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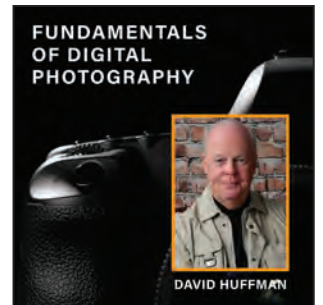
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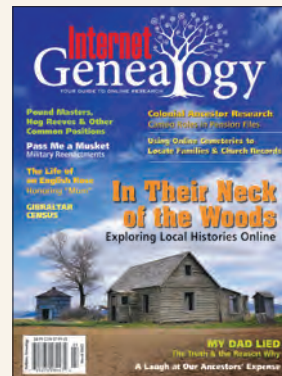
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In This Issue

Welcome to the late winter/early spring edition of *Internet Genealogy* 2023. Our cover feature, *In Their Neck of the Woods*, is from regular contributor Sue Lisk who looks at online local histories and how they can give us a better understanding of how our ancestors lived. Sue has chosen a cross section of sites such as *County and Town Histories*, *County Historical Society Town Histories*, and *Town Histories on Ancestry.com*. There are lots of fascinating tidbits of the past to explore, so snuggle up with your computer and then peruse the online pages. In her second article for this issue, *Pound Masters, Hog Reeves and Other Common Positions*, Sue looks at some of the more obscure job titles that were common during colonial times. Maybe you have an ancestor who was a Path Master or a Tithingman! David A. Norris's first of two articles, *Cameo Roles in Pension Files – Sources "Olde" and New – Part One*, investigates the information that might be gleaned from those pages if you have ancestors from the original thirteen colonies. David continues with a short piece on a fine collection of records from the Gibraltar Census. Diane L. Richard returns with the *Life of an English Rose – Part One*. Diane looks at researching modern ancestors and has chosen her late mother for an in-depth look at how to fill in the missing pieces of a close family member who didn't leave a lot of the usual clues behind. Diane also reviews a recently released book by Liv Marit Haakenstad titled, *A Guide to Norwegian Genealogy, Emigration, and Transmigration*. Diane also pens her usual *NetNotes* column featuring interesting websites that are sure to be of interest. New author Erin E. Moulton shines the spotlight on *Newspaper Wins! Searching Like a Pro*, and how to get the most from researching newspaper archives. Meredith Young Renard lets the cat out of the bag in "Everything My Dad Said About His Ancestry Was a Fabrication!" and recounts how she learned the truth and the reason for the tale. Leslie Michele Derrough returns with *Pass Me a Musket: How Participating in Reenactments Can Help You Better Relate To A Military Ancestor*. Don't forget to check out our regular columns: *Genealogy Questions*, *Photos & Genealogy*, and Dave Obee's *Back Page!* I hope you enjoy the issue!

— Edward Zapletal, *Publisher*





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In Their Neck of The Woods: Exploring Local Histories Online

by Sue Lisk

KIM HUBBARD, AN AMERICAN CARTOONIST, ONCE SAID, “THERE ISN’T much to be seen in a little town, but what you hear makes up for it.”

Much is happening and has happened in small towns. Studying the places where our ancestors and relatives once resided helps us to understand their lives and times. We can’t actually hear firsthand the stories (and gossip) shared long ago, but we can familiarize ourselves with and gain insight into the places where they lived. In doing so, we may sometimes almost be able to make out snatches of long-lost conversations.



Jackson-Willett House, Lower Green vicinity (moved from original site), Newbury Old Town, MA, c. 1940. (Library of Congress)

We can begin by exploring the many local histories available online. I’d like to consider a few websites you might consult to begin your search and give some examples of the sorts of material you may encounter.

County and Town Histories

You can peruse many town and county histories for every state except Alaska, Hawaii, Nevada and North Dakota at www.learnwebskills.com/family/countyhistories1.htm.

Click on the link for the state of your choice, and then select from

the histories corresponding to the towns and/or counties listed for that state. In some instances, histories for more than one year are available, often dating back to the mid-1800s, and sometimes earlier. Occasionally, a history listed cannot be consulted online. But in most cases, they’ve been preserved via the Internet Archive or Google Books.

The histories vary widely in nature, but most cover the major events and men (not women) thought to be of importance in the town or county in question.

By way of example, let’s take a look at the town of Camden, ME. In this case, via Google Books, you can read a history of the town published in 1859. The author notes that he took much of the material from the local press. But he adds that library and state archives, private books and documents, and town and society records supplied a great deal of the information as well. He tells the reader he also gathered traditional knowledge “from the lips of aged sires” and other information “from persons of younger years”.

The history covers the early settlement of the area, followed by many notable events up through the time of the writing.

The minutes of town meetings offer especially colorful details. On 1 April 1816, a vote granted \$10



An old Woolworth's "five-and-dime" store in Greensboro, NC that is a legendary site marking the American civil-rights movement. It is now the International Civil Rights Center & Museum, Carol M. Highsmith. (Library of Congress)

for each wild cat killed within the town limits. On 6 May of the same year, voters decided to raise \$200 to assist in the purchase of a "Fire engine". And the author describes an extensive fire that occurred in 1820 and lists the buildings and businesses destroyed, along with the owners' names.

The town appears to have been rather egalitarian in its thinking toward religion. On 11 August 1823, the town voted "to raise \$200; one half to be laid out for

orthodox preaching, and the other half for liberal preaching".

The history's author relates that on 17 August 1829, the "Camden Temperance Society" was organized, and that "those subscribing to the principles of the society were expected not to drink spirituous liquors unless they deemed it *necessary*." But not long after, following a few occasions of excessive merriment, this idea evolved so that any "temperance man" was strongly discouraged from drinking

any alcoholic beverages at all.

Women are given short shrift in the history. There is a mention of the foundation in 1841 of a "Martha Washington Society". But since all records of its proceedings had been lost, the author gives only a list of confections and "savory viands" the Society supplied for a particular celebration. Among the few women mentioned in the history are the two females who were installed in 1848 as Librarian and Treasurer at the Ladies' Library at Goose River.

The history ends with substantial sections devoted to religious societies and prominent men in the community.

County Historical Society Town Histories

Another possible source of online town histories is the historical society for the county in which a town is located.

The Lewis County Historical Society in New York provides brief early histories of seventeen towns in the county at <https://historical-lylewis.org/heritage-tourism/town-histories/>. Old photos of the towns illustrate the histories.

Among the towns included, I found Leyden, established in 1797. Town and county lines



LEFT: The "Old Town Hall", a turn-of-the-19th-to-20th century Richardsonian-Romanesque building in Amherst, MA, Carol M. Highsmith. (Library of Congress) RIGHT: Old Trinity Episcopal Church in Church Creek, MD, 1960. (Library of Congress)





have changed over the years, as is the case for Leyden. The authors explain that at the time of Leyden's founding, the town included land that is now part of Jefferson County, specifically all the land east and north of the Black River.

Readers learn that the hamlet of Talcottville, which is still part of Leyden today, once contained a sawmill, a gristmill and a cheesebox factory. Its schoolhouse now serves as the Leyden Town Hall.

The authors recount the history of the Black River Canal. In the late 1800s, via its connection to the Erie Canal, it served as a waterway for the transport of potash, lumber and dairy products to Buffalo and New York City.

A number of unusual stories are connected with the town of Watson, founded in 1821. Isaac Puffer and his family were the sole inhabitants of the area for a few years before the town was incorporated. Isaac was accidentally shot by a friend in 1837. In 1839, Larry

McCarthy was executed by hanging for having killed his father-in-law with an axe; the authors note that this was the only execution by hanging in the county. Also in 1839, a panther entered James Rainey's home in Watson. The panther snatched Rainey's one-year-old child and exited through the window. The baby was not seriously injured, but I assume the panther was.

The authors report that the town's waters, at least in certain areas, were said to have healing properties. For this reason, water from one of its ponds was sent to other locations across the country.

Diana, founded in 1830, is another of the towns in Lewis County. Within Diana township, Louisburg and Harrisburg were the two main communities. Readers learn that Louisburg's blast furnace was its main industry. In 1941, the U.S. Government purchased all the land the town occupied; it is now the location of Fort Drum. Today, little more than a

cemetery indicates that a community once stood there.

But neighboring Harrisburg survived. The authors relate the history of its sawmill, gristmill, tannery, stage lines, paper companies, and lumber company. Several people in succession operated an iron furnace, but one of the owners stood out. Zebulon H. Benson, who married Caroline Charlotte Bonaparte – daughter of Joseph Bonaparte and his mistress, Anne Sauvage – insisted on “dress[ing] like Napoleon Bonaparte with his hand in his coat”.

Town Histories on Ancestry.com

Ancestry.com offers many town histories. The easiest way to find them is to enter the name of the town you're searching for in the Title field of the Card Catalog, and then scan the list of results.

When I entered “Dryden”, a town in New York, in the search field, I found the “History of Dryden from 1797 to 1857”. The history is searchable, but I preferred to browse through the pages online.

In 1857, in the newspaper, *The Dryden News*, letters were published by someone styling himself “The Old Man in the Clouds”. Presumably, the letters were penned by H.D. Rumsey, the editor of the paper. The cloud-perching elder proceeds to recount the settlement of the area in detail, describing the early pioneers.

One of the most intriguing sections concerns a strange religious sect that appeared in the area in 1818. The author states that the group included a priest and a prophet and a number of male and female followers. They all slept in “nests of straw” and ate by “suck[ing] food through a goose-quill”. They wore white cloths on



Old Town Mill, the oldest mill in the U.S.—originally built in 1650—in New London, CT. (Library of Congress)



Helvetia is a tiny town settled by a group of Swiss and German immigrants who came to this remote area in Randolph County, WV in 1869. The old town square in Helvetia, Carol M. Highsmith. (Library of Congress)

their backs, which they claimed were “marks for the devil to shoot at” and frequently shouted loudly to keep the devil at bay. One day, their prophet stuck his cane in the ground and announced to his followers that “when the cane budded and blossomed, he would return to them”. He disappeared and was never again seen in the vicinity.

A search for “Montpelier”, a town in Vermont, brought up the “History of the town of Montpelier”, published in 1860. This history covers in detail the period from 1781, the year the town was first chartered, through 1860.

The account includes the proceedings of town meetings, major events affecting the town, records of businesses and biographies (of men), but bears, panthers, narrow escapes, and rascals also appear in its pages.

In 1794, the town established a

Circulating Library that excluded all works of fiction and materials concerning religion. The author is quick to say that the townspeople were pious, but that if religious books had been available via the library, they might have caused discord between different sects. He also imagines that works of fiction were banned due to their “supposed tendency to engender a morbid imagination and undermine those practical virtues on which the permanent progress and prosperity of a new country must ever mainly depend”.

The author mentions women – in the context of their clothing – with relation to an occurrence in 1803. A contemporary of Judge David Wing’s wife reported that a lucky woman wore to a local meeting the first silk gown ever seen in town. The woman who shares the story confesses: “We thought

it extravagant, to be sure; but as her husband had just been elected Secretary of State, and might wish to take her abroad with him, we concluded at length that the purchase might be, after all, quite a pardonable act.”

Most of these histories cover similar types of material. But many of them also offer unexpected glimpses into the lives of the members of the communities they describe via stories and legends, with a bit of gossip sprinkled in. Don’t miss seeking out these town histories and the frequently fascinating tales they contain. ©

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



Researching Modern Ancestors: Unlocking the Life of an English Rose – Part 1

By Diane L. Richard

THIS ARTICLE IS PERSONAL. LONGTIME READERS (I'VE been writing for *Internet Genealogy* since 2006) will be familiar with all the articles and Net Notes about resources that I have shared with a smattering of articles on strategy, tips, and tricks. A couple of articles reflect my research into my Finnish Ancestry. Though not often, when not writing, speaking, or doing client research, I occasionally dabble in researching my own family. This is one of those times. It's become a bit of an obsession. More frustrating than fruitful and a "work in progress."

Please recognize that our research skills aren't just for researching the long-ago deceased; they can be used for 20th-century research into a loved one. My most recent research project (revisited every few years) and the basis for this article is the most personal research of all – it is about my "mum" (or "mom" for U.S. readers) – Margaret Joyce (Fountain) Acey, born 15 October 1937, died 21 January 1990.

Think you know your mom? By the time one is an adult, we often assume that we know all there is to know about, say a mother, father, or grandparents. How wrong we might be. As genealogists, we sometimes get so focused on researching the long-ago deceased that we skip over the individuals we lived with or frequently visited. Don't wait! The rest of this article is my mum's story as told via the research I undertook. The article ends with some tips & tricks that you might employ if you pursue similar research into a more recently deceased family member.

My mother died relatively young – leaving little memorabilia, having been unwilling to speak of her youth, and siring children who didn't think to ask. My research yielded some fun surprises, much frustration, so many questions, and is ongoing.

What's In Store?

From this article, please focus on the following ideas –

(1) the idea of researching those closest to us – parents, grandparents – and not just doing the deeper ancestry,

(2) NOT assuming what these individuals were involved in as children (I learned my mom was an award-winning pianist and in theatre productions in her youth – I had no idea),

(3) NOT everyone has memorabilia/ephemera [disasters, negligence, and more],

(4) NOT everyone has extended family to reach out to regarding such research (my mom had no 1st cousins – both her parents were only children; well my grandfather did have a sister Rachel who remained unmarried and had no children),

(5) learning from my lessons-learned to develop strategies for similar research, and

(6) recognize the challenges of doing this research decades ago (I started 30 years ago) and the ease of using email, Facebook, digitized finding aids and more nowadays, which makes revisiting older research not just a recommendation and a requirement; though memories of individuals may fade, communicating might be easier and access to archival materials has possibly improved.

SETTING THE STAGE

As always, a bit of context is important. Okay, probably more than a bit. Here is a list of some insight into the target person and the research challenges identified early on.

- | | |
|---|--|
| (1) Margaret Joyce Fountain, my mother, was born in England. My father was in the peacetime U.S. Air Force stationed in England. They met, married, and had me before the Air Force stationed my father back in the U.S. Her family remained (and does to this day) in the U.K. | (2) She died at 52 before any grandchildren were on the scene. |
| | (3) My mom didn't keep stuff; no one ever considered her a "pack rat!" |
| | (4) My dad didn't keep stuff either. Sigh. |

- (5) Though curious about her youth, my dad always dropped the subject when rebuffed. Hence, he knew/knows very little about her childhood.
- (6) My dad's 2nd wife threw out the few photo albums that made it that far (enough said).
- (7) My maternal gran (mom's mum) didn't keep stuff; she threw out a lot (ask my uncle) though she kept a few photos and a family bible (which I only learned of after her death; a story for another day). My maternal grandfather (mom's dad) and his sister died when I was a child, so they were not a resource available to me.
- (8) My paternal grandma (dad's mom) had stored a few items in her attic, all destroyed in a storm. Let's also say someone who didn't have fond memories of her own life, and so was not into retaining memorabilia, though a few photos of my childhood and the paternal side ancestors surfaced.
- (9) My maternal uncles are much younger than their sister and didn't/don't remember or never knew much.
- (10) The U.K. (as does the U.S.) has record retention laws; some records weren't extant when I made inquiries.
- (11) Schools attended ceased to exist; records were destroyed or safely stored where they had not seen the light of day in over half a century.
- (12) All research was remote – remember, she grew up “across the pond” in the U.K. I have not been back to England since just before my gran died at 92.
- (13) I had the presence of mind in the late 1970s or early 1980s to make some photocopies of her very small scrapbook (see item #5 above). These are terrible copies, all streaked, dark, and still better than nothing.
- (14) Did I mention mum NEVER talked of her youth? Gran wasn't terribly chatty either, though, in fairness to her, the few times we visited were usually short, and even as an adult, I was more focused on the long-deceased or my travel plans.
- (15) My mum had NO first cousins. Her mother was an only child. Her father had one sister who never had children, so he effectively was an only child.

