flag Day ceremonies conducted by that organization.”

My family even had strictures on what we could name our pet dogs. No human names were allowed because it was thought to be insulting if we ever had to refer to the dog while someone with the same name was nearby. I can remember when I obtained my current pet, the previously named “Coady,” part Husky and German Shepherd. I thought about what to do with his name, and a week later, having gotten used to the dog’s Kodiak-Eskimo good looks, re-christened him “Kodi,” after the islands off Alaska, of course. The pet never seemed to notice the difference. ©

STEPHEN L. W. GREENE is a retired university professor who has written many articles and a handful of books, including sections of *The People’s Almanac*, Doubleday: 1975, *Absolute Dreams*, White Lotus Press: 1999, *The Congenial Genealogist*, 2015, among others. His last article for Moorshead Magazines was, *Us and Them*, which appeared in *Your Genealogy Today* September/October 2021.



Female Ancestor Research

is the latest *Tracing Your Ancestors* special issue from the publishers of *Internet Genealogy* magazine. This new 2022 edition, compiled by author Gena Philibert-Ortega, a genealogy educator, avid genealogist, writer and speaker, contains all new articles including: Starting Your Research; She's Not There; Making the Most of Online Searches; African American Newspapers; Her Life in Books; Finding Herstory in Archives; What is Her Maiden Name?; Introduction to Catholic Records; Finding Female Ancestors Pre-1850; Twentieth Century Ancestors; Cemetery Research; Community Cookbooks; Ten Records You Are Not Using; Female Ancestor Checklist; and Finding Female Ancestors: Glossary.

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Photo by F. Forshew, Hudson, N.Y. Dated 1870 - 1890. Library of Congress.



Starting With Stone Soup: Ideas For Crafting Your Ancestor's Story

by Sue Lisk

I'VE ALWAYS BEEN FOND OF TURTLES. MAYBE that's why I felt a bit guilty when I learned that some of my ancestors in Quebec occasionally used this reptile from their "mud lake" as the chief ingredient in a certain soup they concocted.

I couldn't make up for the past. But I was interested in learning more about turtles in the present. So when I met Ed Murtagh, a naturalist who has created videos about turtles found in our area, I was anxious to view his clips. When discussing them, he revealed that most of the videos he'd produced up to now have had nothing to do with turtles, but rather with family history.

I'd like to take a look at one of these videos and use it as a springboard to suggest ideas you might consider when creating your own family history videos and related projects.



A turtle like this one occasionally ended up as an ingredient in a soup my ancestors prepared. A Northern map turtle in Ladysmith, QC. (Photo by Bob Bretzlaff)

"JOHN J. MURTAGH (GRAMP'S) STORY"



When you have just the outline of a story in photos, you can be creative as to how you present the details. A red-winged blackbird in silhouette against the sky. (Photo courtesy of author)

Ed Murtagh produced a relatively short video about his grandfather, John J. Murtagh, as a way of keeping his memory alive. He also wanted to share information about him of which younger family members would likely be unaware. You can view this video at www.youtube.com/watch?v=3H0mAVRVZwY.

Ed has made his video both accessible and engrossing by taking into account a number of important factors and by using effective tools to achieve his goal.

Identification

When creating a family history project for relatives or for others

who may be unfamiliar with the people involved, you'll want to be sure that the individuals in the story are clearly identified. Although it's often best to concentrate on one person, few stories about someone could be told as if the person lived in a vacuum. The individual you choose to focus on will usually be described at certain points in the context of how the person is related to or interacts with other family members, acquaintances, or friends.

As the narrator of the story, Ed Murtagh decided to specify his relationship to his grandfather, John J. Murtagh. This allows him to describe many of the

individuals involved in terms of their relationship to himself. Although Ed's father is also named John, no confusion ensues. Ed has the option to refer to John J. Murtagh by his full name or can refer to him as "my grandfather". Similarly, Ed's father becomes "my father". And since Ed doesn't use his own father's name as he tells the story, he can simply refer to his grandfather as "John".

Ed also makes use of photos to identify family members, most of which are labelled when they include more than one person. But if you incorporate family photos, be sure not to write on the photos themselves.

Theme

Ed describes John J. Murtagh in the light of a central theme, telling us that John was known for his "service to others". Ed then builds his story around why this description is appropriate and mentions specific instances in which his grandfather displayed this quality. By giving such examples as John sharing mittens with children who lacked them and serving on committees concerned with Veterans Affairs, Head Start Education, and credit unions, Ed shows John's dedication to helping others. Ed also tells us that, as a result of his grandfather's activities, Ed's own father grew up believing that no Veteran in need who might happen to pass through their community of Framingham, MA would ever be ignored.

Choosing a key message or theme to convey through your video will help you structure your story. And it will enable your audience to understand the most "important" aspect or aspects of your protagonist, from your point of view.



The "props" you use in your family history projects can be simpler than this. A pirate ship that serves as an elaborate prop in the miniature-golf course at Paradise Fun Park in Kill Devil Hills, NC, Carol M. Highsmith. (Library of Congress)

You would not necessarily need to select a particular facet of your family member's personality. You might choose to focus on the individual's achievements. Or maybe on some unusual adventures the person had. Or even on the person's ability to handle an especially difficult situation.

Organization

Perhaps the easiest way to organize your family history story is by starting at the beginning and progressing chronologically.

Ed Murtagh has divided the story of his grandfather's life into several sections: "Immigration to the USA", "World War II", "Post World War II", "Rose Halley", "Family Stories", and "Acknowledgements". These subdivisions provide both a framework and context for his grandfather's story.

The video is slightly over seventeen minutes in length so is short enough to watch comfortably in a single sitting. But if you were to create a longer video, breaking the video up into sections would be wise.

Although Ed provides all the narration in this case, you could

also consider having more than one person do some of the narration of a video you produce. A story about an event involving a certain family member and your protagonist might be narrated by that relative. But, as Ed does here, any narrator must speak clearly and slowly enough to enable viewers to understand and absorb the details recounted.

This video includes a special section at the end devoted to family stories, but other smaller stories are interspersed throughout. In some cases, Ed gives us the source of the tale. It isn't always possible to do this, but it can be helpful if a viewer is interested in seeking out further information concerning the story or some aspect of it.

By including stories, instead of simply reciting facts, Ed adds color and appeal to the larger story of his grandfather. This helps his audience gain a better sense of what John J. Murtagh was truly like.

Photos

In most cases, you won't have original footage to rely on in creating



A relative's business card might be used in a family history project. Copy of a late 19th-century business card for Alexander & Son Flouring Mills. (Library of Congress)

a family history video. You will probably need to rely primarily on images to accompany your story.

Certainly, it makes sense to use photos you have available of the person who is the focus of your video. Incorporating images that show close family members such as siblings, parents, spouses and children are also likely choices.

Toward the beginning of Ed's video, he includes a photo of his grandfather's grandmother that he displays while telling of her having appreciated the local gossip John brought home. Providing snippets of stories about ancestors from an even earlier time period could be a welcome addition to your project.

Ed labels important individuals in photos when it's not obvious who they are, but who may be mentioned in the story later on. In one case, he uses an image one might call an "anchor photo". He returns to it more than once, in the context of describing a different family member each time. The camera zooms in on the person as he talks about the individual.

Consider including photos of a family home or a workplace. Or incorporate photos that illustrate family tales you recount. Ed shows us a photo of his grandfather dressed up as Santa when he describes the uproar his grandfather caused on one occasion

when he was wearing his Santa costume.

Historical Details

To make your relative's story as intriguing as possible, you might want to include historical details to add context. You could most effectively do this using both narration and images.

You might not have your own family photos that provide the background you're looking for, but historical postcards, photos and illustrations are often available for non-commercial use.

