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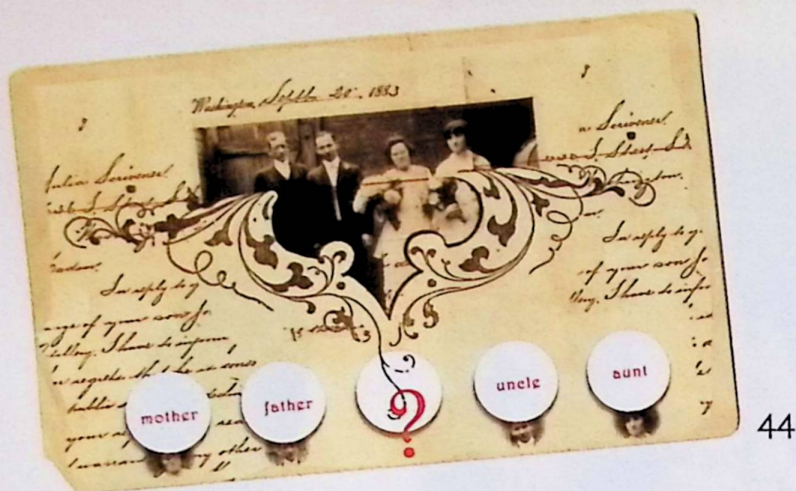


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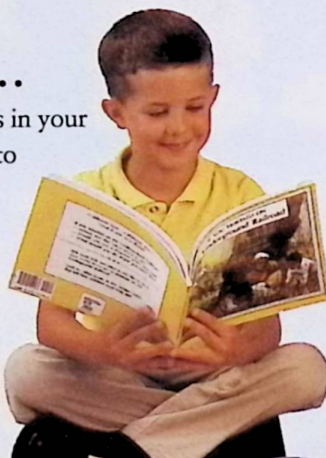


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out on a limb

Now or Never

The best time to capture your family's stories is before it's too late. | By David A. Fryxell

Don't wait. That relative you've been meaning to contact to ask about your family history—do it now. That talk you've been wanting to have with Grandma to get her stories about growing up—have it today. Your precious past is slipping away, and every minute you delay, every time you put it off till tomorrow, you risk losing a piece of it forever.

I learned this the hard way this spring. I'd been looking forward to seeing my Aunt Ginny, always my favorite of my dad's siblings, when I went to the National Genealogical Society conference in Portland, Ore., where she'd recently moved. I hadn't seen her in several years, but last fall I did e-mail her with some questions about the family tree. Not only was she the last surviving sibling, but as the youngest she had the most contact with my grandfather and great-grandfather in her hometown of Moline, Ill. Aunt Ginny promised to tell me stories about them when I visited.

But just a few weeks before my trip, Aunt Ginny died. Besides the personal loss, I couldn't help regretting the stories I never got to hear.

Fortunately, I had quizzed Aunt Ginny by e-mail. Besides getting over a huge "brick wall" in tracing my grandmother's family, I elicited family stories I'll treasure forever—and that now I feel a huge obligation to preserve for future generations.

As I told my cousin, her daughter, soon after my aunt died, we're "it" now—our generation holds the heritage of our first-generation-American grandfather, our parents and their part in shaping our lives. The little world that once existed at 1002 12th St. in Moline depends entirely on us to keep it from being forgotten.

How I wish I'd asked more questions, and started asking them sooner!



The author's Aunt Ginny (front) with (clockwise from left) his father, Uncle Art and Uncle Burt.

So don't wait. Wherever you are in your family history quest, make sure you're gathering everything you can from your relatives as soon as you can. As best-selling genealogy author Emily Croom advises in this issue's cover story (page 22), "No amount of library research can duplicate or replace what these people can

tell you. ... You need to gather life histories and seek to understand your family's experience in the context of the historical events happening around them."

You'll also find help for putting your family's history in context in this issue's feature on old newspapers (page 62). A new column debuting in this issue, Attic Treasures by contributing editor Maureen Taylor (page 21), shows how to get the family stories behind the heirlooms in your attic. D.G. Fulford, co-author of the best-selling *To Our Children's Children*, talks about her family's "history lessons" in this issue's Time Capsule (page 80).