- (16) My mum's maternal gran didn't associate with her side of the family, keeping even the more distant cousins literally distant.
- (17) Having researched the family fairly extensively, it is clear that there were no traditions of large families and many couples/individuals remained childless. So, a pretty skinny family tree.



A four-generation photo – my mum, her dad, paternal grandmother, and great-grandmother]

- (18) As far as communicating with my gran et al., phone calls were reserved for Christmas, maybe birthdays. If you remember those trans-Atlantic phone calls of the 60s and 70s, they were brutal in terms of hearing anything, so, not a lot of conversation. Otherwise, it was writing letters (none of which were saved).
- (19) Due to the expense, we rarely traveled overseas to visit – we did when I was about seven, then maybe 12-13, and then when I was 14 (I spent eight weeks with my uncle, his wife, and cousin). We didn't see much of my gran, and I was too busy being a teenager away from home having fun!
- (20) I did a backpacking trip through Europe in college and popped in for a short visit. I did another one a few years later; again, a quick visit.
- (21) I visited with a one-year-old – child entertainment took priority.
- (22) The last visit with my gran was a few years later; two children in tow this time. Unfortunately, the day scheduled for a visit had to be brief as my gran's lifelong friend was moving away; we had a nice lunch, and then six months later, she died suddenly.



THE FOCUS

The biggest (though not only) gap in knowledge was for her youth or school years. Once she married, the trail was much easier to follow; my memories, more information from her, and more resources to explore. So, the discussed research covers from the early 1940s until the mid-1950s. The focus is from grade school through what in England is called grammar school.

THE APPROACH

I envision her childhood as many puzzle pieces needed and then put together. I first needed to collect what information I could and then actively research her life. This started soon after her death. This article doesn't include every bit of research done, tactic pursued, item/photograph found, etc. It would be that much longer if it did. We'll look at the highlights of the process and discoveries made.

Earliest Puzzle Pieces – Photos

Starting in 1992, I collected as many photos as possible, scoured what I had “pack ratted,” and reached out to my gran, grandma, and some of my gran's distant cousins (with whom my gran put me in touch). Besides others scattered in the article, I acquired the following photos:

- (a) A group photo appears to be a church gathering. It includes my mum, her siblings, mother, and mother-in-law.
- (b) A school photo, 1948, New Moston School. It includes my mum and classmates.
- (c) Camp on Leigh, 1952.
- (d) Photo of a play, N.D.

The photo of her taking part in a theatre production was a revelation. She never mentioned having done theatre, nor did she do theatre during my childhood – the first surprise. A few other photos were found, pictures in the yard and similar, with no further mentions of something leverageable.



What appears to be a church gathering. Colored by MyHeritage. My mum is 2nd row from the top, the girl wearing a black coat. Next to her is Sylvia.



New Moston School photo, 1948. Mum is 2nd row from the top, left side, 2nd girl in wearing a plaid pinafore & braids.



Camp Leigh on Sea, 1952. Back row, last person on the right.



Mom in play – date, and place not stated.

They gave me a few puzzle pieces to work with.



Here is a rendition of what her life's puzzle might have conceptually looked like at the start of this research journey.

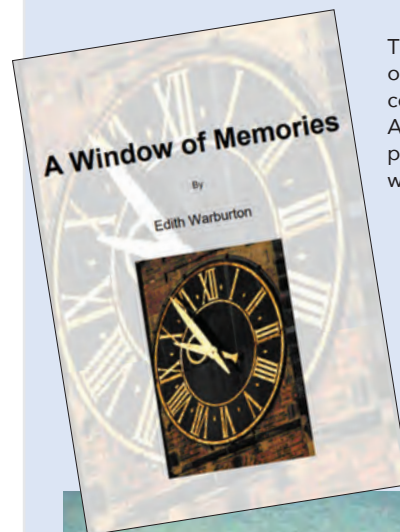
Earliest Puzzle Pieces – Correspondence

I queried my gran and my gran's cousin, Edith Warburton, via writing. Other distant cousins were helpful genealogically and had never met my mother. The expression "pulling teeth" definitely applied to my gran. Auntie Edith was more forthcoming, though she spent little time with the family during the years of interest. Here are a few of the gems that emerged from my gran.

- (a) **Church attendance** – "When she was young, some neighbors took a few of the children to a small Methodist Church in Turf Lane, Chadderton. Later she went to the Anglican Church in New Moston, much nearer home. After we moved to the shop at Grotton, she went to Lees Methodist Church." Gran's father was a particular Baptist Minister. She attended different denominations through time as well.
- (b) **Schools** – "She was above average intelligence, but sadly she wasn't too fond of studying. She first went to New Moston Primary School; then, for two years, with her friend Sylvia, to a Private School [Werneth Preparatory School, now defunct]. After that, she went back to New Moston School to prepare for taking a scholarship exam. She won a scholarship to Chadderton Grammar School, which she attended for about two years."
- (c) **Last School** – "We then bought a hardware store outside of Oldham at Grotton, too far for her to travel to Chadderton, so we transferred her to Hulme Grammar School, Oldham, the best school in the area. Unfortunately, this was a big mistake – she hated the headmistress (not without cause), so consequently didn't do very well there, except, and this was well

Auntie Edith

I have a picture from the 1970s showing my gran, myself, and Auntie Edith. Looking at the photo, we are on the left side of the middle row. I'm wearing a red-striped top, and gran is also in stripes. Unfortunately, after gran died, when Auntie Edith and I discussed this photo, neither of us remembered the occasion. We corresponded for several years. During that time, she shipped me a silk shawl, a thimble, and a few other small/light pieces that had belonged to my great-great-grandfather and family. She also shared some of her memories, including some of my grandparents and mum. I "published" these in a PDF file titled "A Window of Memories," available here, www.mosaicrpm.com/files/A_Window_of_Memories_121004.pdf. Besides her memories, several photos of mentioned family are included. Read the stories about the cauliflower & caterpillar and wallpaper; they'll help you visualize some of the family members.



This is the cover of the pieces I collected from Auntie Edith and published on my website.

A photo from the 1970s with Gran, myself, Auntie Edith, and others.





deserved, she won the School's Music prize. At 16, she left there, held a few jobs, and started training to be a nurse at Park Hospital, Davyhulme, outside Manchester. There again, she had very high marks."

So, a few more clues emerged. My subsequent successes are related to Lees Methodist Church (discussed later) and Hulme Grammar school (discussed later). I can tell you that once she left school, other than knowing she studied nursing at Park Hospital and married in 1958, no further details are known – a future research project.

As with any good genealogical material, you get answers and develop more questions! Music Prize? What did that mean?

The Next Puzzle Pieces – Active Research

Between 1992 and 2004, I queried Oldham (U.K.) Local Studies, Hulme Grammar School, Chadderton Grammar School (now Radclyffe), other schools that no longer exist per Oldham Local Studies and Archives, churches (Zion), Sylvia (their mums were best friends, and so they became such also), other archives, and any place I could think of. I'm sure to my gran's dismay, I also kept pestering her about the family history and my mum! I "wrote" letters and included IRC (International Reply Coupons for those unfamiliar with how one could send return postage internationally in the past). Remember, this was the early 90s – email was in its infancy. Also, no VOIP, cellphones, social media (like Facebook, etc.), scanners, or any technology that makes contact, sharing, and communicating so much easier today! Just hand-written (sometimes typed) letters. Through these efforts, I learned a bit more.

- (a) Hulme Grammar School – confirmed her attendance. The responder shared she joined in June 1950 from Chadderton Grammar School, which she attended for just 2.5 terms, having previously attended Moston Lane Primary School, Manchester, 1946-1949, and before then, Werneth Preparatory School, Oldham. So, this corroborated my gran's info on schools attended.
- (b) Hulme Grammar School also provided a report for one term corroborating that my mum wasn't the best student though, for music, she was "Very Promising" and had "a lively interest in the subject."
- (c) Gran later revealed, "Sometime during her schooling she took music lessons with a very good teacher, and she was so clever that she turned out to be the star pupil at all the concerts the teacher put on, and given the most difficult pieces to perform. When I hear orchestras play these pieces on Radio or Television, I always think of her. My favorite was always Handel's "Arrival of the Queen of Sheba," a very lovely but difficult piece, and she played it beautifully."
- (d) Aunt Elizabeth – when attending the funeral of Sylvia's mother in 2003, she met a lady who knew mum and shared, "... about six girls used to go dancing in their teens, and this lady was so funny telling us about your mum who could get any boy in the hall to dance with her. The girls put it down to the seat she was sitting on, and they played musical chairs, but your mum always got her man, whichever chair she sat in ..." Something fun to learn even if not helpful to the research.
- (e) Zion Methodist, Lees – the preacher reached out to the congregation based on a letter I wrote enclosing the photo from the play. I received a

THE HULME GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, OLDHAM. REPORT.			
NAME <i>Margaret Joyce Fountain</i>		Term, 1953	
FORM <i>4TH</i>		AGE <i>15</i> YEARS <i>5</i> MONTHS. AVERAGE AGE OF FORM, <i>14</i> YEARS <i>1</i> MONTHS.	
SUBJECT	EXAMINATION PERCENTAGE		
SCRIPTURE		<i>Poor: Margaret has made little serious effort this term.</i>	<i>C.P.F.</i>
ENGLISH		<i>Good on the whole. Margaret does not always concentrate.</i>	<i>J.W.L.</i>
HISTORY		<i>Good. Margaret can do some pleasing work.</i>	<i>K.C.F.</i>
GEOGRAPHY		<i>Margaret's work has improved.</i>	<i>J.H.</i>
PHISIC		<i>Margaret is abundant responsive in class; her written work does not come up to expectations.</i>	<i>A.A.B.</i>
LATIN		<i>Good on the whole.</i>	<i>J.H.</i>
MATHEMATICS		<i>Fairly good.</i>	<i>B.M.H.</i>
SCIENCE		<i>Good. Margaret has worked well.</i>	<i>A.A.</i>
CHEMISTRY		<i>Fair.</i>	<i>J.H.</i>
BIOLOGY		<i>Fair. Margaret could do better work.</i>	<i>H.S.</i>
ART			
PHYSICS			
COOPER		<i>Good</i>	<i>H.S.</i>
MUSIC		<i>Very promising - Margaret has a lively interest in this subject.</i>	<i>J.H.</i>
PHYSICAL WORK		<i>Fairly good. Margaret's work shows definite improvement.</i>	<i>D.W.S.</i>
EXAMINATION AVERAGE		FOURTEEN DAILY MARKS <i>B B B B</i>	GRADE
PROGRESS		<i>Variable. Margaret must be determined to raise her standard of work in certain subjects.</i>	
CONDUCT		<i>Good</i>	LATE <i>0</i>
			ABSENT <i>8</i>
			CONDUCT MARKS <i>0</i>
The next term begins <i>April 22nd</i> 1953 <i>J. Hayman</i> Form Mistress.			

A Hulme Grammar School report for my mum showing her as a decent though not stellar student who excels in Music.

letter from a longtime parishioner with a phenomenal memory who shared, “I remember your mum best from when she attended Zion, as does my husband. She enjoyed being in the Dramatic Society, which was quite successful. We were fortunate in having a large stage, which could be partitioned into two classrooms, as the building was a school. The Church was attached to the school and was a much older building. I think the photograph you have was a play by Agatha Christie, but I cannot confirm that. Many of the people in the photo, are now dead.”

(f) More Zion Methodist, Lees – the parishioner also said, “I have a photo of a Pantomime we did in the 1950s – Cinderella. Your mum was Dandini (Prince Charming’s best friend), and she is standing beside Prince Charming (in front of the Devil), Cinderella standing on the other side. I think I was probably 13 or 14, so your mum would be two years older. We had a lot of fun rehearsing and performing. As you can see, we had wonderful scenery painted by a professional scenic artist. He had apparently worked for a theatre in Oldham but had connections with Zion.”



A new-to-the-author photo of the Pantomime, Cinderella, Zion Methodist, Lees. Mum was Dandini, standing in front of the Devil.

Again, more insight! And more questions. What did “music” mean in a Grammar School? Singing as in a choir (something she did as an adult)? Playing a musical instrument? Again, this corroborated my gran’s mention of musical talent, though no prize was mentioned.

Played piano? Took piano lessons and participated in concerts? Difficult pieces? I never saw her touch a piano, never mind play one. My conflicting emotions aside, may be something I could leverage.

And “enjoyed being in the Dramatic Society.” My dad said she did not enjoy taking part and wouldn’t talk about it. Might these be the respondee’s associations projected onto my mum, or her sense of how my mum truly felt? That said, she remembered the names of my uncles and other facts about the family – people she had not had any contact with for over 45 years. At least now I can link the theatre production to Zion Methodist, Lees, and learned of a 2nd production she was involved with; another thread to pull!



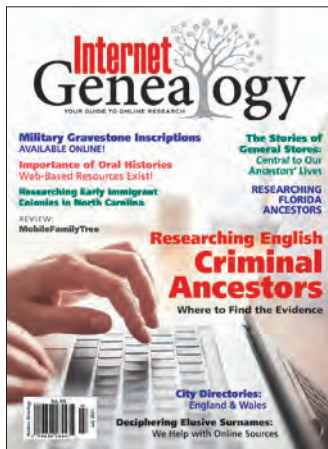
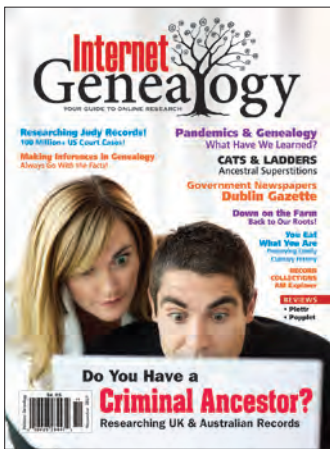
Diane and her mum.

Time to Pause

By 2003, I compiled all I knew about mum’s extended family and mailed a copy to Oldham Local Studies and Archives. If you search the Oldham (U.K.) Council Heritage collections, you will find a copy of “They All Met in Oldham England, The Story of Several Families who in the Mid to Late 1880s All Lived in the Oldham Area of Lancashire.” I subsequently created several addenda focusing on various family branches, my gran & grandad (and his sister), and my mum. Many of these are online via my website, www.mosaicrpm.com/personal_research, including a summary of what I knew of my mum www.mosaicrpm.com/files/Addendum_2_2003_MJ_Fountain_pgs_1_to_20.pdf. ©

Watch for the second part of this article in the upcoming April/May 2023 issue of *Internet Genealogy*

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NEWSPAPER WINS: Tools for Searching Like a Pro

By Erin E. Moulton

AS THE GENEALOGY AND REFERENCE LIBRARIAN AT THE DERRY Public Library, George Lefty Tyler has been on my periphery for a long time. Literally. A humble portrait of George hangs on the wall in the New Hampshire Room and stares over my shoulder as I peer into old city directories and vintage scrapbooks. He's just to the right of the infamous first American in space, Alan Shepard, and internationally beloved poet, Robert Frost, and yet he's not nearly as well known. He doesn't look particularly happy or sad. Perhaps just a little rough. The only clear sign of why he's there at all is his uniform, emblazoned with a bold B on his chest, clearly indicating he played ball. Not being adequately sporty, myself, I had no backstory for the local legend. So, I went searching. Come to find out, George's moment in the spotlight was brief – and as far as baseball history goes – largely unacknowledged. But let me tell you, George was fascinating.