Ed includes a photo of a bar that appeared in a newspaper when describing his grandfather's networking abilities. The video also includes a 1960s historical photo of Framingham at the point where Ed discusses town meetings that his father recalled attending with John.

Your story may connect your



Photos of well-known locations are sometimes available at no cost for non-commercial use. Consider including them in your family history projects when applicable. The Empire State Building, Angelo Rizzuto, c. 1952. (Library of Congress)



You might incorporate a map in your project showing where your ancestor settled or travelled. A map of Texas, showing large areas of Czech immigration, at the Czech Heritage Museum & Genealogy Center, in Temple, TX, Carol M. Highsmith. (Library of Congress)

protagonist in some way with a famous location. Since John installed weatherstripping in the Empire State Building, Ed has incorporated a photo of the iconic building as the visual when he describes John's work there. Another photo shows a newspaper article about the tragic Cocoanut Nightclub fire in Boston in 1942 to which John J. Murtagh responded while serving in the Massachusetts State Guard.

But even small details can be fascinating, such as the fact that John and his father sold food off a horse-drawn wagon and used a different horn to announce each particular food item to prospective buyers. Ed's mention of the pair sometimes selling strawberries or potatoes that had come down the St John River by riverboat is another instance of using

detail to make history palpable.

You can also add other "props" when telling your story. Consider incorporating such items as maps showing immigration routes, illustrations of ships used in the journey, or citizenship documents. Ed has used all of these and others to help paint a fuller picture of the time and place in which his grandfather, John J. Murtagh, lived.

Although developers are continually making videography software more powerful and user friendly, you may decide to hire someone to assist you in producing family history videos. You could also use some of the ideas discussed here in other types of visually-oriented family history projects such as slideshows or on-line photo albums.

Ed Murtagh created this project concerning his grandfather with the assistance of other family members, but did the videography himself. When working on your project, you will probably want to involve at least some of your relatives in the process. Each person may be able to add unique and valuable elements to the story, as if the group were making a sort of genealogical stone soup.

But don't go overboard – at least not in the final production phase. As they say, too many cooks spoil the (turtle) broth. ©

SUE LISK, a freelance writer, genealogist, and linguist, is a frequent contributor to *Internet Genealogy*. She works for a news agency in Washington, DC.

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Tapsters, Saloonkeepers, and Bartenders in the Family

By David A. Norris

CALL THEM TAVERNS, BAR ROOMS, SALOONS, OR BEER HALLS, THEY have for centuries not only served drinks, but also provided space for relaxation, socializing, and collecting news and gossip. Inhabitants of places without official community centers found that taverns or saloons could be used for voting places, political meetings, or court sessions.



Some early country taverns were landmarks, standing near ferry landings or stagecoach stops. (Library of Congress)

In ancient Rome, customers drank wine in a *taverna*. Originally, *taverna* meant shed, but apparently so many “sheds” served wine that the word came to have a new meaning. Taverna became “tavern” in medieval England, and taverns appeared in British North American colonies in the 1700s. The authorities kept an eye on taverns by requiring licenses for them, but these businesses were essential to everyday life. Besides serving drinks and providing a social space,



Saloon fights are a staple in western movies and TV shows, but saloon keepers also had to worry about burglaries, fires, and violating local ordinances. (Public domain)

taverns also might offer meals, rooms, and stabling for overnight visitors. Often, a tavern stood near a ferry landing, offering travelers a place to stay while waiting to cross a river.

By the early 1800s, the word tavern had picked up an unpleasant connotation in the US, bringing to mind dirty and dimly lit establishments full of drunken and unsavory characters. Owners began calling them bar rooms in the early decades of the 1800s, and then a bit later, saloons. A saloon, which came from the French *salon*, meaning “room”, sounded much more appealing than a tavern. Besides drinking establishments, there were also oyster saloons, bowling saloons, daguerreotype saloons, and ice cream saloons.



“The Office” was a popular saloon name; customers could slip away to their favorite saloon by saying, “I’m going to the office”. (The Daily Review, Wilmington, N.C., 24 November 1875, North Carolina Newspapers)

Quite a few saloons put on a show of elegance and sophistication. Finely crafted shelves backed with mirrors held bottles of liquor

or fine wine behind the bar. Fancy crystal chandeliers shed light on luxurious carpets and gilt-framed oil paintings on the walls. Customers could find a wide range of liquors and cordials, some of them imported from Europe.

There was a great contrast between the baroque splendor of a high-end saloon and the grimy squalor of the establishments at the lower end. Many a frontier saloon was merely a tent, with a bar made from a few planks laid across the tops of a couple of barrels. In the East, thousands of saloons in slums and waterfronts were not much better.

In the late 1800s, many saloons offered free snacks or cheap lunches. Some even had a separate ladies' entrance for a separate lunchroom, so working women could leave their shops or offices for a five-cent lunch without going into the saloon itself.

The growing temperance movement zeroed in on the saloon as a dangerous influence. "Saloon" had much the same unsavory connotation as did the disreputable tavern of a century before. The 19th Amendment, which brought nationwide prohibition of alcohol, went into effect in 1920. Most of the U.S. was already under state prohibition laws. Illegal bars called "speakeasies" arose to replace the old saloons until Prohibition was repealed in 1933. New drinking establishments were more likely to call themselves bars than saloons, and many owners even chose to call them taverns once again.

A federal report in 1897 estimated that there were 215,000 licensed sellers of retail liquor or beer in the U.S., and another 50,000 or so illegal and unlicensed saloons.

This meant a lot of people worked in the industry. The 1900

U.S. Census counted 83,875 saloon keepers and 88,937 bartenders. 2,086 saloon keepers and 440 bartenders were women. Their occupations came under many variations in the census, such as "keeps saloon," "works in saloon," "porter in saloon," "clerk in saloon," "bar tender," "barman," "barkeeper," or "tavern keeper."

In many cases, the saloon's owner or manager lived in the same building, perhaps in an upstairs apartment. Often, their wives and children lived there as well. This was not only economical. Saloons were a tempting target to burglars, so it was prudent to have people living in the building when the barroom was closed.

A handful of census entries existed for saloon piano players. Surprisingly for those of us who watched a lot of western scenes set in saloons, many if not most saloons had no one hired to play a piano. Some saloons had player pianos (sometimes coin-operated); others had solutions ranging from small bands to a single fiddle player, to going without music at all.

A good many bar keepers and

saloon owners were European immigrants, and we will meet a few of them as we look into some of the genealogical sources we used in this article.

State censuses are also possible sources, as are other special census rolls. At Ancestry.com, the collection "Leavenworth, Kansas Voter Registration, 1859" has 119 names listed with the occupation given as "saloon." In that collection, the street and city ward also appears with each name.

Saloon keepers also appeared on the mortality census schedules. In 1850, those names included saloon keepers George Martin and Francis Mayel. Mayel, of Orleans Parish, Louisiana, died of jaundice; Martin, of Kanawha County (then still in Virginia rather than West Virginia as it is now), was shot to death.

Census takers were not asked the names of saloons where people worked. But, a great deal of information can be found by cross-referencing census data with other sources, such as newspapers, town directories, and local government records.



A bartender awaits customers in this unknown saloon, about 1906. Saloon keepers, their families, and employees might live upstairs from their bar rooms. (Library of Congress)



Owners liked to come up with unique names, such as the Peace and Quiet Saloon in Brownsville, Nebraska. (Chronicling America)

Newspapers are a particularly rich source of information about saloons. Besides advertisements, saloons also might figure in news stories or editorials. Town newspapers might also print lists of people who received saloon licenses.

Although some establishments had rather bland names like Smith's Saloon or the Railroad Saloon, many others chose colorful and memorable names. Quite a few towns had elegant-sounding saloons with names such as the Crystal Palace, Gem, Empire, or International, which contrasted with sinister-sounding ones such as the Bucket of Blood Saloon. Seattle's Goo Goo Eyes Saloon made the newspapers in 1902 when its employees were acquitted of serving poisoned drinks. Brownsville, Nebraska had the Peace and Quiet Saloon. More than one establishment was named the Office Saloon, perhaps because it sounded better to say, "I'm going to the office" than "I'm going to the saloon."