Don't forget other "home sources" of family history such as letters, diaries and old documents. If you're having trouble deciphering them, Taylor walks you through the twists, turns and curlicues of old handwriting beginning on page 56.

And it's not too soon to start getting the next generation involved. Associate editor Allison Stacy shares tips for getting youngsters involved in genealogy, starting on page 50.

After all, someday we'll want them to ask us about *our* stories. ☛

DAVID A. FRYXELL is editorial director of *FamilyTree Magazine*.

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making connections

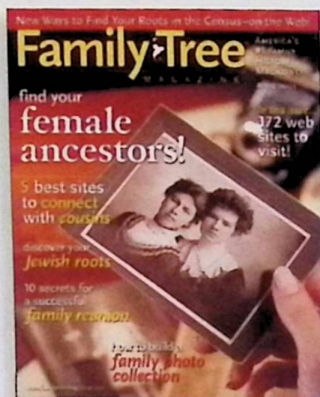
Readers respond to *Family Tree Magazine*.

Connecting with kin

I got your latest issue of *Family Tree Magazine* last week, and was very interested in the article about finding relatives on the Web (April 2001). Last year I had been contacted by someone who had seen my surname list on RootsWeb and asked if I would like to put my part of our family history on a name Web site she was setting up.

Along with my part of the tree, I sent her an old photo of four men, one of whom was my great-grandfather, the rest unknown, taken outside the family-owned tripe factory in Leeds, England. In early February, she again contacted me, saying that someone had seen the photo, recognized it and could name all four people! It turns out that her third-great-grandfather and my great-great-grandfather (who was also on the photo) were brothers! Also, her great-great-grandfather was a witness at my grandmother's wedding (I knew the name but had no idea who he was). I now have a whole new branch to my family tree.

JOYCE HAYES
San Ramon, Calif.



I have a big pet peeve regarding people who post an inquiry on a site, wanting help or information on a line. You respond with a message something like, "I have lots of info on this line" or "This is my line, too. Will exchange information." Then they never reply nor does your e-mail bounce back. I don't send much info when I reply, usually my connection and a teaser or two, as I have gotten burned too many times with "takers but not exchangers." If they don't want to exchange, why do they post an inquiry? That is what genealogy is all about: the exchange of information and helping others. Also, when you receive something, remember to acknowledge the receipt of it with a "thank you."

C.M. FOSTER
Salem, Ore.

As a new subscriber to *Family Tree Magazine*, your publication has provided me with more

success and results in my online searches in 24 hours than I had received in many months of stumbling around the Web on my own.

Your article "The Cousin Connection" (April 2001) listed several Web sites that, as a novice genealogist, I had not yet discovered. By the end of my first evening, I had located my third-great-grandmother's marriage announcement, the birth announcement for my great-grandmother and the locations of descendants in Indiana, Missouri and Kansas.

One posting on USGenWeb <www.usgenweb.org> resulted in contacts with two distant cousins, including one who provided me with 37 pages of names, dates and information on a branch of my family of which I had few facts. And this wealth of knowledge appeared in less than one day.

I'm looking forward to many more issues of your magazine, not to mention meeting family I have yet to discover!

ROBERT WILLIAMS
Sherrard, Ill.

Ancestor addict

When the first issue of *Family Tree Magazine* came out, my daughter informed me and I immediately rushed out to find a copy. Those first editions provided information on my Irish and German roots in addition to the article on writing your life story, which I have begun. I was off to a great start with you! Articles on other ethnic groups are so informative, and I am sure that in the future I will discover that there is blood other than the French/Irish/German that we already know in my family. So every issue is definitely worth keeping for future reference; I continue to recommend it to everyone whether or not they are "into" genealogy. Not only did I devour the first issue, but each successive one as well. In my eagerness for more, I purchased a second copy of the December issue! If that wasn't enough, I also purchased a second copy of the February issue! (I am a subscriber now but I had to wait for Santa to provide this.)