Bain News Service, Publisher. George "Lefty" Tyler, Boston NL baseball, 1914. Photograph; digital images, Library of Congress (www.loc.gov/item/2014697596, accessed 3 March 2022).

I know this from the trail he left in newspapers. By deploying specific search skills in specific record sets, I learned that George went from a shoe factory worker's son to a local star hurler, to a major league pitcher for the 1914 "Miracle Braves"... and back again.

By tracking George in local and national newspapers, I was able to weave a timeline from cradle to grave. The exercise reminded me that newspapers can be about so much more than obituaries, if – and only if – we are willing to be patient and deploy strategic and intentional search methods. Specific strategies include: knowing the timeline before embarking on newspaper navigation, collection assessment, keyword variation and incremental searching.

Let's belly up to the plate and take a look at how these strategies played out as I searched for more on the life of George "Lefty" Tyler.

Know the Timeline

Newspapers are such a rich resource, it's difficult not to navigate to them first. Nevertheless, there is a great deal to be gained by creating a timeline of the research subject's life before hitting newspaper archives. This strategy helps me narrow in on the right newspapers more effectively and efficiently. To build a rough timeline for George, I sought census and vital records.

This exercise revealed very useful information. From his birth in 1889 through 1910, George was primarily in Derry, New Hampshire. In 1913, he was married in Lowell Massachusetts and was employed as a ball player. From 1913 to 1920, he must have climbed the ranks, for in the 1920 census



he was based out of Lowell, Massachusetts, but played for the National League. It would appear he lived out the rest of his days in Lowell, working like his old man, for in 1930 and 1940 census records, he was enumerated there as a shoe worker. Of course, as I navigated the census and vital records, I also learned valuable associated names. Each name, date and location would serve as an avenue to further research. Looking at George's timeline, I knew I wanted to locate newspapers in Derry, NH and Lowell, Massachusetts to find more information on George as a local boy. Naturally, once George hit the big time, I would expect to find his name in papers nationwide.

Collection Assessment

With a rough timeline in hand, I began a collection assessment. Newspaper collections are dispersed across digital and physical repositories. Each repository has a curated collection and no one repository holds everything. By assessing newspaper collections through finding aids and regional directories, I got a sense of which repositories would be most useful to my research. For example, I knew *Newspapers.com* would reveal many of George's big moments in the spotlight as it included the *Boston Globe* and the *Chicago Tribune*. On the other hand, their holdings of New Hampshire and Lowell papers were slim to nil. Luckily, the Derry Public Library has worked with *Advantage Preservation* to digitize a run of local newspapers, such as the *Derry News* and the *Derry Enterprise* from 1880 to present, and *NewspaperArchive.com* has a robust run of the *Lowell Sun*. While it was less convenient running from one online database to another, isolating



Bain News Service, Publisher. George "Lefty" Tyler, Boston NL baseball, 1914. Photograph; digital images, Library of Congress (www.loc.gov/item/2014697594, accessed 3 March 2022).

date ranges and locations in these three digital collections brought fruitful results.

Searching in the local Derry newspapers brought George's boyhood to life. The very first news on George was in an article

from the *Derry News*, dated 12 July 1903, entitled "West Derry Grammar" and it indicated that he had graduated from school along with several classmates. In 1906, he was listed among many other participants in coverage of the local Catholic picnic. His claim to fame? He won first place in a potato race. By 1907, George was hitting the news for his baseball prowess as a pitcher for the Derry Athletic Association, alongside his brother, Arthur, who was a champion at bat. George's pitching took a backseat to Arthur's batting skills which were highlighted in the title: "Big Battering Fest: Lawrence Boys Found Themselves Up Against the Real Thing."

It is apparent that before George was a star pitcher for the Miracle Braves, he was a kid like many of his peers who went to school, went to church and took part in extracurricular activities.

Keyword Variations

The Derry News often referred to George simply as "George Tyler"

Search Skills to Know

Isolate: Almost every website has the capacity to allow you to control date range and region. Use them!

Boolean Search: Many search functions allow a Boolean search, which is a structured search process that allows you to use AND, OR and NOT. Ex. "Lefty Tyler" NOT Baseball would bring up results that reference Lefty in an article where Baseball is not referenced.

Exact Phrase Search: Many search functions allow quotation marks for exact phrase searching. Ex. "George Tyler"

Wildcard Search: Use ? or * to create a wildcard search. ? is a single character wildcard and a * is a multiple character wildcard.

Browse: Remember that the newspaper encapsulates a world at a certain place in time. Looking in local historic papers can give you context for your research subject's life, but also can reveal friends, associates, and neighbors. By browsing the paper, you can often find out more about your research subject--and can definitely find more out about the world in which they lived.

or “G. Tyler,” which was not how national headlines typically reported him. They often deferred to “Lefty.” This is a clear reminder that keyword variations matter. Whenever I’m searching digital archives, I try to make myself a list of useful and relevant keywords before beginning. These keywords can consist of maiden and married names, formal names and nicknames, abbreviations and more. While researching George, I began with the keywords “George Tyler,” “George Lefty Tyler,” “G. Tyler,” and “Lefty Tyler.”

I also considered keywords pertaining to group affiliations, family names and associations to give me relevant information about the world around George. Group keywords included: “Derry Athletic Association,” “DAA,” “Miracle Braves,” “Boston Braves,” “Chicago Cubs” and more. A search for the Boston Braves brought up exciting game coverage, including a big win against the Athletics before clinching the pennant. This snippet from *Boston Globe* circa 13 October 1914 captured the enthusiasm at the ballpark that day!

*Braves-Strong in Every Way,
Says Murname
By T.H. Murname*

In a nerve-racking contest that went into the 12th innings yesterday at Fenway Park, the Boston Braves won out by 5 to 4 from the Philadelphia Athletics.

It was fully as interesting as, and perhaps more fiercely contested, than any game ever played for the honors. The immense crowds – one of the largest that ever watched one of these games – became intensely enthusiastic as the Braves hung to the Athletics, who kept continually in the lead, forcing the home team to follow by dint of nerve and to hustle for everything in sight.


The hitting was very even, Tyler, the Boston Left-hander, at times, showing excellent form, as did Bush, the Philadelphia Boxman.

George was indicated here simply as “Tyler,” so a search for “Boston Braves” actually brought us to George, on the mound, in a roundabout and effective way (and gave me the idea for further

GREAT AID FOR LEFTHANDER

George Tyler Apparently Has Regained Winning Form Since Wholesale Extraction of Teeth.

According to the dentist who yanked all George Tyler's teeth, this wholesale extraction will be a great thing for the left-hander. And the statement seems to be true—look at Lefty's won



George Tyler.

and lost per cent. But you don't see Jim Vaughn, Slim Sallee, Rube Benton, Artie Nehf and other southpaws making any mad rush to have the ivory torn from the deeply bedded concrete.

“Great Aid for Left Hander,” Oskaloosa Independent (Oskaloosa Kansas) 8 October 1920, p. 3 c. 5; digital images, Newspapers.com (www.newspapers.com), accessed 3 March 2022).

keywords!). Later articles using group names revealed a transfer to the Chicago Cubs and a decline in George’s pitching ability due to neuritis. Eventually, George underwent treatment for the neuritis, which resulted in the removal of all his teeth in 1920!

On a more personal note, family keywords also were useful in locating George. I had compiled a few associated names from the outset, including the name of his wife, Lillian McCarthy and his brothers, J. Arthur Tyler, Frederick (Clancy) Tyler and William (Bill) Tyler.

Searching family names brought up interesting results and furthered George’s story. Finding Lillian McCarthy in the *Lowell Sun* easily narrowed in on a marriage announcement dated 19 January 1913: “Braves Pitcher Weds: Made Popular Lowell Girl His Bride.” The article reported a simple wedding with close relatives, followed by a honeymoon to New York and Washington.

Searches for his brothers revealed more love for the game as well as tragedy. Bill pitched for the DAA and Frederick (Clancy) was a catcher in the Major Leagues. His older brother Arthur, the star batter, met a tragic end. On 2 December 1932, an article ran in the *Derry News*: “Local Insurance Agent Takes Own Life with Shotgun: J. Arthur, Former Baseball Star, Popular Man of Town, Suicide Victim.” George’s big brother was found dead on the Derry Athletic Association Ball Field – the field they had all played on as boys.

As I followed George, as well as George’s associates, through the newspapers and the years, the context of his life, history and circumstances became apparent. The tough expression in his portrait made more sense to me – as one



of wherewithal. And yet, as I dug deeper into his life and times, I was curious about his later years. How did he manage through them? As prior information indicated, was he living a toothless shoe cutter's life until the end of his days?

Incremental Searching

Determined to find out, I searched for "Lefty Tyler" in the *Lowell Sun* from 1930 to 1953, which returned 494 results. Faced with so much return, I deployed a strategy that I like to use whenever I'm trying to squeeze out every corner of a person's timeline: Incremental Searching. Simply put, I reduced the date range to three-year increments and worked my way forward, excavating his later years bit by bit. I searched through the *Lowell Sun* with the phrase "Lefty Tyler" from 1930 to 1933 (it returned 88 results). A much more manageable number. Next, I searched 1934 to 1937 and on


and on. This crawl through the *Lowell Sun* revealed, not so much a toothless shoe cutter, but a more involved community member who was still in love with the game.

On 4 April 1931, the *Lowell Sun* ran an article entitled "George Tyler is Appointed Umpire in Eastern League: Lowell Flinger Who Tasted Fame with Boston Braves, Gets Post For New Season – Has Son Pitching at Keith Academy." Likewise, later in the 30s and 40s, George was often found in reunion games and headlining local events. The 50s brought the 75th anniversary of the National League, which was celebrated with a gala, and the news was abuzz with Lefty once more. The 3 June 1951 *Lowell Sun* reported "Lefty Tyler Has Gala Day at Braves Field as 1914 Players Steal Spotlight." A picture of George, in his later years, was front and center.

Inevitably, on 30 September

1953, as news traveled that Lefty had passed away, the *Lowell Sun* ran tributes from around the sports world. An article titled "Baseball World Mourns Passing of 'Lefty Tyler'" reflected on the champion pitcher. J.G. Taylor Spink, the Sporting News Publisher spoke to the press: "George Tyler was a great hurler and a gentleman at all times. I know I'm speaking for all the old timers when I say we've lost one of baseball's shining examples of humility among great men."

Humility indeed. George is buried in Lowell Massachusetts, the grass slowly overtaking the flat marker that serves as his headstone. There is no mention of his baseball prowess or his years on the field. The stone captures his story even less than his portrait in the New Hampshire Room. There's no doubt, George came from humble beginnings – and stayed rooted. There's no question that he's easily overshadowed by other local names. And yet, like many of our 20th century ancestors, George's life is preserved. With research, strategies, patience and print, we can still access his trials and triumphs, his golden years and tough losses. We're able to go back in time to the ballpark and feel the energy in the air as Lefty took the mound. It's enough to make a sports fan out of a historian.

Now, every time I'm in the New Hampshire Room telling visitors a bit about the people up on the walls, I don't just gloss over George. I tend to tell his story from start to finish. Wholesale removal of teeth and all. 

ERIN E. MOULTON writes books and tracks dead people. You can find her online at www.erinemoulton.com or on Instagram @readwriteandtrackyourdead.

Four free newspaper archives to stretch your skills

Advantage Preservation: Many local libraries and historical societies use Advantage Preservation for digitization and hosting. Their directory can help you narrow in on holdings by region.

<http://directory.advantage-preservation.com/sitedirectory>

Chronicling America: A well-known source, Chronicling America not only has digitized newspapers, nationwide, but it also has a robust directory that can help researchers identify which repositories hold local papers.

<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/search/titles/>

FultonSearch: I recently learned Fultonhistory has a brand-new search engine, bringing an already robust collection into the 21st century. This archive hosts newspapers from all around the country, including an extensive New York collection. <https://fultonsearch.org/>

The Internet Archive: The beauty of the Internet Archive is that it is constantly being updated with new content, and you never quite know what you'll find there. Utilize the metadata and contents search functions to search for area papers. Ex. The Liberator and The Boston News-Letter: <https://archive.org/>

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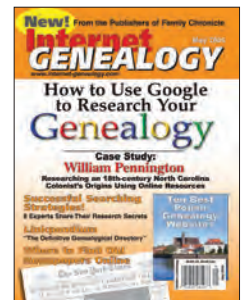
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Colonial American Genealogy: Sources “Olde” and New – Part One

by David A. Norris

FAR FROM BEING A QUIANT AND QUIET TIME, THE COLONIAL ERA of U.S. history was one of great change and complexity. Each of the “Thirteen Colonies” that broke away from British rule during the Revolutionary War (1775-1783) had its distinct patterns of settlement, economy, and geography. This affects not only each colony’s history, but the availability of genealogical records for today’s family historians. Still, we can take a brief look at some generalized colonial genealogical resources, with some suggestions for digging deeper into a personalized search for particular family lines in different colonies. Fortunately, many surviving records of the colonial period are available online and in published volumes. This makes starting, or building on, your research easier.

England’s first attempt at settlement in North America, the famous “Lost Colony,” was founded in North Carolina in 1585. The attempt failed, and the inhabitants vanished before supply ships could reach them after the disruption of the Spanish Armada in 1588. Permanent English settlement began in Jamestown, Virginia in 1607.

“Colonial genealogy” in this context is usually taken to include people who lived in the “Thirteen Colonies,” which belonged to England or Great Britain, and gained independence after the American Revolution. They were New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia.

It rather oversimplifies history to speak of the “Thirteen Colonies.” Maine was part of Massachusetts until 1820, and Vermont was in dispute between New Hampshire and New York. Along a varying boundary, New Jersey was divided into East Jersey and West Jersey from 1674 to 1702. Settlers moved to lands west of the Appalachians which were loosely claimed by various several East Coast colonies. Many Americans can trace ancestry back to settlers in Spanish colonies in Florida, the Gulf Coast, and the Southwestern U.S.; French towns and outposts in Canada,

the Midwest; or Dutch or Swedish colonies absorbed by the British.

Among the “go-to” places with abundant records of all the colonies are Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org. A useful shortcut for FamilySearch’s colonial resources can be found at www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/United_States_Colonial_Records. You can search for records by state not only for the English colonies in the early U.S., but colonies of Spain, France, the Netherlands, Sweden, and even Russia.

For colonial-era genealogy, it’s always best to start at the present and work backward as far as you can. It’s tempting to follow an early colonist at Jamestown, Plymouth, or elsewhere who had one of your family surnames. Chances are, though, that this will be a waste of time researching someone with a family surname who was unrelated to your relatives.