Contrary to what you'd expect from TV and movie westerns, burglaries and accidental fires were

probably a bigger worry for saloon owners than fights and shootouts.

In Minnesota, the 29 April 1894 issue of the *St. Paul Daily Globe* printed a long list of recent unsolved crimes. Four out-of-towners who visited saloons were among the victims. Ole Larson of Dwight, South Dakota, lost \$55 to con men. "Gus Hanson, a stranger in the city" lost \$112. John Lundin of Chisago County, Minnesota, was swindled out of \$255. One crime was reported as "John Sinclair, Great Falls, Mont., skinned out of diamond ring valued at \$400, gold watch valued at \$300, diamond stud valued at \$75, at a card game in a Seventh street saloon. He was given a worthless check for \$200 on a Butte bank and \$40 in cash to keep from squealing." Burglars stole cash, liquor, and cigars from saloon owners Henry Vitt, N. P. Lindstrum, and John Graus.

County courts or town governments granted licenses to tavern and saloon owners. Under the British Crown, colonial governments licensed taverns beginning early in the 1600s. The license laws meant that early taverns are very well-documented in a way that country stores, town and city shops, and other businesses are not. Tavern keepers often used their homes as their places of business, rather than constructing or renting a separate building. There was a great deal of turnover in the business; many colonial tavern license holders disappear from lists after only a few years.

Generally, licenses were renewed annually. Occasionally, lists of license holders appeared in the newspapers, along with information on local government debates or decisions. Saloon licenses could be limited, sparking competition for obtaining them. Newspapers

reported that in 1910, an applicant denied a license in Gary, Indiana found a tract of swamp and built a saloon on stilts!

The *Carroll Free Press* of Carrollton in Carroll County, Ohio, was one of many newspapers that reported local government receipts and expenditures in its columns. The 15 July 1836 issue listed detailed accounts of Carroll County's finances. More than two dozen individuals paid fees for tavern licenses, ranging from \$5 to \$12. Some tavern owners also paid arrears in very precise amounts. Hugh Madison's arrears came to \$5.32, and Daniel Zollars paid \$8.66 plus 7 mills (a mill being one one-hundredth of a cent or one one-thousandth of a dollar.)

Taverns and saloons often operated in rented spaces. But, if their proprietors also owned their places of business, a search of local deeds and tax rolls might provide some information on them.

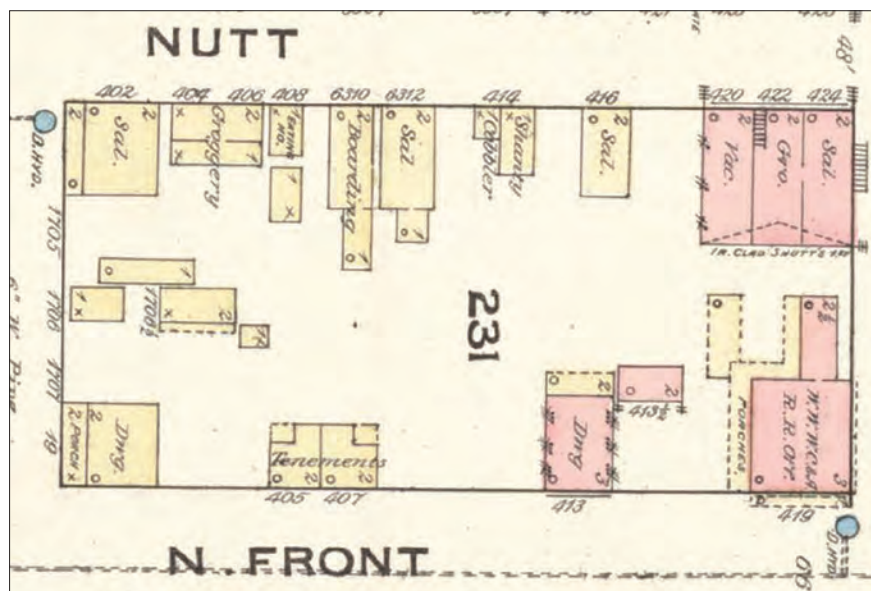
Licenses could also be revoked for breaking laws. Common offenses included allowing the establishment to become a "disorderly house," or selling liquor on Sunday, or outside legal hours. Newspapers and county records often referred to the crime of "retailing," or selling alcohol illegally. In the antebellum South, laws forbade selling liquor to slaves, but court records show that this was a frequent occurrence.

Many county and local court minute books, which contain legal and licensing matters pertaining to taverns and saloons, can be found at FamilySearch.org. These records are generally not digitized or indexed, so they will take some time to check. A search of digital newspapers can be much faster if their columns contained notices of cases in mayor's, recorder's, or magistrate's courts.

A variety of minor offenses related to saloon keepers or their customers show up in local court cases. The *Mobile Register* noted that one Fred Watkins faced a \$5 fine for five days in jail in 1870. His crime was “going into a saloon, ordering drinks to the amount of 95 cents, and having no money to pay for them.” The *Logan Daily News* of Logan, Ohio reported on 28 November 1907, about a court session in the nearby town of Lancaster. Seven saloon keepers who were named in the newspaper faced charges of opening for business on Sunday; each count resulted in a \$50 fine. J. D. Whims, another saloon keeper, was charged with staying open when his town of Pickerington had a local election. Whims paid a \$15 fine. The *Wilkes-Barre Times* in Pennsylvania noted in 1907 that John Alexander was fined \$15 for various acts of malicious mischief, including trying to throw a rock through the window of a saloon.

City directories are very useful as a supplement to newspaper accounts and ads. For one thing, they usually have street numbers for residents and business owners. Often in small-town newspapers, an editor or reporter might write about a saloon but didn’t consider it necessary to note the address since his readers all knew its location. Not all saloons will appear in a directory. Many small “hole in the wall” bar rooms, as well as illegal establishments, eluded directory compilers. If their owners and customers avoided attracting enough attention to draw the notice of the police, courts, or the local newspapers, these establishments left few traces in the records.

Some directories reveal whether or not the owner or bartender lived on the premises. After a



Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps are useful for locating saloons. This block near the Wilmington, N.C. waterfront had four saloons and one “groggery”. (North Carolina Maps)

tip from a city directory, a check into the census records can reveal a fairly detailed life story of a saloon keeper’s family. For instance, *Edwards’ Eleventh Annual Directory, City of St. Louis for 1869* includes the listing “Ross John, saloon, ss. Grand av. Bet. Harper and Barrett, r. same”.

A look at the 1870 Census finds that Ross’ family lived with him in the saloon building. John Ross, age 43, was a saloon keeper with \$600 worth of real estate. He was born in Bavaria; his wife Charlotte, 43, was born in Hesse-Darmstadt. Their 17-year-old son Herman, born in Ohio, was a laborer. Daughters Lottie, age 12, and Rosa, age 10, were born in Missouri. Also in the household were two boarders: George W. Keiter, a 52-year-old laborer who was born in Prussia; and 40-year-old Henry Shepard, a peddler born in Hanover.

Looking back to 1860, we find the same family in Saint Louis headed by “John Raus” and his wife Charlotte. Their birthplaces of Bavaria and Hesse-Darmstadt are the same as given in 1870. Their son

Herman and daughter Charlotte are listed, but daughter Rosa had not been born yet. In 1860, John was listed not as a saloon keeper, but as a tailor. The household listed after his in 1860, though, was the family of Adam Mingel of Hesse Darmstadt. Mingel’s occupation was listed as “saloon.”