This is a magazine long overdue, in my opinion. Easy reading, extremely informative, helpful for novices as well as old-timers. Who could ask for anything more? This is an addiction that has the added bonus of being "non-fattening!"

DEE HAGAN
Weaverville, NC

Making it clear

Your article on encapsulating your precious photos and documents (April 2001) was excellent. I'm writing to tell you that in your list of companies that supply the necessary Mylar to do the encapsulating you mentioned that University Products offers only pre-made double-sided taped sheets in a limited range of sizes. After checking into their product I have found that they do indeed offer a much more varied range of Mylar products and in a lot of different sizes. I just thought that you would like to know that the Mylar is avail-

able from this company as well as the other two that were mentioned in this excellent article. I love this magazine, and I look forward to many more issues of great information to use for my genealogical research.

BARBARA ANN WALKER-GONDICK
via e-mail

Beating the brick wall

For several years now I have been researching my family and have wanted to know about my great-grandmother Adah Mosher. But all I had was a brick wall—until I read "Asking Uncle Sam" in your December 2000 issue. There I got information on ordering the 1880 US Census for Cayuga County, NY. WOW! Not only did I find her and her parents, but I posted this data to Rootsweb.com <www.rootsweb.com>. Within a day I had this family back to the *Mayflower*.

KENNETH COLBY
via e-mail

E-enumeration options

I just received my first *Family Tree Magazine* and I was totally amazed. I have been a professional genealogist for about 30 years and have subscribed to several genealogy magazines in the past. Most magazines really do not offer you any real information on research. I have already told the students in my genealogy class about your magazine and that it is a must for research.

I have only one problem with your April issue, and that is with the article on the census. You did not stress enough that census data is readily available for free on the Internet at US-GenWeb <www.usgenweb.org>. I know that all the census is not there yet, but it will be soon. Very few people that I know can afford to pay for this. It is also possible to get someone on the Internet to look up a census for you, if you don't have access to it at your local library.

CARLENE BROWN
Levelland, Texas






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Editor's note: This article focused on two new services offering images of actual census pages, but perhaps should also have emphasized the many other ways to find census data online. Besides USGenWeb, for example, we should have noted the 1850 census images available as part of the Genealogy Library subscription site <www.genealogy.com/gl>. That site's parent company <www.genealogy.com> also offers a 1900 census subscription. For a review of Genealogy Library, see page 72.

Glamorous genealogy?

I'm a recent subscriber and read each article carefully. I think you could do a lot for us by improving the image of genealogy in general. We have an image problem! Outsiders tend to yawn and look away when the subject is broached to them. They think that we do our

thing because we have too much time on our hands and don't have a life elsewhere. Tell the world about using computer graphics, clip art, digital cameras, converting old pictures to color, having new book formats, and so on. Sing more about the glamour stuff! After all, what we do is original research—where else can you do research like this that hasn't been done before?


CURTISS N. STUART
via e-mail

Editor's note: We hope the articles on multimedia and on holding family reunions in castles and on cruises in our last issue are something like what you have in mind.



Check it out

I was very glad to see the article "An Open Book" (June 2001) because it stressed verifying informa-

tion you find instead of just accepting it because it had been printed. As the publisher of a family newsletter <members.home.net/casto-connections/>, I am always urging my own readers to do just that. A lot of new researchers are so amazed and overwhelmed by what they find on the Internet that they don't bother to ask where that information came from. Few think to even question a printed source. I hope you will continue to publish reminders to readers to seek primary documentation whenever possible, especially in this day and age when the Internet makes it so deceptively easy to research your family tree. 