Heritage societies can provide a shortcut to finding colonial relatives. Older membership rosters and other online data might let you tie in your family tree through a direct ancestor or perhaps a cousin in a line of descent. Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org have a number of vintage membership registers of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America, and the Colonial Dames of America.

Also useful are the extensive resources compiled by the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and the Sons of the Revolution, which have lines of



The “Thirteen Colonies” as they appeared in 1752. (Public domain)

descent of Revolutionary War soldiers or patriots who were born in the colonial era.

You can search for Revolutionary Era patriot ancestors at the DAR's Ancestor Search Page at https://services.dar.org/public/dar_research/search. You can also search for descendants linking those patriots to DAR members. Privacy concerns place a veil over contemporary people, but the descendant search often turns up links with people living in the 19th or early 20th centuries who may be in your family tree as direct ancestors or distant cousins. At Ancestry.com, the collection Sons of the American Revolution Membership Applications, 1889-1970 also has potentially useful chains of descent.

Pension records for Revolutionary War veterans often cite births or marriages that occurred in the colonial period. As elderly people, colonial-born ancestors might appear in the pension files as supporting witnesses to marriages or testimonials of identity and of military service.

Another excellent way of working back from the present is through Ancestry.com's family trees, and their Thru-lines. Limited to one's five-times-great-grandparents, all lines might not reach back to the colonial era but they might at least get you closer.

When you narrow a search to a particular state, it's useful to find maps showing the changes in county boundaries, which have seen many changes since the end of the colonial era in 1775. The general trend was to break them into smaller units, which would make travel to the county courthouse more convenient. For a section of one county that was broken off to form another, early deeds and other records may remain in the old county's courthouse or

other offices. The Newberry Library's Atlas of Historical County Boundaries at <https://digital.newberry.org/ahcb/index.html> is a comprehensive collection of interactive maps showing county boundary formations and changes in all the U.S. states.

Courthouse records bring up the dread topic of "burned counties," in which fires or other disasters destroyed probate files, deeds, and other papers valuable to genealogists. One "workaround" for this problem is a check of state archives, some of which have their own collections of colonial wills, deeds, and land grants. Another is a search of local history books, some of which preserve transcripts of early records compiled from lost originals.

Another troublesome aspect of colonial-era genealogy is most people left few traces in paper records. This is especially true with African-Americans. The small portion who were free owned little property and may have little or no documentation. Slaves legally did not have surnames, and so would appear only under a given name in a will or other document.

Women had limited legal rights in the colonial era. Only widows or unmarried women could buy and sell land. A married woman's property was owned by her husband, and her name rarely appears on deeds or other legal papers. Tax rolls named heads of households; most women appearing on such lists were widows. Relatively few women left wills or probate files; evidently, their property was handed down among the family.

Wills might be useful for providing the maiden names of married women. Although a male testator wouldn't mention his wife's maiden name, his will might name his daughters by their married names.



Colonial-era women had limited legal and property rights, and appeared in fewer records than men at the time. Wills and marriage licenses, when available, can offer useful information. (Public domain)

Sometimes, a father might name his son-in-law as the beneficiary, without mentioning his daughter's name.

Other than some church records, little thought was given to keeping vital statistics. Some churches kept records of members' births, marriages, and deaths, but many of these rolls have vanished over the years. Congregational churches in New England, and Quaker meeting houses elsewhere, left many useful records of this type.

Another trouble is the relative scarcity of original names. All too many families repeated a small number of names (say, John, William, and Robert for male names and Elizabeth, Mary, and Susan for female names) in each new generation. Middle names were rare until the generations born about the time of the Revolution.

Nicknames helped families distinguish between members with the same names. Molly and Polly were nicknames for Mary, and Patsy was a nickname for Martha.



17th century New Englanders head toward their church. Some colonial church records survive, but many colonists lived too far away from a church to attend services, or leave their names in their record books. (Library of Congress)

Jennie was a nickname for Jane (author Jane Austen, born in England, was called Jennie by her family). Elizabeth might be changed to Eliza or Betsy. The use of nicknames can cause problems for genealogists. One of my ancestors married a Mary Atkins according to some sources, and a Polly Atkins according to others. She turned out to be the same woman with variations in her name, but she had a first cousin who was also called Polly Atkins!

For males, titles such as Reverend, Jr., or Sr. help distinguish ancestors with identical names. Militia officers sometimes kept their military rank as a personal title. So, a Col. Samuel Smith and a “plain” Samuel Smith in the same community were likely to have been different people.

Once you have collected some names to research and determined the colonies in which they might have lived, it’s time to see what might be found online. Buying or selling land; paying taxes; serving in the militia; leaving a will (or being mentioned in one) are common ways ancestors left traces in

colonial records. We’ll look at land records; tax rolls; militia rosters; and probate records, as well as some passenger lists and indentured servant records.

Statewide published collections of colonial records, some of them compiled during the 19th century and including now-lost papers, are available online for most states. Various historical societies have also compiled useful collections of county and town records. Particularly good sources of public domain volumes are Google Books, the Internet Archive, and the Hathi Trust Library.

Land records are a vital source of information. A land grant or patent marked the first time a parcel was transferred from the Crown to private ownership. Deeds note land transfers between individuals. Deeds and patents can help determine when some ancestors arrived in a colony or a county. They also provide some hint of age, as the landowners would usually have reached adult age.

Land patents, much smaller in quantity than deeds, have long been available statewide in

published and digital form. Some state archives or libraries have made their state’s early grants available. Even in the old states, grants continued well into the 19th century as farmers took up odd leftover scraps of land near their holdings. Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org have extensive collections of land grants.

Colonial-era deeds have become widely available in recent years. Notable collections can be found on digitized microfilm of county records books at FamilySearch.org. An increasing number of counties have placed their deed indexes and facsimile images online.

Careful sifting of property records might turn up a good bit of family information. A grant or deed might, but not necessarily, tell when someone moved into a community. Many patents were obtained by speculators who never lived on the land but hoped to “flip” the acreage at a profit. And, a farmer might live on a property for years before obtaining official notice of a grant or deed.

Deed maps and descriptions often mention the neighboring property owners. Often, they may be relatives or in-laws of the property owner; or, perhaps the parcels belong to families that might be united in marriage a generation later. Some deed papers mention the chain bearers, who carried the measuring chains used by surveyors. Often, these turn out to be relatives or in-laws of the property owner. ©

Watch for Part Two of this article in our April/May 2023 edition.

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



A Guide to Norwegian Genealogy, Emigration, and Transmigration

Author: Liv Marit Haakenstad, 2022

BY DIANE L. RICHARD

I HAVE KNOWN THE AUTHOR SINCE 2009 THOUGH WE HAVE NEVER yet met in person, matching the modern world of genealogy. As a professional genealogist, Liv has frequently attended and spoken at events in the U.S. about doing Norwegian research. This gives her the unique perspective of a Norwegian-based researcher who knows the records and yet someone familiar with the needs of researchers across the pond in the U.S. and Canada seeking their ancestors. The story of immigrants from each country is unique. Though many common factors exist among emigrants driving their movements, understanding the contextual factors unique to one country, Norway, and the experiences of its emigrants, better prepares you to research successfully your Norwegian ancestors.

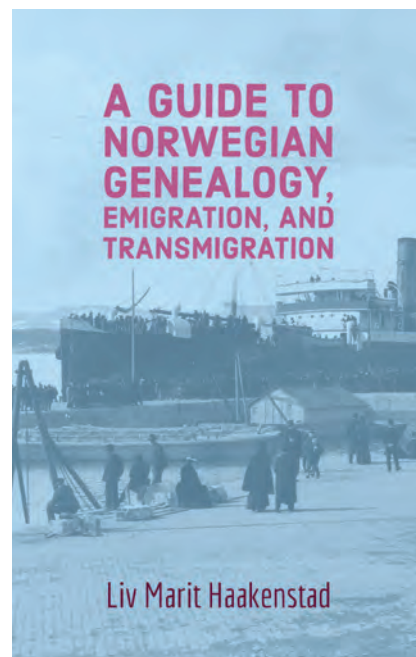
FYI. As we go to print, print volumes have a slight discrepancy between the page numbers listed in the Table of Contents and the actual page numbers of the content. I never found these to vary by more than two pages. With the detailed contents list, this is only a minor inconvenience.

The first part of the book starts by exploring Norwegian emigration history. You will learn about who left and the periods of high emigration. Next is an in-depth look at the actual trip from Norway to America. These details are priceless. When researching my Scandinavian Finnish ancestors, understanding the process of emigration and immigration, and the records created, led me to additional resources.

The author liberally shares information on sources you can explore. Check the Table of Contents for anything called "sources," though know that source information is also included elsewhere as appropriate.

As part of this, the book covers travel from Scandinavia to Great Britain and then to America and direct travel from Scandinavia to America. This provides important context. Many traveling from Scandinavia and Europe, often first landed at a UK port before continuing their travel. Ports in Germany, France, and elsewhere may also have been involved. This means that additional paperwork was generated that might have survived for us to research.

If you have already researched immigrants arriving in the U.S. and Canada, then the discussion of the various ports of entry might be familiar. The author provides a nice overview of the ports and discusses how immigrants traveled inland to their final destination.



Next up, the author talks about settlers and settlements in the U.S. and Canada. Definitely read the section for where your Norwegian ancestors settled. Keep in mind that sometimes an emigrating family did not all settle in the same location. My Finnish emigrant siblings settled in Massachusetts and Minnesota. That splintering was not uncommon. Upon arrival, many may have congregated in, say, Massachusetts before opportunities propelled some to settle elsewhere.

The book then changes its focus to advise on starting your genealogy research journey, using family records, effectively searching archives online, and more. I suggest you then jump to the chapter on



Genealogical Methods. This topic closely aligns with the mentioned topics as useful advice for a successful genealogical research experience.

This leads to detailed, in-depth sections for “Sources in the United States and Canada” and “Sources in Norway.” Over 100 pages of the book identify resources you will want to explore. They are organized by type, making it easy for skilled genealogists to focus on what might be new-to-you resources. Not familiar with key Norwegian terms? Check out Appendix 4. A Norwegian-English dictionary. I would supplement this with the Norwegian Genealogical Word List, FamilySearch Wiki, www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Norwegian_Genealogical_Word_List. These word lists for genealogists created for languages worldwide have long helped genealogists navigate non-English language records, including those of the Scandinavian countries.

The other appendixes, focusing on the various “lines” transporting emigrants and their representatives (aka agents), are helpful to give researchers a sense of the options available to their ancestors emigrating from Norway, depending on the time period and destination.

There is a lot of information in this book, some relevant to beginning genealogists and those new to researching their Norwegian ancestry, as well as resources and tips and tricks that will benefit more experienced researchers. Liv knows Norwegian research and, with this book, has put it in a very approachable format that benefits U.S. and Canadian researchers.

For some additional insight, I suggest you read this helpful review by Michael Kleiner, The Norwegian American, www.norwegianamerican.com/norwegian-genealogy-emigration-and-transmigration.

further reading

Want to learn more about Liv and her book, or keep up with news about her and Norwegian genealogy? Check these out:

Her Association of Professional Genealogists (APG) Profile, www.apgen.org/users/liv-marit-haakenstad

Her website, www.studygenealogy.com

Her presentations at Rootstech 2021, presented both in English and Norwegian, www.familysearch.org/rootstech/speakers/liv-marit-haakenstad/en

Her social media pages, Facebook, www.facebook.com/genithaakenstad

Available via Amazon.com, www.amazon.com/Guide-Norwegian-Genealogy-Emigration-Transmigration/dp/B0BBYB8TF5

[norwegianamerican.com/norwegian-genealogy-emigration-and-transmigration](http://www.norwegianamerican.com/norwegian-genealogy-emigration-and-transmigration). It is based on a recent visit to the Norway House, Minneapolis, by Liv, and gives a nice short historical overview of Norwegian immigration and includes quotes from her. Also, check out the helpful links for Norwegian research at the bottom of the same webpage.

Liv had long lamented the challenges of “getting the word out” on how U.S. and Canadian-based researchers can best pursue their Norwegian ancestry. *A Guide to Norwegian Genealogy, Emigration, and Transmigration* now equips researchers with the tools they need to successfully explore their Norwegian roots. ¹⁶

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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Gibraltar's Remarkable Census Records

By David A. Norris

FAMED AS A LEGENDARY FORTRESS FOR CENTURIES, the British Overseas Territory of Gibraltar has also been the home of thousands of families. Via the National Archives of Gibraltar, records for many people who lived or worked in Gibraltar since the early 1700s can be searched online at www.nationalarchives.gi/Default.aspx.



The famed "Rock" looms over the British Overseas Territory of Gibraltar in the 1903 photograph. (Library of Congress)

Gibraltar is a narrow peninsula attached at its north end to Spain. Towering over the sand is the mountainous "Rock of Gibraltar." The Rock looks over the Strait of Gibraltar, the entrance to the Mediterranean Sea from the Atlantic. Control of Gibraltar was a major advantage for Britain during conflicts from the 1700s to World War II.

Seized from Spain by the British in 1704, during the War of the Spanish Succession, Gibraltar remained in British hands after the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713. Most Spanish residents left. A list of 41 people (heads of households) who made up the remaining Spanish inhabitants was prepared in 1704, forming the first "census" by the British authorities. That list, plus "registers of inhabitants" and censuses; and lists of marriages, and holders of entry permits and trade permits, are among more than 30 indexes and databases placed online by the Gibraltar National Archives. Some lists exclude army and navy personnel or are limited to heads of households, but others are more detailed and inclusive.

British shopkeepers, artisans, and officials arrived to support the army and naval forces that held Gibraltar. Many other residents came from around the Mediterranean. Spanish families, some from Minorca or Majorca, joined Portuguese and Italian residents. Among them were mariners or fishermen. Jewish refugees, many from Morocco and other Muslim lands in North Africa, also found homes in Gibraltar.

The census taken in 1777 listed residents alphabetically by surname, and divided them into three categories by religion: British and Protestants; Roman Catholics; and Jews. Places of origin were added, including Catholics from Minorca, Genoa, Savoy, Portugal, and France. Scots were said to be from "North Britain."

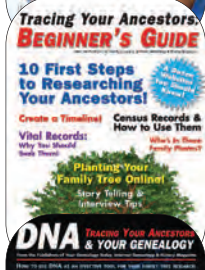
The roll taken in 1777 had entries added years later. One entry noted that Charles Dauhardy, a 13-year-old barber's apprentice, "Deserted during Siege to the Enemy." A long Spanish siege of Gibraltar, which happened during the American Revolution, didn't begin until 1779. Other entries had additions, such as one for watchmaker John Abraham, which said, "Gone 1786."

Decennial censuses beginning in 1871 coincide with the censuses of Great Britain. 1921's Gibraltar Census is available here. Their 1931 census, like the British census, is shielded by privacy laws for 100 years and will be available in 2031.

In 1940, most civilians were evacuated from Gibraltar, which was embroiled in World War II. Evacuees went to French Morocco, but after the Vichy Regime took over, the Gibraltarians were taken to Great Britain, Jamaica, and Madeira. A database of the site lets you search for evacuees by surname; ship; old Gibraltar addresses; and destinations.