The famous fire insurance maps made by the Sanborn Map Company, which was founded in 1867, show many saloons in the business districts of hundreds of U.S. cities. These maps are invaluable when compared with newspapers and city directories. A large nationwide digital collection of Sanborn Maps can be found at the Library of Congress, and many state and local collections can also be found online.

Overall, there are plenty of potential sources for looking into the stories of long-ago taverns and saloons, as well as the people whose lives intersected with them.



DAVID A. NORRIS is a frequent contributor to *Internet Genealogy* and *History Magazine*.



My Late Grandfather, Pietro Lima: Prisoner of War #224

By Marianne Perry

Introduction

Canada entered World War II on Britain's side against Germany on 10 September 1939. William Lyon Mackenzie King was Prime Minister. Italy entered World War II on Germany's side in June 1940. Benito Mussolini was Prime Minister. After King authorized The Royal Canadian Mounted Police to enforce The War Measures Act, they arrested and interned residents of Italian origin suspected of undermining the war effort.

My late maternal grandfather, Pietro Lima was one of the approximately 31,000 Italian-Canadians designated "enemy aliens" by the Canadian government and the 600 interned at camps in Canada. A Canadian citizen, he was married to my late grandmother, Rose. They had four children including my late mother, Dorothy Lima Perry.

The R.C.M.P. arrested Pietro Lima, aged 41 at the family home in Toronto, Ontario on 12 June 1940. Aged 15, my mother witnessed her father's arrest. She said that authorities failed to explain to the family why they were "taking her father away."

Pietro Lima was confined to The Exhibition Buildings in Toronto under orders of Internment Operations, The Department of The Secretary of State, Canada. Referred to as Prisoner of War #224, he was interned at Camp 33-Petawawa, Ontario. On 18 December 1942, he was transferred to Camp B70-Ripples, Fredericton, New Brunswick. Pietro Lima was released on 6 February 1943.

In mid-1943, Canada joined in the invasion of Italy. Benito Mussolini was voted out of power on 25 July 1943. Italy surrendered to the Allies on 8 September 1943. Germany surrendered on 7 May 1945. On 14 August 1945, Japan surrendered. World War II ended.

Pietro Lima died, aged 81 on 1 October 1979 in Toronto, Ontario. Rose Lima died, aged 84 on 17 October 1982 in Toronto, Ontario. Though I knew my grandparents well, I understood that discussing this subject was verboten. My mother, Dorothy Perry died, aged 91 on 4 October 2016 in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. She was predeceased by her siblings. Despite our close bond, she struggled to speak about it.

On 27 May 2021, the Canadian Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau apologized in the House of Commons on behalf of the Canadian government for the internment of Italian-Canadians during World War II. Acknowledgment was made that none of the interned were ever charged

or convicted and that they were denied due process. The apology came without compensation.

I am a second-generation Canadian-Italian and have conducted genealogical research for 20 years. To learn about my grandfather's experience, I contacted Library and Archives Canada. I received a Custodian of Enemy Property File #2888 with documents specific to Pietro Lima. The Department of The Secretary of State, Canada had delegated responsibility for overseeing an internee's assets/businesses while interned to the Custodian.

My mother's anecdotes also informed me, plus I consulted other resources. I was unable to obtain any R.C.M.P. records and therefore, lack a full comprehension of everything that happened to my grandfather.

Who Was Pietro Lima?

Born in Trabia, Sicily on 29 June 1898, Pietro emigrated, at 16 on his own to Canada via Ellis Island, New York on 15 October 1914. His four older siblings emigrated to the USA. He settled in Ottawa, Ontario and worked as a barber. He met my late grandmother, Rose Mandia there.

Born in Termini Immerge, Sicily on 14 September 1898, Rose emigrated, aged almost two years with



Pietro Lima and Rose Mandia's wedding day in Ottawa, 1 October 1918.

her mother to Canada via Ellis Island, New York on 26 June 1900. The Mandia family operated a fruit and vegetable market. Pietro and Rose were married in Ottawa, Ontario on 1 October 1918.

Pietro and Rose moved to Toronto in 1919. They established and operated a wholesale and retail, fruit, groceries and vegetable

store located at 994 Bathurst Street. Their children were born in Toronto. The family lived above the store and were members of St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church. Pietro was the Social Convenor at the Casa d'Italia, one of the city's local Italian clubs when he was arrested. He played bridge there regularly.

Camp 33-Petawawa, Ontario

Like most internees from central and eastern Canada, Pietro Lima was sent to Petawawa in June 1940. On 15 June 1940, the Lieut.-Colonel who served as the Assistant Director of Internment Operations informed The Official Custodian of Enemy Property, The Department of The Secretary of State, Canada that the R.C.M.P. had apprehended Pietro Lima in Toronto. After arrival at Petawawa, internees completed a Department of Justice questionnaire and were interviewed by a Judge. I was unable to secure my grandfather's records.

Camp Petawawa had barracks, dining rooms, recreation buildings, detention rooms and a hospital. Approximately 600 men including lawyers, doctors and laborers between the ages of 16-70 were interred. Internees were issued uniforms. They did road repair, camp maintenance, vegetable gardening, worked in the kitchens and infirmaries, etc. A robust man, Pietro Lima was assigned manual labor. Internees and families were permitted to correspond. Before letters were exchanged, a censor examined them and blacked out what he evaluated as inappropriate comments. There were no family visits allowed.



INTERNMENT CAMP 33, PETAWAWA, ONTARIO
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Camp 33-Petawawa. (Library & Archives Canada)



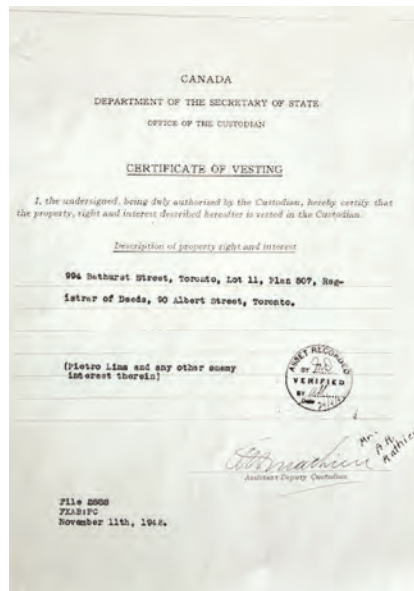
Family Life During Pietro Lima's Internment

12 June 1940 to 6 February 1943

As was customary at the time, the family's assets were registered in Pietro Lima's name and he managed their business and financial affairs. Since internees were forbidden to own assets, the family lawyer secured the appropriate legal transfers to my grandmother, Rose. At 41 and with only a Grade One education she had scant knowledge of running the store. My mother finished Grade Nine that June and then quit school to help.

The circumstances of my grandfather's arrest and detention created tremendous upheaval in the lives of his family. The store lost many of its regular customers and friends shunned them. My mother was unable to complete her education and graduate with a secondary school diploma. Her father's absence took an emotional toll on her life. Aged 15 when he was arrested and 18 when released, she missed his presence terribly.

Since internees were forbidden to own assets, the family lawyer had to secure a transfer of Power of Attorney from Pietro Lima to his wife, Rose so that she could operate the store. The Department of The Secretary of State, Canada appointed Price, Waterhouse & Co., Chartered Accountants, Toronto as Inspectors for The Custodian of Enemy Property. Rose was permitted to operate the store while they investigated her husband's business affairs. Pietro Lima's bank accounts were frozen. No withdrawals were allowed without prior approval from Price Waterhouse. The same condition applied to life insurance policy transactions.



Certificate of Vesting dated November 11, 1942 (Library & Archives Canada)

Under Regulation 8 of the Regulations Respecting Trading with the Enemy (1939), the Department of The Secretary of State, Canada appointed Messrs. Price, Waterhouse & Co. in July 1940 to supervise Pietro Lima's business and financial affairs. As of 7 April 1941, Rose Lima was running the business.



Camp 70-Ripples, Fredericton, New Brunswick.
(www.unb.ca/nbmhp-database/index.php)

The Department of The Secretary of State, Canada issued a Certificate of Vesting on 11 November 1942 confirming that legal ownership of Pietro Lima's Bathurst Street property was transferred to The Custodian of Enemy Property.

Camp B70-Ripples, Fredericton, New Brunswick

18 December 1942

to 6 February 1943

Under The Defense of Canada Regulations, internees could object to their detention. Pietro Lima had objected and his request was denied. Commencing the summer of 1942, internees including Pietro Lima still considered a threat were transferred to Camp 70. Others had been released. Pietro Lima was transferred from Camp 33-Petawawa to Camp-B70 Ripples on 18 December 1942. I was unable to ascertain whether my grandfather had legal representation at his hearing, what evidence was presented against him, why his request was denied and the

reasons that he was still considered a threat.

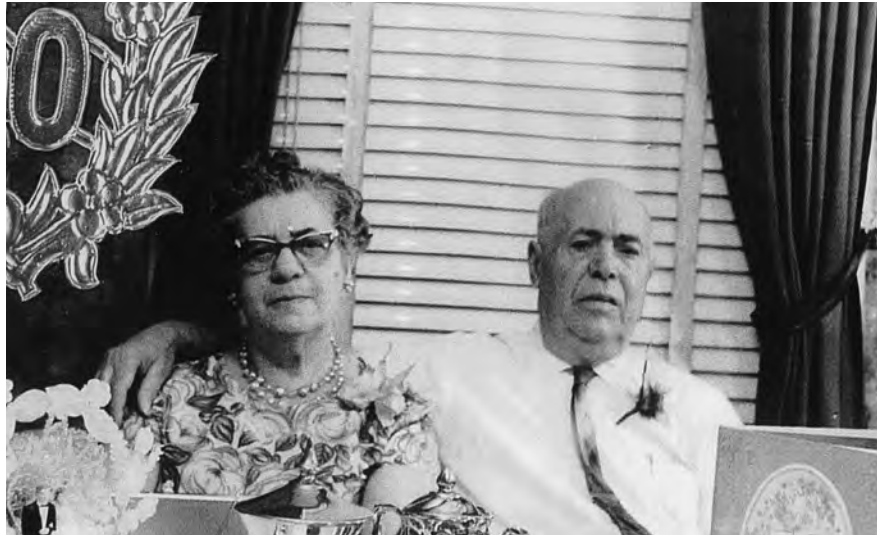
Ripples was the only Maritime WWII internment camp. Constructed in a forested area 30 kilometers east of Fredericton, the fenced prison compound was on 15 of the 58 acres. Internees lived in barracks and were paid 20 cents daily. Pietro chopped wood for the stoves that heated the buildings. Other men were assigned kitchen and hospital duties.

Release from Internment

6 February 1943

The Minister of Justice, Canada approved Pietro Lima's conditional release from internment on 1 February 1943. As a result, he was conditionally released from Camp 70 Ripples, Fredericton, New Brunswick on 6 February 1943. I was unable to ascertain what the conditions were or why they were warranted. Pietro Lima was required to proceed to his Bathurst Street home, Toronto, Ontario. I was also unable to ascertain the special undertaking subscribed.

The Department of The Sec-



Rose and Pietro Lima on their 60th wedding anniversary. October 1, 1968, Toronto, Ontario.

retary of State, Canada approved the release of any right/interest of the Bathurst Street property to Pietro Lima in March 1943. Pietro Lima regained ownership of the Bathurst Street property and control of his business and financial affairs. Pietro Lima resumed managing the family store. My grandmother, Rose and mother, Dorothy continued to assist him. Pietro Lima and his family lived the rest of their lives without

understanding the reasons for his arrest and internment.

Count Your Blessings

Life goes on, my mother always said and one must count their blessings. She emphasized that everyone suffered during World War II. While the family carried the sorrow of Pietro Lima's arrest and internment to the end of their days, they found joy and laughter again. Rose and Pietro Lima danced at the 23 July 1947 Toronto wedding of my late parents, Dorothy Lima and Arnold Joseph Perry and on 1 October 1968, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.

I have tried to heed my mother's advice and I am thankful that the Canadian government issued an apology. Though I wish that my mother had lived long enough to have heard it, I am grateful for the acknowledgment. ©

MARIANNE PERRY is a second generation Canadian-Italian. *The Inheritance*, a historical fiction, and *Before the Peony Died*, a soon-to-be-published mystery novel were inspired by her ancestral research. Visit www.marianneperry.ca.

a sample of resources

Library and Archives Canada, www.bac-lac.gc.ca.

Italian Canadians as Enemy Aliens: Memories of World War 2, www.italiancanadianww2.ca.

Historical timeline. On-line exhibit. Internee list. Interviews. Photographs. Resources.

Italian Canadian Community Website, www.windsor-communities.com/italian-introduction.php. List of WW2 internment camps. Questionnaire internees required to complete at Camp 33-Petawawa.

New Brunswick Military Heritage Project. (www.unb.ca/nbmhp-database/index.php) Scale model of Camp B70-Ripples. Historic trail. No buildings remaining.

New Brunswick Internment Camp Museum. www.nbinternmentcampmuseum.ca/camp-history. Maps. Visitor information.

My New Brunswick. www.mynewbrunswick.ca. Photos. Camp B70 Ripples site plan.

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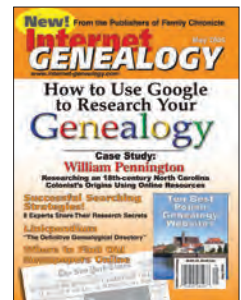
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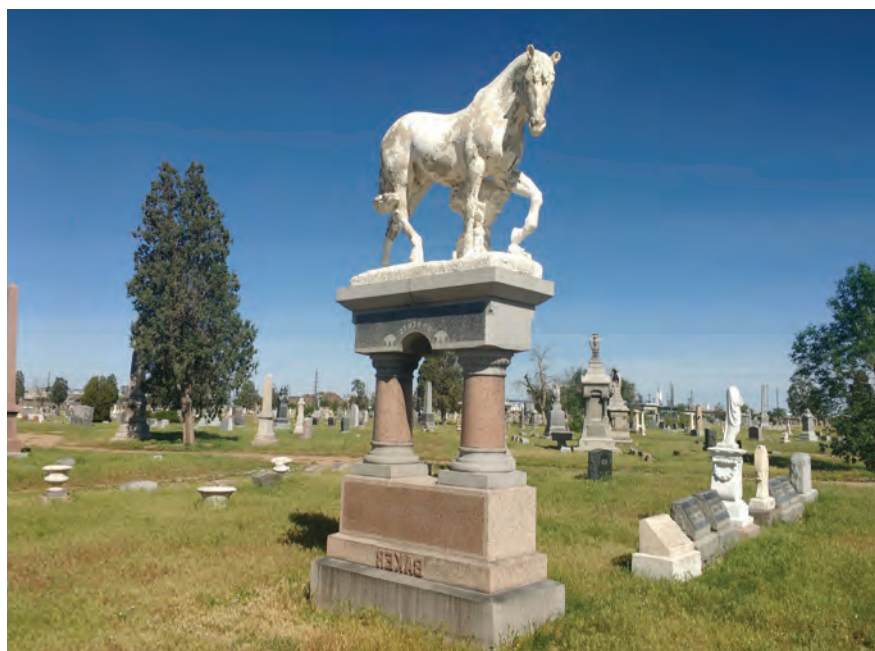
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Digging up Cemetery Records on FamilySearch: Unexpected Surprises

Karen L. Newman says that searching to the end of the microfilm roll is a must for successful research

CEMETERY RECORDS ON *FAMILYSEARCH* CAN CONTAIN MORE THAN just current cemetery listings and tombstone inscriptions for a certain county in a particular collection. For example, under “Cabell Co. cemetery records, 1793-1943” for Cabell County, West Virginia, www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/319671?availability=Family%20History%20Library, you can find cemetery records compiled in 1940, a listing of early cemeteries from newspaper and magazine records, 1853-1854 death records compiled by a local Daughters of the American Revolution chapter and Hampshire County and Harrison County, West Virginia cemetery records. When I searched those cemetery records on *FamilySearch*, I found the same record set, except labeled “Hampshire Co. cemetery records, 1829-1924” and “Harrison County, West Virginia, deaths, vol 1” for the other two West Virginia counties. The image group for all three record sets in these counties is 7896443.