Each list or census is easily searchable. Some can be downloaded with scans of the original pages in pdf form. More information on Gibraltar's history is also offered. Genealogists and historians alike may find some intriguing records of the historic territory of Gibraltar. ©

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



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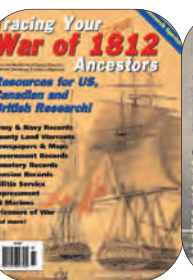
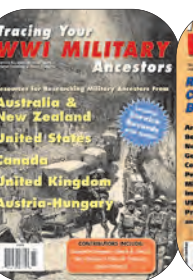
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“Everything My Dad Said About His Ancestry Was a Fabrication!”

Meredith Young Renard recounts how she learned the truth and the reason for the tale

CUTTING TO THE CHASE, LET ME JUST SAY THAT EVERYTHING MY FATHER said about our ancestry was a complete fabrication and proved to me why family interviews and legends alone are not enough.

When I asked about his ancestors, my dad replied: “My mother’s people were French, and the Young name must be British. Legend has it that my great-great-grandfather married a native American Princess.” He added his ancestors were among the earliest settlers of New Jersey.

Accepted by me as spoken. I knew my dad as a man of integrity. He was a school principal, taught masters students, went to church faithfully and never cheated a soul. So, why question?

At the time and for many years hence, I was so confident in my father’s summary of our family tree that I often told people about my Native American roots, allowed my company to enter me on the

list of indigenous people in their employ, and looked forward to maybe someday learning which tribe.

With my father’s assurance of our colonial roots, I even called the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and asked about membership.

In the fall of 1997, when I learned how to peruse the census microfilm at the National Archives, I saw some cracks in the story. The chasm has deepened



My Dad at his desk at Tuscan School in Maplewood, New Jersey, where he was the principal of this elementary school for several decades.



Our family vacations often took us to early American historical sites, including the time I visited these Pilgrims at Plymouth Rock in my childhood. My deep sense of connection with Colonial times synced nicely with my Dad’s legend of my Colonial roots.



This was, allegedly, somehow a part of the French part of my ethnicity, William and Matilda Englert and their children – later found to be Wilhelm Englert, born in Germany



My grandparents, Lewis Edward Young – allegedly a descendant of a British immigrant from Colonial Times and Anna Englert Young about whom my Dad said “her people were French”. Neither of these statements was proven to be true.



Lewis Warren Young, first-generation American, born in Newark in 1842.

with time and the availability of so much information on the internet.

Census records for 1920 and 1930 showed that my paternal grandmother’s parents were born in Germany and spoke German.

Impossible! Germany was not on the list my dad had provided. However, I knew there were parts of France that were part of Germany at times and so I soldiered on believing that the story would play out as told.

Moving on to my dad’s paternal line, I sought confirmation that the Young name originated in England.

I’d already noticed that my grandfather (Lewis Edward Young) was born in New Jersey. The census also showed that Lewis Young’s father was born in New Jersey and his mother in New York. A very good sign that I would find that path to Colonial America!

The most recent census I could find for my great-grandparents on the Young side was from 1900.

I was perplexed when I saw that Lewis’s father and mother were born in Germany and his wife Sarah’s parents were also born in Germany.

Quite puzzled, I couldn’t imagine why my father wouldn’t have told me that his family was German – and unfortunately, this secret had gone with him to the grave with his passing just three months before I uncovered the evidence.

As I continued to learn more about my family history, I found my great-grandfather’s 1861 marriage record in German, from the German Presbyterian Church in Newark on Ancestry.com.

Wondering where this church was relative to my family, I found an “Old Newark” site through an internet search for “German Presbyterian Church in Newark, NJ.” On that site, there is a map showing where the church was just a few blocks from where my family lived on Broome St. <http://newarkreligion.com/presbyterian/firstgermanpres.php>

Looking at various city directories for Newark, readily available online through the Newark Public Library I could see where my family lived at various times and in my travels, I skimmed past the name “Berlin St” and tried to recall where that was from the days I visited family in Newark. And yet, I could not find it on a contemporary map of Newark.

Over the years, I’ve learned that many city directories are available online, including those for Newark, NJ – found at: <https://digital.npl.org/islandora/object/newarkcitydirectories:collection>.

Wondering if there might have been a name change, I found an article online explaining that Berlin was one of eight streets in Newark that had a name change as a result of anti-German sentiment during World War I. See www.newarknj.gov/news/put-the-kaiser-in-his-place-by-re-naming-newark-streets.

Portions of Berlin St. were renamed Rome St.; portions of Bismarck became Pershing Ave; portions of Dresden St. were renamed London St. and so on. These streets as originally named can be found through the David Rumsey Historical

Map Collection, a wonderful (and free!) map site: www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detailRUMSEY~8~1~26182~1100098:Newark,-N-J-?sort=Pub_List_No_InitialSort%2CPub_Date%2CPub_List_No%2CSeries_No&qvq=q:newark%2C%20New%20Jersey;sort:Pub_List_No_InitialSort%2CPub_Date%2CPub_List_No%2CSeries_No;lc:RUMSEY~8~1&mi=6&trs=2

Finally, I understood why my father had invented an ancestry for our family. He was born in the German section of Newark in 1914 and had lived through the anti-German sentiment from both World Wars. Things were making sense.

I imagine my father spent decades hiding his 100% German ethnicity and became adept at saying that the Young name was surely British. Some of his ancestors reportedly lived in what is now Germany, but might once have been

in France, so perhaps my well-educated father glommed on to allowing himself to believe that he had French roots as something he could speak about without a feeling of embarrassment.

My Dad always wanted a little girl and after three sons, he got me. I know my Dad thought the world of me and only told me the ancestry stories that he had told over and over and over so many times that he probably just couldn't risk being found out for "misspeaking" all those decades ago.

No matter the reason, this journey validated what we've all heard about the importance of documenting every morsel of a family legend.

When it all came together, I said to my first cousin "geez, Ray, this all means that my maiden name wasn't Young. It was probably something like Jung. I don't even know the "real" family name!"

I solved the mystery by sheer luck when I contacted the probate office where I thought my original "Young" immigrant ancestor's will might have been filed. One wonderful day, I received in the mail a document that began: "In the name of God, Amen. Know all men by these presents that I, Carl Jung of the city of Newark..."

Name changing must have been in his genes, because my father (born "Wilbur Young") went through life as Bill Young, never having liked his mother's choice that was inspired by the Wright Brothers. When his first child was born, my dad named him William and subsequently a grandson was born to that son and is named William. And if my grandnephew has sons, whatever he and his wife choose to name



LEFT: Dad and me black & white;
RIGHT: Dad and me at my wedding.

In the name of God, Amen.
Know all men by these presents that
I, Carl Jung of the city of Newark,
County of Essex and State of New Jersey

Document 18823G, Essex County, Carl Jung Deceased, Will and Proofs. Filed and Proved Dec. 20, 1876 and recorded in Book U of Wills for Essex County on page 469, George D.G. Moore, Surrogate.



The Four Generations of Young men: L-R. Wilbur E. Young, William E. Young Sr., William A. Young and William E. Young, Jr.

them, the Young name that was adopted by their 5x great grandfather will live on through them.

And every Christmas, as I have done for many decades, I will use my Nana's rolling pin to make the springerle cookies that I now know are from a recipe that originated in Germany. ©



Getting ready to bake my grandmother's springerle recipe using my mother's rolling pin and Nana's springerle rolling pin

MEREDITH YOUNG RENARD is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) - Jean Nicolet Chapter, Wisconsin State Chair of DAR Project Patriot, a Life Member of the Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers, and a dues-paying member of several genealogical and historical societies throughout the country. A native of New Jersey, Meredith is a happily retired former *Fortune 500* company executive who is thrilled to be able to finally devote more time to genealogical research and her family.

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A Laugh At Our Ancestors' Expense

The Humorous Side Of Genealogy

BY ROBBIE GORR

FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH AND THE ACCOMPANYING HIGHS AND lows of success and failure can provide you with a roller coaster of emotions as you investigate the lives of your ancestors. It can range from the great joy of a long-awaited breakthrough to the utter confusion of conflicting data, from empathetic sorrow upon discovering multiple infant deaths to frustrated exhaustion at finding nothing at all after a long search. But every once in a rare while, it's gratifying to be able to look at something we have learned and laugh about it. You see, there is a humorous side to genealogy, too, and it often comes at the expense of our ancestors.



It's gratifying to be able to look at something we have discovered in our family history research and laugh about it. (Photo by simpleinsomnia on Creative Commons).

Amusing Appellations & Madcap Monikers

The comedy duo Abbott and Costello had a hilarious routine about the unusual names of a team of baseball players that exemplifies the humor we find in the names of others. Autumn Storms? Ima Hogg? Preserved Fish? In the course of our research, who has not come upon a name that has caused us to smile in surprise and amusement or chuckle with incredulity and wonderment? Certainly some name pairings may have been result of a status change like Mary Agnes Robertson of Medora, Manitoba who became, upon her marriage to husband George Christmas, the perennially seasonal



While researching your family history, who has not come upon a name that has caused you to smile in surprise or chuckle with incredulity? The comedy duo Abbott and Costello had a hilarious routine known as "Who's On First?" that exemplified the humor we find in the names of others. (Photo by slgckgc on Creative Commons)

Mary Christmas. But, as many seem to have been intentional birth names, we often find ourselves questioning just what those parents were thinking.

The use of virtue names, so beloved of Puritan parents and found in generations of early ancestors, provide a unique selection of unusual and amusing appellations from the pleasantly styled Felicity, Amity and Comfort to the more perversely labelled Lament, Forsaken or Humiliation. And then there are the outrageously named Fear-Not Helly, Kill-Sin Pimple and the infamous seventeenth century parliamentarian Praise-God Barebone who named his sons Jesus-Christ-Came-Into-The-World-To-Save Barebone and If-Jesus-Christ-Had-Not-Died-For-Thee-Thou-Hadst-Been-Damned Barebone. The latter changed his own name, not surprisingly, to plain old Nicholas.

The Bible, an inspirational source of familiar and commonly used names for generations, also presented a trove of unconventional and unique choices for parents. Why choose Mary, Sarah or Elizabeth for a newborn daughter when names like Abishag, Gomer or Hagar were at one's fingertips? And why select John, James or David when there were alternatives like Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah? Those three, according to the scriptures, changed their names to Shadrach, Meschach and Abednego, a somewhat questionable amendment but popular Biblical choices, nonetheless.



Having been bestowed with a madcap moniker, we can only wonder why that name ever would be passed on to posterity and further generations. The peculiar name Clotworthy Skeffington was associated, in an unbroken line, with the Irish viscounts and, later, earls of Massereene for generations stretching over two hundred years. It may have memorialized early Clotworthy ancestors but provided a curiously diverting fusion with the surname Skeffington.

While we might not ever understand what parents were thinking when assigning such unique and unusual names, we can but offer them grateful thanks for making our genealogical research that much easier. An Experience Marks or a George Washington Lied can be located with precision and certainty so much faster than a Mary Smith or a John Brown. A *BBC News* article examined the choices parents make in naming their children and explored the question *Does a Baby's Name Affect Its Chances in Life?* (www.bbc.com/news/magazine-26634477). Can a unique name set a child apart, marking that person for success or failure? Or will it merely provide future generations with a reason to smile and be amused?

Preposterous Professions & Eccentric Employments

Comedian Lucille Ball, in her iconic 1950s sitcom *I Love Lucy*, was constantly trying to find a more fulfilling job than housewife. That led her to some hilarious situations doing odd jobs such as working on a chocolate factory assembly line and starring in a television commercial for a distasteful health concoction. Her unusual employment situations remind us of the humor that can also be



Lucille Ball got an interesting job in the 1952 *I Love Lucy* episode entitled "Lucy Does a TV Commercial" reminding us that there is humor to be found in the employments and occupations of our forebears. (Photo by Northridge Alumni Bear Facts on Creative Commons)

found in the various professions, occupations and employments of our ancestors.

Was your ancestor employed as a knocker-up (or knocker-upper)? Not what you might immediately think, this person was hired to wake people by tapping or throwing peas at windows before the invention of the alarm clock. Maybe you are descended from a badger? No, the reference is not to the furry nocturnal mammal. Badgers were the middlemen in produce sales, buying fresh commodities from farmers and bringing them to market where they would "badger" someone to buy it.

Some occupations have become historical trivia as they no longer exist as a result of invention and progress. If your ancestor was a baller up, he was likely involved in the pottery-making industry, measuring out balls of clay for the thrower or pottery maker. That should not be confused

with a throwster, a textile worker who twisted wool or silk to make thread. And, furthermore, not to be muddled with a thruster who was employed in mines to push carts containing minerals. Sometimes a job has more than one title like the ale-conner, the ale founder and the ale taster, at least one of which seems appealing, but who were all appointed to test beer for quality and to check measures to prevent fraud. Some jobs have continued through history but with different names. The Georgian ashman later became the Victorian street sweeper and finally the modern refuse collector or garbage man.

Census records are the most common source of the jobs and occupations of our ancestors, even of the most shocking variety such as horse thief, assassin and murderer. The 1860 census for Council Bluffs, Iowa records, in a place called "House of Ill End", the head of household was a "Pimp" whose birthplace was "Unknown". Two other residents were native New Yorkers whose occupation was listed as "Doubtful" and, of course there were also five women aged sixteen to twenty-six whose job was "Prostitute", a commonly recorded trade in census records with various appellations applied including whore, bawd and harlot. Some jobs were just plain strange such those oddly registered by a minister in Norfolk County, England whose personality and prejudices were apparent when he recorded a butcher as a "cut-throat of pigs", a green-grocer as a "cabbage gelder" and the mother of an illegitimate child as a "whore and man trap".

The website *Family Researcher* has a section called the *Dictionary of Old Occupations: A-Z Index* (www.familyresearcher.co.uk/glossary/Dictionary-of-Old-Occupations-Index.html). This useful site is

a handy reference to identify obscure and interesting occupations with an alphabetical index listing by job title and with links to an ebook of the same, in case your ancestor may have been a whacker, a wonkey scooper or a whimseyman.

Jokes, Japes & Jests

The Three Stooges had a long and lasting career extending from their days of vaudeville entertainment to film shorts and full-length movies, applying the same sense of humor exhibited in their jokes and comedic routines and punctuated with slaps, smacks and pokes. It's that iconic form of slapstick comedy combined with japes and jests that so many people enjoy and appreciate, even when the jokes come from their own family stories.

My grandfather had two cousins, brothers who had cultivated a reputation for constantly bickering and arguing among themselves. One summer day a small wooden bridge crossing a narrow creek near their homestead caught fire. The brothers rushed to the bridge with buckets, squabbling and quarreling all the way. When

they finally reached the bridge, their disagreement had reached a climax where they threw the buckets of water at each other while the bridge continued to burn. Nyuk, nyuk, nyuk! It's a story that has never failed to amuse in its retelling despite the poor light it shone on the two family members.

Apart from surviving family stories, researchers might also find such memorable anecdotes memorialized in local histories, county history books, church histories, published diaries and local biographies. An example from a local history published in 1879 recorded a much older tale about an early settler in Upper Canada on a hunting expedition who had fallen asleep by the fire in wet deerskin pants. By morning the buckskin had dried and contracted so much that he could not stand and the breeches had to be cut off. As there was not an extra pair in the camp, he was forced to march home naked from the waist down. Woob! Woob! Woob!