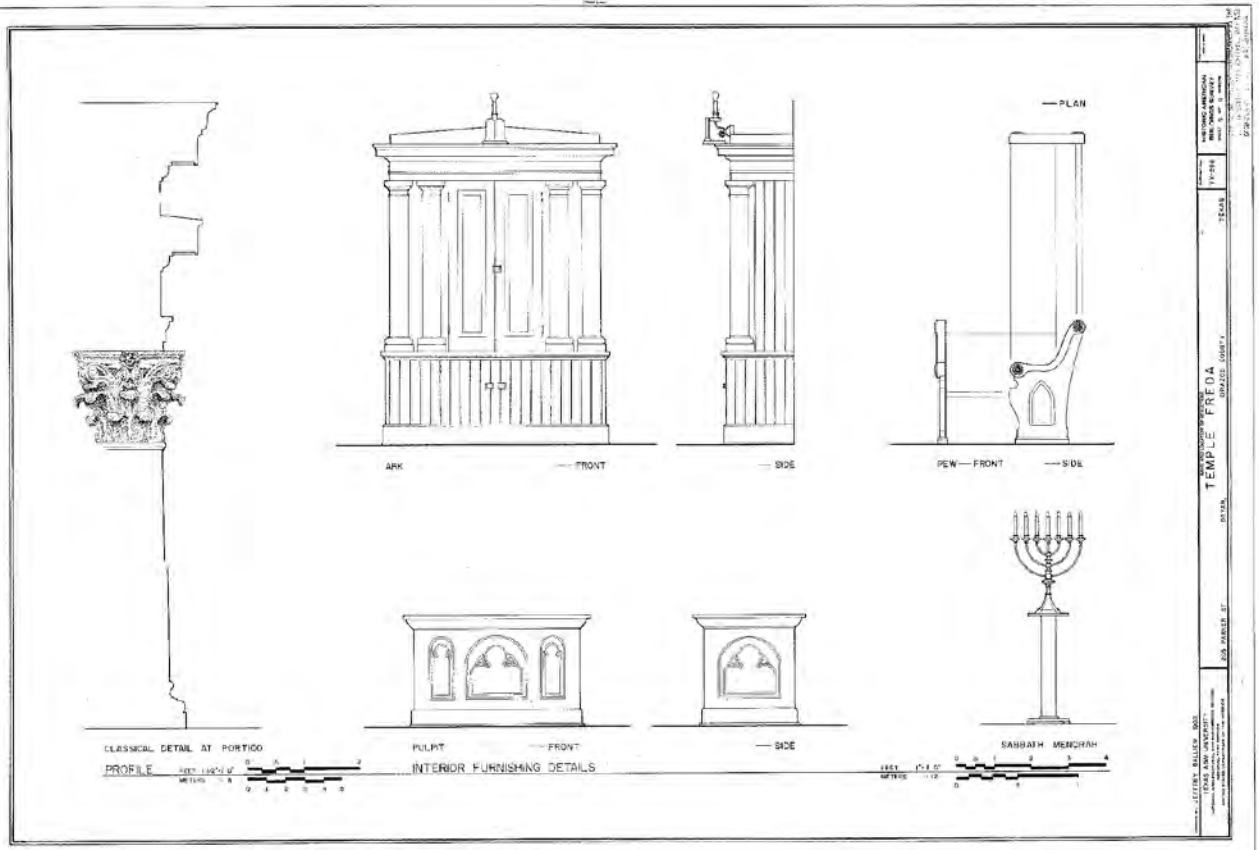
“cemetery, sculpture, architecture, support, pedestal, travel, structure, statue,” author PPD, uploaded 22 January 2019 (Pixnio.com)

You can find family histories in cemetery records. A copy of the Dameron – Damron family newsletter is in the Lawrence County, Kentucky and Wayne County, West Virginia record sets “Some cemetery markers from Wayne Co., WV, and Lawrence Co., Kentucky.”, www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/2357069. This newsletter covers cemetery records

from Greenup County, Kentucky, Lawrence County, Kentucky and Wayne County, West Virginia. This same newsletter is also found under “Greenup Co., Ky, cemeteries.” There is no indication a family newsletter is in any of these sets.

Sometimes you can find religious affiliation records among cemetery records. Montgomery County, Ohio cemetery records contain “Scrapbook of family deaths, 1977-1987, cemetery members, assessments and receipts, and membership file” for Temple Israel, www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/738885?availability=Family%20History%20Library. These personal membership files contain letters written to temple management, obituary and other newspaper clippings, and a family record sheet listing the temple member’s birthdate, death date, occupation, phone number, marriage date, when and where of a bar/bat mitzvah, names of children and spouses, when moved to Dayton, Ohio, parents’ names, and where buried.

Church records from 1831 to 1884 and a school register from 1866 to 1886 are found in “Tombstone inscriptions: cemeteries in Adams County, Ohio” at FamilySearch, www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/277165?availability=Family%20History%20Library. Daughters of the American Revolution compiled information into a book entitled



Temple Freda, Bryan, Brazos County, Drawings from Survey HABS TX-288, 1917 (Library of Congress)

Early *Vital Records of Ohio* which lists cemeteries in Adams County. Also included in this record set are Allen County, Ohio bible, cemetery, and marriage records. These combinations of state county records in one set appear to be in alphabetical order.

Both cemetery record sets for Dinwiddie County, Virginia also resulted from a compilation of documents by the Daughters of the American Revolution, www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/333956?availability=Family%20History%20Library, and www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/329976?availability=Family%20History%20Library. One set contains bible records of families who lived in Dinwiddie County, Virginia. As with other record sets, other counties and their records are included – Pulaski County and Stafford County, Virginia cemetery records and Culpeper County and Mecklenburg County, Virginia bible records. The Dinwiddie bible records don't start until image 609 out of 945. Sometimes you must scroll through a lot of record before you arrive at the one you want. The other set is Dinwiddie County, Virginia graveyard records which don't appear until image 729 out of 1366 and run until image 925.

In Albany County, New York *FamilySearch* records you can find documents showing where remains were reinterred in the set “Proceedings of the Common Council, and the various religious corporations of the city of Albany, relative to the State Street Burial Grounds and the removal of remains to be interred in a rural Albany cemetery where the graves could be better cared for.”, www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/323262?availability=Family%20History%20Library. Unfortunately, you have to be at a Family History Library to view these records.

All these examples show that when researching your ancestors, a thorough search is important. Don't stop at the first few images of a record set. Search through to the end of the roll. You might receive a pleasant surprise. ⑥

KAREN L. NEWMAN is a member of seven lineage societies and several genealogical societies, including Daughters of the American Revolution, Magna Charta Dames and Barons, and the National Genealogical Society. Her writing has appeared in *Going In-Depth Magazine*. She holds a certificate in Genealogical Research from Boston University.



Researching Your Ancestors' Slaveholders

MANY TIMES, WE DO NOT KNOW OUR ANCESTORS' past until we begin to uncover their stories. Some people already know a bit of family history and want to dig further. In this example, we explore a patron's search for their ancestors' slaveholders.

"How do I begin searching for my Benjamin ancestors' slaveholders?"

We start with the U.S. Census collections from the most recent to 1870. The 1870 enumeration is the most critical, where for the first-time following emancipation, those formerly enslaved peoples were identified and named in the U.S. Census. Though the relationship status between household members is not stated, we pay special attention to the names, ages, birthplaces, and location.

Due to a variety of economic and societal factors, many African American families found it difficult to migrate in the initial years following emancipation, and so can be found near their location in the slavery era. Thus, identifying the area of interest from the 1870 Census is critical in locating the family in 1860.

Here is a comparison of details on the Benjamin family from the 1870 Census, 1860 Slave Schedules, and 1852 Elisha F. King Will and Inventory:

Many times, we do not know our ancestors' past until we begin to uncover their stories. Some people already know a bit of family history and want to dig further. In this example, we explore a patron's search for their ancestors' slaveholders

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Here is a comparison of details on the Benjamin family from the 1870 Census, 1860 Slave Schedules, and 1852 Elisha F. King Will and Inventory:

	1870 Census	1860 Slave Schedule	1852 Will	Inventory
Rinda	Female - Age 65	Female - Age 52	Rinda	Rinda
Harriet	Female - Age 30	Female - Age 20	Harriet	Harriet
Barney	Male - Age 28	Male - Age 20	Barney	Barney
Gabriel	Male - Age 26	Male - Age 15	Gabriel	Gabe
Della	Female - Age 13	Female - Age 2 or 4	----	----
Silas	Male - Age 11	Male - Age 1	----	----
Hester	Female - Age 10	Female - Age 4 months	----	----
Horace	Male - Age 6	----	----	----
Willie	Male - Age 4	----	----	----

To bridge the gap, we suggest browsing the family's previous and subsequent pages of the 1870 Census and noting the names of neighbors who were both designated as white in the race column and have an amount recorded under the value of the real estate column. Our Benjamin family resided near the

Matthews family in 1870. A search for the same Matthews family in the 1860 Census shows their residence as Hamburg, Perry County, Alabama.

Using *Ancestry* or *FamilySearch*, search for the specific location within the 1860 Slave Schedules. For Hamburg, Perry County, Alabama, the Schedules consist of nineteen pages with two columns of slaveholder names with the age and gender of the slaves. It is rare for a slave to be named in these records. So, to search for the Benjamin family, we take note of the number of males and females with ages from the 1870 Census and identify slaveholders who owned slaves with the corresponding number of males and females whose ages match within a set margin.

E. F. King owned slaves who match the search criteria for the Benjamin family. The record index states E. F. King, but the image shows the *Estate of E. F. King*, which provides an important clue. In order to verify that King was the slaveholder, we research the King family's property, and more specifically, probate records for King's estate.

Some preliminary research provided details such as Elisha F. King's family members and his real estate value in 1850. Probate collections on FamilySearch yielded Elisha King's estate documents from 1852, confirming the name of his wife and son and identifying his slaves.

By tracing the Benjamin family back to the 1870 Census, we learned enough details to search the 1860 Slave Schedules for potential slaveholders. To then prove the relationship between the named slaves and their slaveholders, the probate records documents confirmed that Elisha King was the slaveholder of the Benjamin family until his death in 1852, when his wife, Margaret, and son, Edwin, inherited his estate. ©

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NET NOTES

Internet Genealogy looks at websites and related news that are sure to be of interest

Diane L. Richard looks at websites and related news that are sure to be of interest

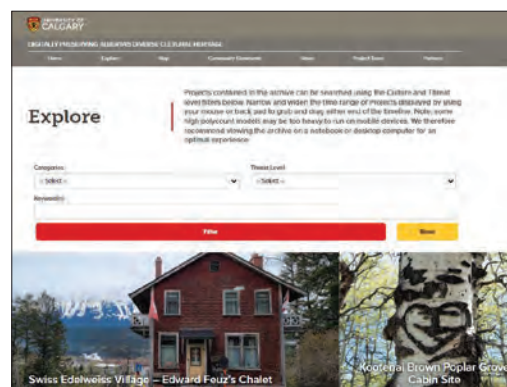
Digitally Preserving Alberta's Diverse Cultural Heritage [Canada]

<https://alberta.preserve.ucalgary.ca>

Though we would like to save all cultural heritage, that is not always a realistic option. As a result, the University of Calgary is using digital technology to preserve at-risk heritage to ensure that even if the physical building/object no longer exists, what it looked like survives. The most recent project, Edelweiss Village, received news coverage *www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/edelweiss-village-preservation-1.6526914*. When you visit the website, you will discover many other projects previously completed.

It is interesting to see recognition of the value of using digital technology to preserve endangered heritage – similarly, Google Arts & Culture with partner CyArk are creating immersive cultural heritage experiences <https://artsandculture.google.com/partner/cyark>. The

Maritime Asia Heritage Survey, <https://maritimeasiaheritage.cseas.kyoto-u.ac.jp>, is also working on digitizing at-risk heritage in a four-country area. See if other entities are doing the same for your target geographic locale.



Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland

<https://beyond2022.ie>

Anyone who has attempted research into Irish ancestry knows the challenges, the least of which was the destruction in June 1922 of the Public Record Office. Unveiled in June 2022, 100 years later, is this website – “The Treasury re-imagines and reconstructs through digital technologies ...” Parts of this project are similar to the Alberta project; you can take a virtual tour of the building as it was. You can then access the digitized contents, records collected over the last century, organized by type. When you find a kind of interest, click, and you can access the digitized documents. The ability to navigate around the building (and learn its history) while also being able to navigate around extant records is addicting. For those who do role-playing or computer games, this is probably nothing new and, for some of us, a novel and incredibly engaging virtual space to explore.

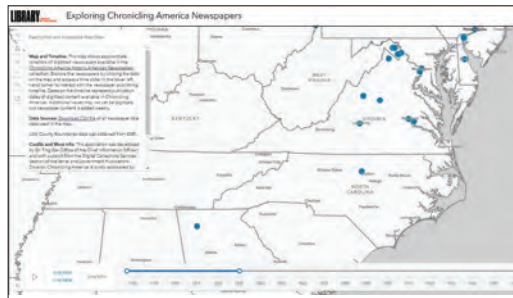
Read more about the project here, www.theguardian.com/world/2022/may/22/irish-public-record-office-civil-war-bombardment-archives-reborn.



Chronicling America [Map & Timeline Visualizations]

www.loc.gov/ndnp/data-visualizations

Chronicling America (via the Library of Congress) continues to be an invaluable newspaper research tool with new content added regularly. Due to the nature of the newspaper search feature, identifying included newspapers and correlating them geographically can be challenging, especially if you are unfamiliar with the geography. The new Map & Timeline tool makes this now so much easier. You can see included newspapers on a map, giving you geographic context, and you can use a timeline feature to limit the period of interest. This helps ensure relevant newspapers for your target locale and period. Read more via this InEmergency article, <https://inemergency.com/chronicling-america-historic-american-newspapers-new-interactive-map-and-timeline-visualization>. Besides the visualizations mentioned above, check out the full collection here, www.loc.gov/ndnp/data-visualizations.



Northeast Slavery Records Index [NESRI]

<https://nesri.commons.gc.cuny.edu>

“Is an online searchable compilation of records that identify individual enslaved persons and enslavers in the states of New York, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut and New Jersey.” What is very helpful is that you can enter the name of a town, county, or state and see a report of the enslavement records. When such a report is created, it also records categories for which no records were found. I always appreciate a database that doesn’t limit results to what is found since knowing what data was searched with no results is equally important. Though enslavement might not have been as robust an enterprise in New England, it did take place, and this collection of records helps document the practice.