Every family has its tales of misadventure, mishaps and mischance that, in hindsight, can be considered

humorous. Judith Batchelor on the website *Genealogy Jude* has collected and written several funny stories about her great-grandfather that she calls *Family Stories—An Amusing Legacy* (<https://genealogyjude.com/2020/10/31/family-stories-an-amusing-legacy/>) that continue to be passed down, retold and enjoyed while revealing much about human nature. Collecting such stories is just another way to preserve and enjoy the personalities, along with the pranks and pratfalls, of our own ancestors.

Mirthful Marginalia



Jerry Seinfeld became a comedy legend seeking the humor in the minutiae of our everyday lives, suggesting that there may be amusement in the trivialities of our ancestors' lives too. (Photo by Raph_PH on Creative Commons)

Who says there is nothing humorous to be found in the ordinary day to day routine of our lives? Anyone who has never heard comedian Jerry Seinfeld, I suppose. He has built his career upon the humor easily found in the minutiae and trivialities of our everyday lives. For our forebears, we can often find these small details in the most unexpected places, usually as notes and remarks written in the margins of official documents and records, hence the term "marginalia".

In the margin of a German Lutheran missionary's parish records



The Three Stooges built a long and successful career with silly jokes and slapstick comedy japes and we sometimes find similar humor in the antics of our own ancestors. (Photo by twm1340 on Creative Commons)



from Ontario's Ottawa Valley in 1871 was a column labelled as "special observation". In these remarks he noted how each student had performed in confirmation class. The comments ranged from "diligent", "well-behaved" and "manageable" to more denunciatory comments like "weak", "learning disability" and "has his own mind". One can only wonder how his confirmands rated the judgmental minister.

Enumerators of census returns were also famous for including notes such as for a man recorded as 43 years old in the 1950 census for Champaign, Illinois. The comment in the margin says that "this man is probably 65 or older", shattering the myth that women are not the only ones to vainly adjust their official ages. In census records where the householder was responsible for recording data there are even more interesting remarks. In the 1911 census from Hastings, England John Underwood described each of his five children successively in the infirmity column as "quarrelsome", "stubborn", "greedy", "vain" and "noisy". And in the 1911 census for Dulwich in London, householder James Little also recorded the family dog, five-year-old Roger, "an Airedale Terrier".

Other official documents such as vital statistics, military records and even wills and testaments could contain some unexpected, and entertaining, marginalia. A technician at the National Archives found dozens of caricatures drawn in the margins of late nineteenth century naturalization petitions from Pittsburgh, providing not only a look at the exaggerated prominent features of the petitioners but also a glimpse into the humor and personality of the registrar.

Entertaining Epitaphs & Elegies



Mel Blanc, the prolific voice actor known as the "Man of 1000 Voices", provided a last laugh with the epitaph on his tombstone in Hollywood Forever Cemetery, as did many of our forebears. (Photo by brucedetorres on Creative Commons)

Mel Blanc was a famous voice-over actor whose tombstone bears a uniquely entertaining quotation from one of his most famous characters Porky Pig which had become the Loony Tunes catchphrase. But "That's All Folks!" takes on a whole new and hilarious meaning as the epitaph on his memorial monument. Tombstone



Although it often comes at the expense of our ancestors, we can all find amusement and entertainment in the humorous side of genealogy. (Photo by simpleinsomnia on Creative Commons)

ROBBIE GORR is an amateur genealogist and historian who continues to enjoy the thrill of the search and the exhilaration of discovery and, of course, writing about his experiences. And he definitely believes that a little laughter lightens the load!

epitaphs and longer poetic elegies have famously become a source of historical humor, whether intentionally or, as with the following, incidentally:

*"Here lies Peter who was accidentally shot in his 30th year
This monument was erected by grateful relatives"*

There have been many best-selling and humorous books containing collections of old, curious or unusual epitaphs and elegies, some that have even become famous literary quotes. The website *Architecture & Design* contains a unique photographic collection (www.architectureanddesign.net/funny-tombstones-epitaphs/) while *Project Gutenberg* has a digital book from the nineteenth century entitled *Funny Epitaphs* by Arthur Wentworth Easton (www.gutenberg.org/files/42634/42634-h/42634-h.htm). These last words definitely provide the last laugh.

And, as parting words here, we can but thank our ancestors for all the laughs provided at their expense as we uncover the humorous side to genealogy. ©



Is My House Haunted? Probably!

Learn How to Research Your Home

The Genealogy Center – Genealogy@ACPL.Info

IF YOU HAVE TO ASK, YOUR HOUSE IS PROBABLY haunted, but you need to do some research on the house's history to know for sure!

Researching the genealogy of your home might seem daunting at first, but at the Genealogy Center we are here to help find the resources you need to begin! One of the first things we suggest is – follow the paper trail! City directories, the census, maps, newspapers, and deeds are all great places to start.

City Directories

- The Genealogy Center is home to an extremely large collection of Polk and other county directories. City directories offer preliminary names of residents to begin researching.

The Census

- Census records (both the U.S. Federal Census and State Censuses) contain important information about people, which makes them an invaluable resource for learning about the lives of previous homeowners.
- Later census returns for larger cities and towns often included street names and sometimes house numbers.
- In the absence of a name to search, determine the Enumeration District using Steve Morse's website at <https://stevemorse.org> and then browse the pages.
- **Note:** If you are using the names discovered in the census to find original deeds, don't forget that not everyone who lived in your home necessarily owned it!

Maps

- Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps
 - In many cities, the postal numbering system changed. If your home was built before a numbering change, the Sanborn maps can help determine what the old house number was. Be sure to make a note of all relevant numbers you see on the lot where your house is on the Sanborn map, including the house number (sometimes the old numbers appear next to the modern ones) and the lot number. This information will help when searching newspapers.

- The Sanborn maps also give you an idea of the house footprint and what it was made of—check the index page to learn what the symbols and colors mean!
- The Library of Congress is an excellent place to look for Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps at www.loc.gov/collections/sanborn-maps/about-this-collection.

Plat Maps

- These maps of towns or rural areas highlight land-owners' names, which can direct your research of other records such as deeds or tax records. They are not uniformly created and can be a little difficult to find, but a good place to start is your public library and county recorder's office.

Newspapers

- Newspapers are an incredible resource with a variety of information available, including information about residents (births, marriages, deaths, loss of business, relocation, etc.), real estate transfers, and building permits!
- **Tip:** Look at real estate transfers to help you determine exactly what search terms you should be using to get better results.

Deeds

- After you've uncovered the names of potential owners from the census, city directories, and newspapers, it is time to search for deeds! A great place to start is at FamilySearch.org, www.familysearch.org/search/catalog, or at Ancestry.com, www.ancestry.com/search/collections/catalog. If it isn't online, see if your local library has a deed index or contact your county's recorder's office.

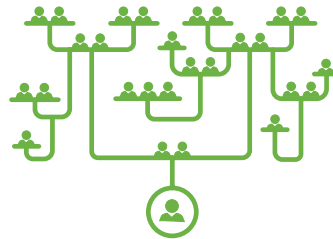
People are at the heart of every building, so it is important (and often helpful) to dig into the stories of the people attached to the house. Documents can tell us only part of the story but putting those documents into historical and local context adds vibrant color to your home's story and what life was like in a given period for the residents of your home. ©



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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.





Pound Masters, Hog Reeves and Other Common Positions

by Sue Lisk

HE WASN'T ALWAYS ONE OF A KIND, ALTHOUGH HE HAD BEEN singled out in several sources for having lived to be at least 99. And surviving to such an age in the mid-1800s was certainly out of the ordinary.

But in this particular case, my fourth great-grandfather, Ebenezer Lisk, was one of many other men on a list included in the Town of Otsego Minutes for 1829. Ebenezer's name appeared among those elected to be "Path Masters". I suppose he could just as well have been elected to be a "Fence Viewer" or a "Pound Master", as some of his neighbors were.

From Colonial times, and for some time thereafter, such roles were not unusual, and many of our ancestors would have been elected or appointed to positions like these. For instance, on a list of town officers elected in Montpelier, VT in 1795, I encountered these jobs: "leather sealer", "pound keeper", "tithing man", "hayward", "fence viewer, and "sealer of weights and measures".

None of these positions involved the duties the names might imply. But exploring a few of them might stimulate your curiosity and inspire you to do further research of your own. Online sources can be helpful in this regard.

Elected Town Officials

In searching for information about some of these jobs, I discovered a relevant section within the Hudson River Valley Heritage site devoted to New Paltz, NY. The New Paltz Town Ledger, which records the poor relief for the town for the period from 1805 to 1823, includes a section dealing with the elected officials of the town. You'll find it at <https://omeka.brvh.org/exhibits/show/history-of-poverty-new-paltz/ledger/town-elected-officials>.

The page provides links to view the original document and the transcription.

Of the positions filled during that period, the two that attracted my

attention being especially unusual were the jobs of "fence viewer" and "pound master". You'll find other job titles described here as well.

The site explains that fence viewers acted as judges in cases of disagreements between neighbors as to the proper location of fences between their properties. Fence viewers also inspected fences and ordered that they be repaired when needed. If any animal belonging to a townsperson damaged a fence, the fence viewer determined the extent of the damage and had the authority to decide who would be responsible for paying for the fence to be fixed. The neighbor who reported the damage caused



In Colonial times, one of the responsibilities of fence viewers was to make and enforce rulings concerning the location and maintenance of fences. Old fences around a farm near Scott's Run, WV, c. 1938. (Library of Congress)



Poundmasters were responsible for the feeding and care of stray animals within the pounds established in townships. In this image, dogs were the animals impounded, but in Colonial times, pounds would have held only livestock. The poundmaster, c. 1873. (Wikimedia Commons)

by someone else's animal could have the animal sent to the pound.

Pounds and Pound Masters

The pound master would hold an animal impounded as a result of damage to a private fence until payment for the fence's repair had been received.

In the case of New Paltz, NY, the pound master would care for the animal for six days, after which

time he could sell the animal at public auction. Prior to this time, the animal's owner could collect his animal from the pound for a fee. The article lists the fees to be paid in New Paltz for horses, geldings, mares or colts, for "neat cattle" (i.e., bulls or cows), for sheep or lambs, and for hogs, shoats or pigs. If an impounded animal was sold, the pound master could keep the amount which covered the

cost of the animal's food and care. But any amount in excess of that sum would be paid to the animal's owner.

AtlasObscura presents an illustrated article describing the pounds as they existed in New England at www.atlasobscura.com/articles/new-england-colonial-town-pounds.

In New England, livestock were usually allowed to graze on common lands. The pounds came into play when an animal strayed and damaged someone's private property. It seems probable that this would have happened frequently. In fact, towns were required by law to build pounds; they played an essential role in early American communities.

As late as 1883, *The Times* of Owosso, MI published an ordinance "for impounding cattle, horses, asses, mules, swine, sheep, goats or geese found running at large within the city of Owosso". In Owosso, the Common Council appointed the pound master. The ordinance stated that it was unlawful for any of the animals listed, "excepting milch cows", to run at large within the city "from the hours of six o'clock in the morning until eight o'clock in the evening of each day, from the first day of April until the first day of November."

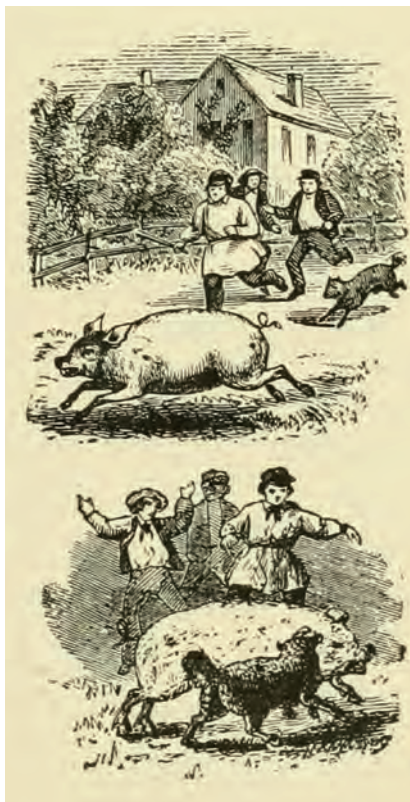
Hog Reeves

Another seemingly odd position was that of the "hog reeve". "Hog reeves" in Colonial New England were responsible for rounding up stray hogs to prevent damage to private property and appraising damage caused by stray swine. A few online newspaper articles contribute in an amusing way to our understanding of the job.

A piece entitled "A Funny Sketch: A Model Hog-Reeve"



Old cattle pound in Jefferson, ME, c. 1937. (Library of Congress)



In Colonial times in New England, a "hog reeve", or "hogreeve", was the person appointed to round up stray hogs to prevent them from damaging private property and to appraise any damage they caused. The hogreeve, c. 1921. (Wikimedia Commons)

appeared in *The Keowee Courier* of South Carolina on 8 September 1849. The same article appeared in *The Lewistown Gazette* of Pennsylvania on 3 November 1849. And these were not the only papers that carried the story.

The article refers to an old statute in New Hampshire legalizing the election of "hog-reeves" for towns throughout the state. The article specifies that the job was "a lucrative one in some places, though it was generally made opprobrious, and the most obnoxious individuals in the community were usually selected to fill the post."

The account then tells the story of a farmer who complained about hogs that had caused damage to his property. Unbeknownst to him, the hogs were in fact his own

hogs. But the hog-reeve decided to follow the statute strictly. The statute provided for half of the seizure to go to the hog-reeve and half to "the poor of the town". The hog-reeve's wife declared that "the poor of the town" would in fact be her and her husband, the hog-reeve. In this way, the hog-reeve became the new owner of the wandering swine. And the farmer learned to never again lodge a similar complaint.