Lost Voices from America’s Oldest Parish Archive, 1594-1821 [St. Augustine, FL]

<http://laflorida.org/#/>

An online exhibit launched by La Florida: The Interactive Digital Archives of the Americas provides “unprecedented insight into the daily lives and relationships of the multi-ethnic population that comprised St. Augustine, Fla. from the 16th-19th centuries. The Florida city is the oldest continuously inhabited European settlement in the continental U.S.” The project has two phases. The launched Phase I includes more than 4,000 pages of ecclesiastical records from America’s first parish. The virtual archive is organized by record type; you can browse by selecting a book, picking a page, and reading transcriptions in Spanish and English. Alternatively, you can enter search terms and also select filters. The La Florida website also has tabs for Florida Stories, Mapping La Florida, Data Visualization Tool, etc. A great place to pursue early Florida ancestors.



Read more here www.stpetersburg.usf.edu/news/2022/new-lost-voices-exhibit-translates-and-digitizes-americas-oldest-parish-archives.aspx.



Reminiscence, Imagination, and Connection

NAOKO (WIFE, PRONOUNCED NOW-KO) AND I ARE HEADING OUT of Charleston, SC, picking up my daughter Meg, she prefers her proper name Megumi (meaning blessing in Japanese), in Boston (she's flying in from Seattle, WA), heading up the coast to Acadia National Park and Bar Harbor, ME, heading further up to land that Naoko and I bought 30 years ago, well actually Rick bought it 30-years ago when he visited Maine with a cousin he did not meet until he was 30-years old while living near Cape Cod, MA, and then driving over to Rochester, NY to celebrate my 60th Birthday and Megumi's 32nd (she was born 28 years and 43-minutes later than me – or we'd share a birthday), with my parents, Beverly and Dave (91 and an early celebration of Dave's 94th). A pretty great road trip that continues for a few more weeks, including a Family History Month presentation: *Don't Let Your Memories Fade*, at Allen County Public Library.



remember exact details of situations or can imagine what another person experienced. This is why I have such strong feelings towards the importance of photos in genealogy: to help us understand those who came before us and so that we can share our lives with others... including future generations.

And genealogy aside because photos allow us to reminisce and connect with others.

WE are at an important precipice of technology – analog to digital. WE are the holders of knowledge that needs to combine analog and digital – for the future.

This past weekend, a junior high school friend of mine had his first grandchild and the photo he posted was of 4 generations – with newborn held by great-grandfather. What an amazing photo memory... what memories have been created over these 3 lifetimes... and what knowledge and experience will be conveyed to this next generation?



It's up to all of us.

Vivid-Pix has put a few things together to help... visit the Vivid-Pix site at www.vivid-pix.com/Solutions. ©

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They create literature, music, art, and bridges, and allow us to share our individual and collective experience. They allow us to create an experience in our minds. This capability allows us to read, listen, and/or look at something and experience it in our minds and hearts.

Our ability to Imagine allows us to connect with another person, through stories...

Over the past 37 years in the photo business, I've seen a lot of things come, go, and change... but one thing that hasn't changed is the magic experienced when an individual, couple, or group of people look at a photo... Our minds seem to be transported through time and we can

RICK VOIGHT is co-founder
and CEO of Vivid-Pix

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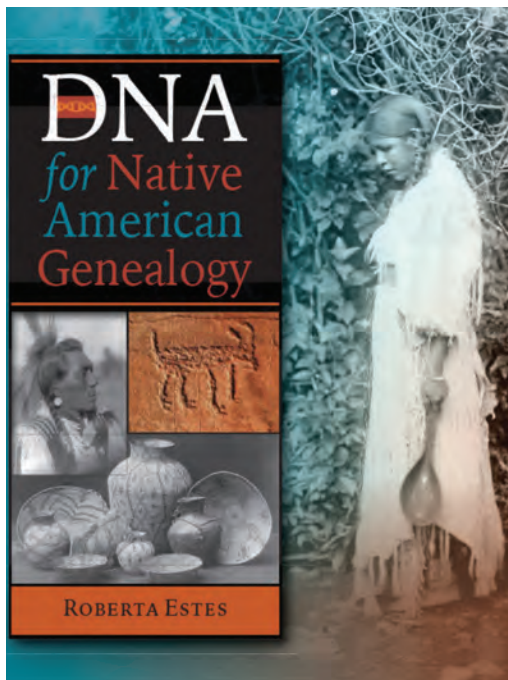
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By: Roberta Estes; Price: \$34.95
Pages: 190; ISBN: 9780806321189
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Reflections and Projections on Genealogy

Dave Obee marks 10 years of writing this column and wonders where the future will take him



Dilok Klaisataporn, iStockphoto.com

BREAK OUT THE CAKE FOR A COUPLE OF BIRTHDAYS. WITH this, the 100th issue of this magazine, I've been writing this column for 10 years. And what a decade it has been.

For a bit of context, I started researching family history in 1978, visited the big library in Salt Lake City for the first time (of about 40) in 1984, and have been giving presentations to family history crowds since 1997.

In other words, I was hardly a rookie in 2012, when Ed Zapletal offered me this spot. I knew stuff, lots of stuff, about genealogical research, about sources and techniques, about genealogical travel. I'd been everywhere, as the saying goes.

But it's hard to believe how much more progress I made in the past 10 years. The difference was dramatic – and I am sure many of you have had similar decades, probably for the same reasons I have been so successful.

More records have been digitized and placed online. More indexing has been done. Above all, there is DNA. You might say that my saliva has done more for me in the past few years than my brain did in the previous three decades.

Since I started writing this column, I have almost tripled the number of names in my family tree – but it is even more significant to say that I have broken through every major brick wall that I faced in 2012.

That includes confirming the name of the father of my illegitimate grandfather's father, pushing my mother's ancestry further into Poland, adding three generations to my Obee line in England, finding descendants of my great-grandmother's two sisters who came to the United States, and much, much more. You get the idea.

So, you might wonder, were the first three decades of my passion for genealogy just a waste of time? Because, really, I could have just waited and had everything fall into my lap. But I prefer

to think of the enjoyment I had with a few hundred cool discoveries over the years, and the thrill of finding new connections. It was all worthwhile.

Besides, the “could have just waited” school of thought might discourage us from further research. Given how this seems to get easier every year, what if we all decided to put research on hold for the next decade or so? Sorry, can't do that. For me, much of the thrill is in the hunt, rather than in the goal.

Beyond that, where will we be a decade from now? I've been doing research for 44 years, and basic math says I won't be doing it for 44 more years. Who knows? I might not be able to do research, let alone write a column, in 10 years.

But enough gloomy talk. I have many genealogical projects calling my name. Salt Lake is beckoning, once again. So, with a nod to the anniversary of this magazine and this column, it's time to get back to work. ©



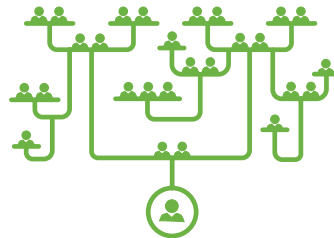
DAVE OBEE runs CanGenealogy.com, a link site devoted to Canadian resources.



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I have been there [the Genealogy Center] many times and found a lot of information on different branches of my family. Anyone interested in genealogy research should go there.

JANICE M.

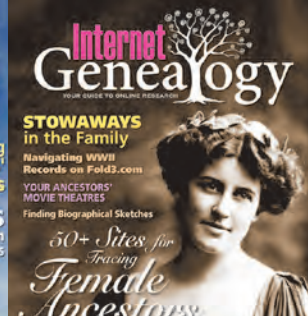


The Genealogy Center at the Allen County Public Library

900 Library Plaza, Fort Wayne, IN 46802
(260) 421-1225 | Genealogy@ACPL.info
[GenealogyCenter.org](https://www.GenealogyCenter.org)



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