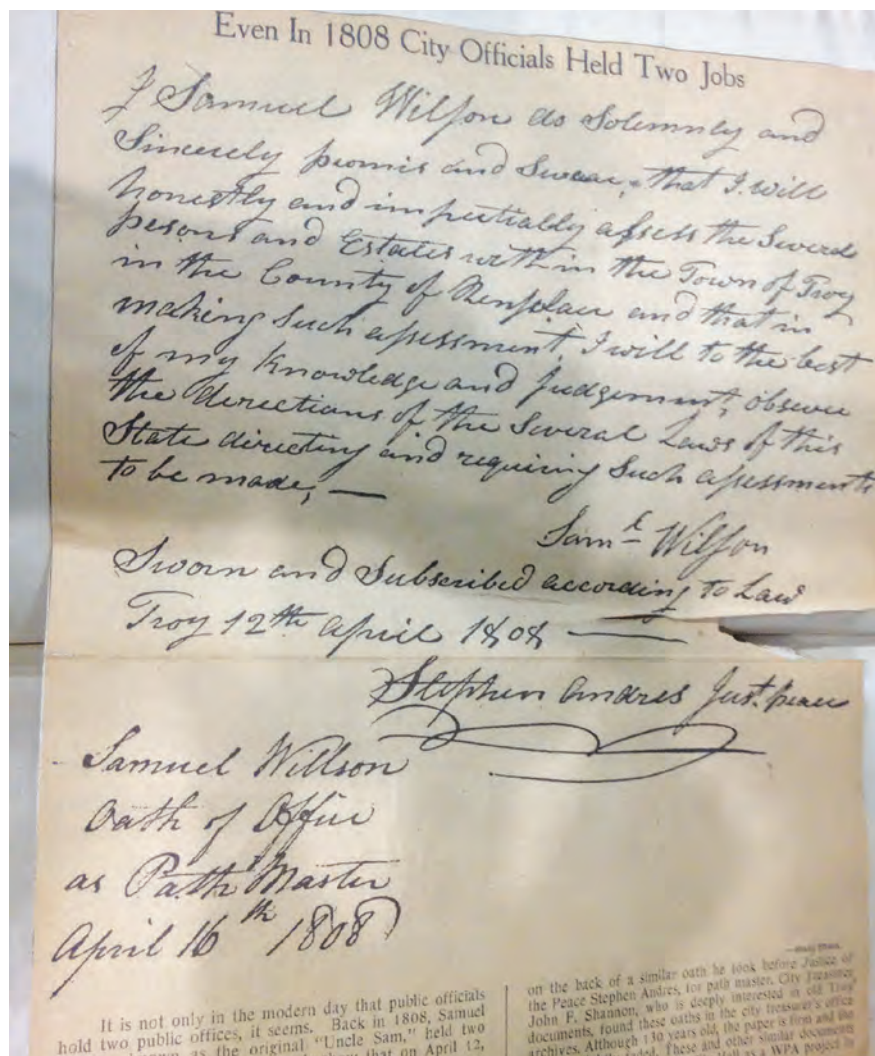
And on 24 October 1903, in *The Grant County Herald* of Lancaster, WI, an article referred to a Puritan practice established in the New England town of Newbury. There they had made it customary to elect as hog reeve "the latest married resident of the place, fit or unfit, willing or unwilling".

Hog reeves seem to have been the butt of quite a few jokes.

Path Masters

In Colonial times, the job of a path master was to oversee the maintenance of public roads. Online newspapers add valuable context and detail concerning this role.

In *The Beacon News* of Beacon, NY, on 14 January 1928, a correspondent wrote an article entitled "Old Time Roads" in which he described



In early times, path masters were responsible for seeing to the maintenance of public roads. Samuel Willson's Oath of Office as Path Master, 16 April 1808. (Wikimedia Commons)



the 'Path-Master' System. He explained that the roads in a district were divided up into sections of two or three miles each, along every road in a township. A path master would be responsible for one section of a road. All voters in the district were required to work on a road for one day or pay a one-dollar road tax. The path master would spend this money to cover the expense of maintaining the road.

Every farm that bordered a road was also taxed a certain amount to cover road maintenance expenses. The roadwork was laborious, involving oxen and only basic equipment. Nonetheless, the writer concluded that under this old system the roads were definitely kept in better shape than they were in his own day.

In *The Putnam County Courier* of New York, on 19 November 1853, a correspondent complained that a path master had deposited a pile of stones on the sidewalk of the town's main street and left them there for five days "endangering life and limb" of passersby. Another correspondent claimed that a path master "appear[ed] to have a particular aversion to bridges in the Street" and that he had "removed every bridge on Gleneida Avenue". He continued: "This is a feature in the whig measure of internal improvement with which we are not familiar."

The Tithingman

The New England Historical Society offers a brief article about one of the most powerful positions in New England: the tithingman. You'll find the piece at www.newenglandhistoricalsociety.com/puritan-tithingman-powerful-men-new-england/.

Besides ensuring that everyone made their allotted payments to



One of the jobs of the tithingman was to preserve order during worship services in Puritan meetinghouses. He sometimes used a long rod as a tool of correction. A tithing-man with his rod, c. 1908. (Wikimedia Commons)

the church, the tithingman was responsible for seeing that everyone kept the Sabbath. But the article explains that the tithingman was also charged with keeping order and proper decorum within the Meeting House itself. With a long rod, the tithingman rapped the heads of boys who fidgeted or otherwise misbehaved during the long service.

A soft object such as a rabbit's foot was attached to the other end

of the rod. This "gentle" end might be used to awaken women who had dozed off. A more forceful jab might follow if they continued to slumber.

I wonder what happened if they snored. ©

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



Pass Me A Musket

How Participating in Reenactments Can Help You Better Relate to a Military Ancestor

BY LESLIE MICHELE DERROUGH

In the young adult novel, *The Not So Boring Letters Of Private Nobody* by Matthew Landis, 12-year-old Oliver knows everything about the Civil War, from generals to battlefield maneuvers. But when he is assigned an unknown local private to report on, his face goes blank. However, Oliver has an advantage over his classmates: he's a youth reenactor.



Members of the All Americans Reenacting Organization, suited up and ready for action. There are approximately 50 members who participate in reenactments, exhibitions, demonstrations and history events focused on WWII. (Photo courtesy of All Americans)

For those of us interested in our family's history, the allure of the past always takes hold at some point in our research. So much so, it can lead you into some very interesting situations. For the fictional Oliver, who worshipped the Civil War so much that he sought a group of reenactors to help him live in that moment, this can be a lifelong pursuit. As family historians, we too can become obsessed with the past, constantly seeking information that allows us to travel back in time, getting to know people and places we have seen only in old photographs, or more often, in just our imaginations. But to be in that person's shoes, we must put the proverbial boots on the ground and take action.

Genealogy is about history, and history has been preserved all around us. We do our part by piecing together our individual ancestors' lives for future generations while museums, historical and genealogical societies, the National Park Service, and local preservation clubs adhere to the rest. We can go to these institutions and see the past. And one of the best places to go for military history is a reenactment.

Reenactments have been around since war has been around. People have constantly strived to relive parts of history, or sometimes rewrite the truths of certain entanglements. The Ken Burns documentary on the Civil War in 1990 caused a hotbed of interest in the war between the states and reenactments grew in popularity. And although the pandemic and riots in the south regarding the war and racism cooled the "military festivals" a bit, they continue to draw thousands to these weekends of battle scenes, demonstrations, and past-life dioramas.

But what if you want to fire a musket? Or drive a WWII jeep? Or have an authentic battle site meal? Then that requires a bit of work on your part. "Our members are mostly history buffs of some



As part of the All Americans Reenacting Organization, reenactors will go through what is called a tactical event. “These are typically closed to the public,” explained Commanding Officer Brian Shelton, who has traced his ancestry to the British Isles, “and are for the reenactors themselves. They have only what the troops in WWII would’ve had in the field. They are dug in front line positions (foxholes), as well as patrols, resupply missions, mail call, battles and more against an opposing force. It’s meant to give the reenactors a real feel of what it was like for the men fighting in the war; some of the hardships and sacrifices made.” (Photo courtesy of All Americans)

kind,” explained Commanding Officer Brian Shelton, a member of the All Americans Reenacting Organization. “Some join us interested in the war in general, some are curious about their family connection and genealogy, others just think what we do is cool and then find themselves immersed in the history of the war and a family connection they

may not have even been aware of initially. Many end up doing deep research of any family member they had that served in WWII, or any other war.”

Colonel Jerry Tubbs, a Commanding Officer of The Texas Army reenactment group that participates at all events involving the Texas Independence Trail from Gonzales to San Jacinto,

says it’s simple to join his reenactment group, which has been organized since 1969. You begin at their website, www.texasarmy.org, click on the Join tab and fill out the application. From there, “The registration form will be reviewed by committee and the person applying will be notified of approval to join.”

That is the general process for most reenactment groups. But what about uniforms and authentic weapons? “Our group as a whole will loan uniforms, gear and a weapon to a new recruit so they can try out an event to see if they like it,” says Shelton. “Then the mentor guides them through buying what they need for themselves if they choose to continue. We do continue loaning any gear needed by a new member until they have all their own stuff.”

Numerous websites cater to reenactors. A simple Google search will pop up many for Civil War, American Revolution and WWII. Or you can enquire with the specific organization you are interested in joining. To have an authentic experience, you need to be in the proper uniform.

When it comes to the other things needed to participate, “The weapons, equipment and vehicles we use are all purchased by individuals personally for the most part,” clarified Shelton. “Our group does have reasonable annual dues and has done fundraisers to purchase items. Beyond that, it’s up to the individual to purchase their uniforms, gear and personal weapon.”

Most reenactments are held at certain battlefields on the anniversary dates of an event. However, for a group such as the All Americans Reenacting Organization, which specializes in a war fought overseas, they will go to schools

where they “Set up interactive stations that students who just studied WWII rotate through learning different aspects about the war; everything from the Home Front to front line life and what training was like,” said Shelton. “We also go to living history events where we set up a full camp and interact with the visiting public in the form of lectures, weapons firing demonstrations, reenactment of briefings for a particular mission or campaign, a glimpse of camp life through doing mail call, sick call, showing some of the daily paperwork involved, and occasionally a battle scenario.”

The Civil War is still probably the most reenacted war on American soil; the Battle Of Gettysburg was one of the biggest. In 2022, over twelve thousand people attended the July 4th weekend event, held at the Daniel Lady Farm, with approximately 900 reenactors taking part. You can find numerous tabs on the National Park Service website, www.nps.gov/gett/index.htm, that take you on virtual tours, photo galleries, history of the battle and more. The battlefield in Vicksburg, Mississippi, is also a very popular destination site where there are over 1,400 monuments and markers on the

1,700-plus acre grounds, giving visitors a very insightful look at what the soldiers were dealing with both in terms of landscape and maneuverability. My great-great uncle, Francis Marion Moses, fought here as part of the 28th Louisiana Infantry. Vicksburg’s reenactment, also held every July 4th weekend, brings in thousands of annual visitors. Their website, www.nps.gov/vick/index.htm, also contains a plethora of information.

As we look into our more recent past, featuring people we knew, WWII, Vietnam and Korea have become major focal points in our ancestral research. Many veterans of these wars weren’t forthcoming about their experiences. My grandfather, Freddie Derrough Sr, never spoke of his time in the Philippines and New Guinea, where he served as a medic; instead, only talked about the exotic birds and animals he saw in the jungles. Therefore, we as a generation, have become immersed in these wars, attempting to find out minute details of certain battles and units. And the reenactments are helping.

The All Americans Reenacting Organization was started around 2006 by several men that had grandfathers in WWII. The organization focuses on a few particular units, including H Co 504 Parachute Infantry Regiment (PIR), 82nd Airborne Division. “All our troops made great sacrifices during the war and had certain hardships,” explained Shelton. “Airborne troops in particular faced some unique dangers. Jumping behind enemy lines to fight completely surrounded and poor intelligence at times placed them in particular danger. They faced far more opposition than was realized would



Camp Moore, near Kentwood, Louisiana, was a pivotal Confederate training camp for southern soldiers during the Civil War. They believe over 30,000 men were trained here before moving on to battles at Vicksburg, Manassas, Atlanta, Mansfield and Shiloh, to name a few. The area, open to the public, has a museum, cemetery and an annual reenactment in November. www.campmoorela.com (Photos courtesy of Leslie Michele Derrough)



Reenactments not only show military life but around camp life as well. (Left) Known as sutlers, these were the merchants who followed military units from camp to camp, selling anything the soldier might need. There were also entertainers and other pleasure-oriented activities to keep men who were away from their homes occupied. Hundreds of non-soldier reenactors attend reenactments giving demonstrations. (Right) Volunteers representing the upper echelon of southern society visit the cemetery at Camp Moore during their annual reenactment in Louisiana. (Photos courtesy of Leslie Michele Derrough)

be there.” The All Americans has approximately 50 members and attend, on average, 12-16 events a year. If you’re interested in learning more, their website is <https://allamericanscp.org>.

Although Shelton knew of his grandfather’s participation in WWII, some people have not learned of when and where their ancestor’s military accomplishments lie. In a 2021 article in The Washington Post, an African-American Civil War reenactor named Calvin Osborne told how he had been involved in reenactments since seeing the 1989 movie *Glory*. Years later, he found out his great-great-grandfather had been a runaway slave who joined the Union Army. As quoted in the article, Osborne said: “For years, I did Civil War research about people I didn’t know. Knowing about William Lacy now makes me feel whole. I’ll be portraying him every chance I get.” You can find the article, which tells more about his research and being a reenactor, at www.washingtonpost.com/life-style/2021/07/21/civil-war-black-soldier-grandfather.

If you still need a bit more nudging about participating in a reenactment, consider former Doobie Brothers guitar player Jeff “Skunk” Baxter. In a 2022 interview I did with him for *Glide Magazine*, he talked about his great-great-grandfather Charles Baxter, who was signed up for the Civil War pretty much as soon as he came to America from Scotland and moved to Indiana. “He then joined the 19th Indiana Volunteers, which became part of the 19th Indiana Regulars, which was known as the Iron Brigade, and they were the ones that held Culp’s Hill day one and day two in Gettysburg,” explained Baxter. Lucky enough to have been handed down his ancestor’s uniform and saber, along with a friend who was a reenactor, “We did a horseback ride through Gettysburg and took the route that my great-great-grandfather took on the way to Culp’s Hill. I put the uniform on, made the

ride and it was an incredible experience.” You can read that full article at <https://glidemagazine.com/278122/jeff-baxter-talks-a-lifetime-of-being-skunk-working-in-steely-dan-that-moustache-guitar-technology-interview>.

If you’re looking for a reenactment event or group to join, there are several places to check: your local historical or genealogical society will certainly have up-to-date information on local clubs and events; the National Park Service (www.nps.gov) allows you to search via the state for events happening under their jurisdiction; or you can do an online search, which can bring up lists of reenactor groups and reenactment events.

It’s often good to get away from the computer screen and walk in an ancestor’s footsteps and one of the fun ways to do so is by participating in or simply going to watch a military reenactment. ©

LESLIE MICHELE DERROUGH is a music journalist and photographer, and former librarian, who has been researching her family history for over 30 years.



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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Dated 1870 - 1890. Library of Congress.



Using Online Cemeteries to Locate Families and Their Church Records

By Karen L. Newman

CEMETERY WEBSITES HAVE USEFUL INFORMATION FOR GENEALOGISTS, especially if there are pictures of tombstones. For instance, there are religiously affiliated cemeteries on the *Find A Grave* website. By searching a surname, you can locate potential family groups. For example, several Harvells are buried in Cabarrus County, North Carolina. (www.findagrave.com/memorial) Those buried in the Coldwater Baptist Church Cemetery include Bessie Harvell, James Archibald Harvell, John W. Harvell, and Mary Black Harvell. North Carolina Baptist Church records can be found at Atla Digital Library

(<https://dl.atla.com/collections/north-carolina-baptist-church-records?locale=en>) and the ZSR Library at Wake Forest University's Special Collections and Archives (<https://zsr.wfu.edu/special/collections/nc-baptist>). Further nonchurch research infers by indirect evidence that the Harvells buried in the Coldwater Baptist Church Cemetery were a family.

Another cemetery site is Interment.net (www.interment.net/Default.htm). Using quotations for a name search is important as there is no advanced search option on the site.

You can search BillionGraves (<https://billiongraves.com>) by given and surname and you can narrow your search parameters by state, county birth year, and year of death. The location of the cemetery allows you to speculate on family groups and potential church records.

Searching *FamilySearch* can yield books written by people who have already connected cemetery and church records. Hazel Stroup authored the book *Butler County [Ohio] Cemetery and Church Records* which often lists the deceased's birthdate, death date, parents, spouse, and children.

Cemetery books, which list lot holders, are available online. An alphabetized index such as found for Laurel Hill Cemetery in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on *FamilySearch*. Families can be inferred from this source and further research will be needed for



"marble, black, gravestone, angel, fine arts, tombstone, cemetery, grave, monument, sculpture". (Author: Maysam Yabandeh, uploaded 30 May 2022, Pixnio.com)



"funeral, gravestone, cemetery, grave, tombstone, garden, burial, yard," (Author: Toper Domingo, uploaded 25 January 2019, Pixnio.com)

genealogical proof of relationships.

Statewide cemetery databases can give you more current burials from which to start your research. An example is OhioGravestones (<https://ohiogravestones.org>). In Scioto County, Ohio Lucasville Methodist Church Cemetery has several members of the Williams family interred as illustrated on the tombstone's photo. Further research into Methodist churches in the county during the time of 1864 to 1874 might yield more information on the family. One such church to

consider is the Bigelow United Methodist Church which is on the National Register of Historic Places (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:National_Register_of_Historic_Places_in_Scioto_County,_Ohio). Built in 1858, Bigelow is now known as Grace Community Church.

Some local cemeteries have websites. An example is Woodside Cemetery in Middletown, Ohio (www.woodsidecemetery.org). Although there are no tombstone photos, in some instances the deceased's parents, birthplace, and death date are given. This is a good starting point for researchers.

Going to a cemetery either in person or online can yield useful information if you consider more than just birth and death dates. The location of tombstones in the cemetery as well as the cemetery's affiliation can yield results that might tear down brick walls. ©

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.



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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

Shipping Registers

Have a mariner ancestor? You might find them listed in the shipping registers maintained at the time. Below are two popular ones – Lloyd's, published in the UK and the American Lloyd's Register of American and Foreign Shipping, published in the US. Not a lot of detail is provided and it just might be enough to suggest a new path of discovery.

- 1) Lloyd's Register of Ships online, <https://hec.lrfoundation.org.uk/archive-library/lloyds-register-of-ships-online/lloyds-register-o> – access these published volumes, 1764-1998. They were created to give underwriters and merchants a sense of the condition of the ships they may plan to insure or ship goods via. Only merchant vessels over 100 gross tons are included. Learn how to best interpret these Register Books here, <https://hec.lrfoundation.org.uk/archive-library/interpreting-the-register-books>. Infosheet No. 34 gives you a great perspective on what data is and is not included, https://lloyds-production.s3.amazonaws.com/_file/general/34-early-registers-3.pdf.
- 2) Via Mystic Seaport Museum, there is an Index to Ship Registers, <https://research.mysticseaport.org/indexes/ship-registers>. This collection covers 1854-1900. You can see what registers are included or explore the almost 1 million vessels listed. Want to explore a ship register more fully, visit here, https://research.mysticseaport.org/ships/?post_type=mystic_items.

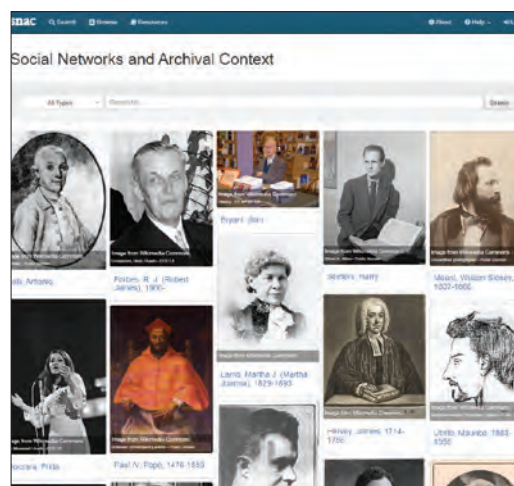


Social Networks and Archival Context (SNAC)

<https://snaccooperative.org>

Per the website, “is a free, online resource that helps users discover biographical and historical information about persons, families, and organizations that created or are documented in historical resources (primary source documents) and their connections to one another.” It is a worldwide platform. This link lists the current members, <https://portal.snaccooperative.org/node/482>. This contextual information is important since the search results will NOT include holdings of repositories not listed.

When you search on a person (I had better results than when searching on a topic), it will then list the found entries where say, “Weil, Gertrude, 1879-1971” is listed, <https://snaccooperative.org/view/31843952#resources>. The search engine is such that when you start typing in terms, I suggest you review the suggested entries, as that will tell you what search terms are viable and save you searching using fruitless terms.



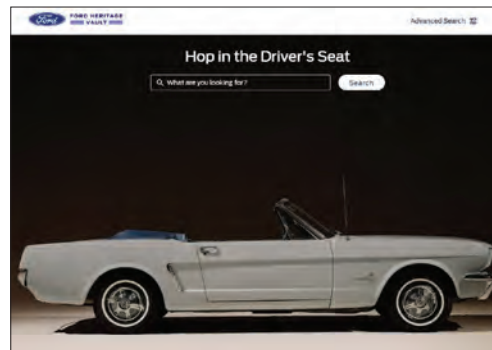
Ford Heritage Vault

<https://fordheritagevault.com>

Did your family own an Edsel, Ford, or related brands? Well, this “comprehensive collection offers nearly 10,000 curated photographs and product brochures from 1903 to 2003 Ford, Lincoln, Mercury, and Edsel vehicles.” Read more about the collection here, <https://media.ford.com/content/fordmedia/fna/us/en/news/2022/06/16/ford-heritage-vault.html>.

Ford is not the only car maker to have an archive. Check out the GM Heritage Archive, www.gm.com/heritage/archive. An interesting feature of this archive is that you can download “Vehicle Information Kits” starting with the 1902 Cadillac (ending with the 2007 Chevrolet Uplander), www.gm.com/heritage/archive/vehicle-information-kits.

Still looking? Maybe the Society of Automotive Historians, Links to Online Automotive History, <https://autohistory.org/links-to-online-automotive-history-resources>, will help you find resources as you explore your ancestors and their automobiles.



Germany

Here are a few new to me resources when researching German ancestry.

- 1) Geogen, <https://geogen.stoepel.net/index.html> – this website shows you the name frequency of a surname and identifies the name variants included. If you are fishing for where your German-born ancestors came from, this just might be the tool for you. I suspect the more official start page is this, <https://legacy.stoepel.net/en>.
- 2) Archivportal, www.archivportal-d.de – Digital archival material and information on archival facilities from all over Germany. Records from more than 200 participating archives are found.
- 3) Auschwitz-Birkenau, www.auschwitz.org/en – a digital reconstruction of victim data, including registered prisoners and those transported to the camps who were frequently not registered. The database is directly accessible here, www.auschwitz.org/en/museum/auschwitz-prisoners.



LLMC Digital

<https://llmc.com/Default.aspx>

“LLMC is a non-profit cooperative of libraries dedicated to the twin goals of, preserving legal titles and government documents, while making copies inexpensively available digitally through its on-line service LLMC-Digital.” Additionally, it has LLMC Digital Open Access which provides unrestricted access to select titles: includes U.S. Federal, U.S. States and territories, United Kingdom, Other Countries (currently Denmark, Mexico, South Africa, Spain and the Vatican), Indigenous Law, and Special Focus Collections, <https://llmc.com/OpenAccess/search.aspx>.

Channel your inner “The Legal Genealogist®.” Knowledge of the law greatly benefits the accurate interpretation of found materials. Though many of these materials are available elsewhere, a centralized repository makes research easier while facilitating comparisons between contemporary state laws.





Have you captured your Covid Story?

by Rick Voight

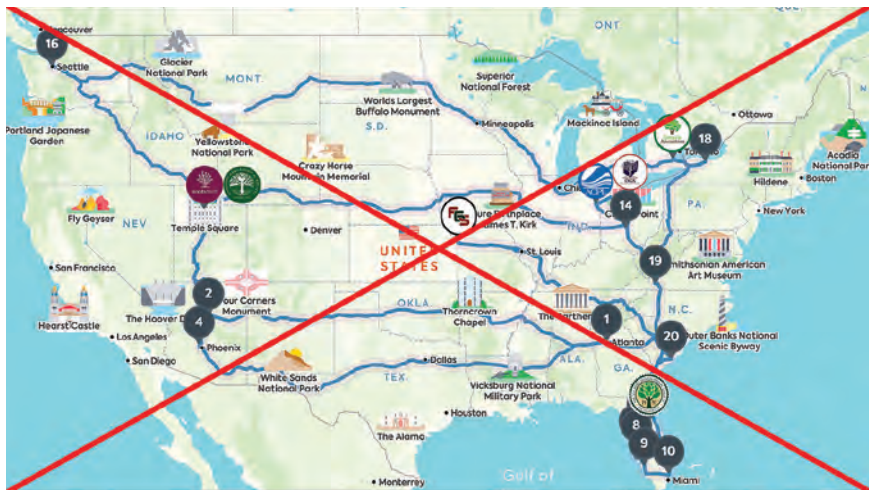
AS THIS EDITION REACHES YOUR PHYSICAL OR ELECTRONIC INBOX, WE are anxiously anticipating RootsTech 2023!

A wonderful family history conference that centers on the tech that makes genealogical research and stories better!

A time when we all come together to learn, share, and spend time on one of life's most important activities – learning where we came from and sharing our own family story so that future generations will know where they came from. Our/Their lives, thoughts, beliefs, struggles, successes, and the everyday moments that create who we are.

Three years ago, many of us were traveling to Salt Lake City, taking COLD precautions, thanking people for not shaking hands so as not to pass along a cold... beginning to hear about some sickness that other parts of the world were experiencing... that a few folks seemed to come back to North America with... but it was little more than “I’ve heard about that...” What a difference three years makes...

My world changed. What about yours?



Do you have a story from your ancestors about their pandemic, plague, ... experience?

I reflect on my 2020 Holiday Card – an annual ritual passed down from mom and dad – we moved from Illinois to New York when I was four and sent a photo card to loved ones – friends and family – usually a picture of my sister Janice and me – sometimes a family vacation photo – but always a photo and a letter that captured the year. In my 2020 holiday card... a video actually... I strived to capture my thoughts of this upside-down time in my/family life...

Have you captured your Covid Story?

Please join me on my journey: www.vivid-pix.com/on-the-road-again.

Video 2 is our 2020 Holiday Card. Video 1 provides help on how to tell

your and your loved one's stories.

Back to RootsTech. In 2020, they held their largest In-Person conference ever – over 30 thousand people – it was wonderful.

In 2022, we connected with 3 million people from over 200 countries Online. WOW!



2023 will be Hybrid – In-Person and Online

As a RootsTech exhibitor for seven years and bronze sponsor for four years, we will likely experience a bump or two, but as someone who interacts with many FamilySearch individuals that work and volunteer to bring together the Largest Family History event in the world, I think they do an Amazing Job. Thank You.

And if we see a bump or blemish along the way, let's show some grace.

We hope you enjoy what the Conference and Vivid-Pix have brought together: www.vivid-pix.com/solutions. ©

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

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ARE YOU SEARCHING FOR IRISH ANCESTORS?

This edition of our *Tracing Your Ancestors* series is authored by Dr. Maurice Gleeson MB. Here is some of what is included: How to find where your Irish ancestor came from; a strategic approach to finding records; census records (free online);



civil registration records (free online – almost); church records (many online, many free); gravestone and burial records (Ireland specific websites, and global websites); wills and probate; land records; streets; schools; workhouses; newspapers; court records; military records; DNA testing as an additional genealogical tool and more! 68 Pages. Magazine format.

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GENERATION BY GENERATION

A Modern Approach to the Basics of Genealogy



Drew Smith

Generation by Generation: A Modern Approach to the Basics of Genealogy

The questions all newcomers to genealogy research ask themselves is, “Where do I begin?” “Should I join a commercial subscription service like Ancestry.com?” “What if I don’t find what I’m looking for on the Internet?” “How do I organize the information I’m gathering along the way?” Fortunately, this guide answers all those questions and engages neophytes with a book that takes an entirely fresh approach to the subject.

The guide is divided into two parts. Part I (“For All Generations—Preparing to Research”) discusses such things as relationships between family members, naming practices, genealogy software, how to review existing research, and the basics of DNA testing. Part II (“Generation by Generation—Doing the Research”) begins with a discussion of the major genealogy websites, and then explains the most important record categories for all generations from the present day back to the colonial era. There are also chapters devoted to searching for the origins of American families in the records of Canada, Great Britain, Ireland, and non-English-speaking nations.

By: Drew Smith; Price: \$29.95
Pages: 170; ISBN: 9780806321271
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Revisiting Online Family Trees

Dave Obee recommends regularly searching family trees to identify and dispel misinformation

HERE'S AN UPDATE ON A COLUMN I WROTE A COUPLE OF YEARS ago about my relative Ann Obey, a woman who, if you believe online trees, was born in a couple of dozen locations. She is a shining example of why you should be extremely careful about anything you see in an online tree.



(ealex81, iStockphoto.com)

One tree claims that Ann was born in Indiana, but most identify places in England, including Kent, Berkshire, Warwickshire, Dorset, Lincolnshire and Somerset. Her most common birth location, by far, is Hathern, Leicestershire. If you base your research on crowdsourcing, like a television game show, then Hathern simply must be the answer.

But not one tree offers proof of Hathern. Not one. On Ancestry alone, 148 trees claim Hathern as her place of birth, all of them without evidence. Is she in the Hathern parish register? Surely one of the 148 tree compilers would have checked. I did; she's not there.

I first saw the Hathern Ann Obey in the trees of some DNA matches, and at first I dismissed it as a remarkable coincidence. Yes, Obey was the old spelling of my family name, but since this Obey's birthplace was a long way from my ancestral areas, my thought was that our shared ancestry would be on another line.

Silly me, believing those online trees.

I came to my senses when I traced the ancestry of a new match back to Ann and her husband John Brooks. They migrated to Ontario from Kent in England almost two centuries ago. Inspired by that find, I went to work – and within a few days I tied in all those matches who had claimed Hathern as Ann's birthplace. She was really from Teston, Kent.

In the next few months, I identified about 2,000 descendants of Ann

and John. Now, two years on, I have more than 3,000. These descendants include a couple of people I have known for years, as well as a DNA match who is in the same generation as my father. Her match list has been a great help.

But while I have made significant progress on Ann's family, the dark side has made progress as well. Two years ago, 115 Ancestry trees claimed Hathern was Ann's place of birth. Now there are 148 promoting the Hathern lie.

But am I wrong to dismiss the Hathern connection as lunacy? I would love to ask the person who came up with it, but how can that person ever be identified? All we know is that their allegation has been copied and recopied, over and over, by people who don't see a need for supporting documentation.

It's next to impossible to stop the spread of misinformation, when so many people think genealogical research is nothing more than copying and pasting. Still, we should do what we can to get the truth out there. We can only hope that the voices of serious family historians will occasionally be heard above the nonsense. ©



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

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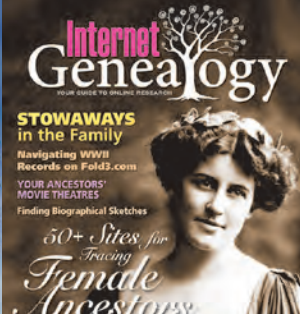
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