DANITA SMITH
via e-mail

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- Signature (or mark) of applicant, and date of registration;

Many of the cards also include:

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- Number and type of dependents - father /mother / minor brothers or sisters / wife / children;
- Marital status;
- Description of any previous military service, U.S. or foreign!
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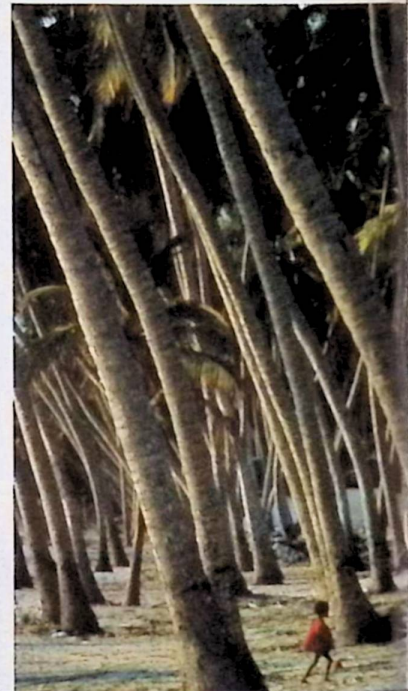
Civil War Families
of Tennessee

branching^out

What's new in discovering, preserving and celebrating your family history.

|By Susan Wenner

Out of Africa



The continent of Africa takes its place in the spotlight as the cradle of humanity.

Talk about a long pedigree chart: Reading human chromosomes like history books, genetic scientists are discovering that modern Europeans—and possibly other populations—are descended from a few hundred Africans who left their homeland 25,000 years ago, according to the Associated Press. These findings were reported this spring at the conference of the Human Genome Organization. They contradict earlier theories that modern humans evolved in Africa, Europe and Asia simultaneously from multiple early humans.

Also, the *London Times* reported a new study revealing that one in every 100 “white” Britons is directly descended from an

African or Asian. Geneticist Bryan Sykes led the DNA study of 10,000 people, and discovered that “many who believed their ancestry to be completely British were actually far more diverse.” The DNA originates in Africans brought to Britain as soldiers and slaves by the Romans, Sykes told the *Times*. Meanwhile, he’s also finding evidence that Protestants and Catholics of Northern Ireland were once members of the same tribe.

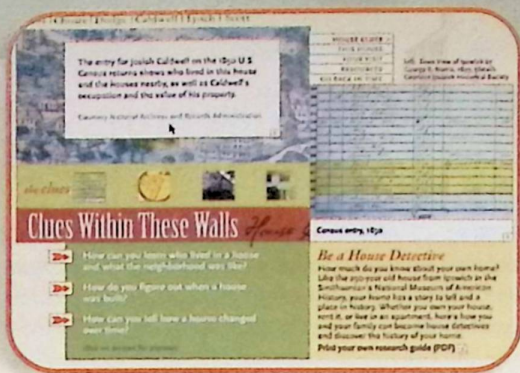
Portrait of a Continent

As geneticists uncover more evidence that the human race began in Africa thousands

of years ago, a new PBS television series about the continent’s history, culture and environment may appeal to a much wider audience than just African-Americans. “Africa” is an eight-part documentary series in which individuals and families tell their stories by talking about the places they live. Jennifer Lawson, the series’ creator, wanted to “create a much more intimate portrait of Africa” than the typical TV news coverage of famine, war and tragedy, she says, “as if I could take you along on a journey to meet ordinary people.”

Though “Africa” spans the continent’s history from the dawn of humanity to the present, the series mostly focuses on





THIS OLD HOUSE

“One house, five families, 200 years of history” is the idea behind a new permanent exhibit at the National Museum of History, Behring Center, in Washington, DC. The museum moved a 2 ½-story house from Massachusetts to the museum’s second floor, and turned it into an exhibit that tells the stories of five families who lived there and how they relate to American history. The house and its inhabitants lived through colonial times, the American Revolution, slavery and abolition, immigration and industrialization, to World War II. Find out what this New England home can reveal about your ancestors’ way of life at www.americanhistory.si.edu/house/.



A new PBS television series explores how Africa’s people relate to their environment, such as (clockwise from far left) these men in Mali, in places such as Mt. Kenya, among bwejuu coconut palms and on a small boat in Mali.

“people’s lives today,” Lawson says. It’s meant not only to serve as a source of pride for African-Americans, but also to demonstrate our commonality as human beings. Lawson never had the time to pursue her own family history, but sensed a connection to her ancestors while filming on location: “The people were so welcoming, I felt that (not knowing my genealogy)

didn’t matter. We were sharing human experience.”

“Africa” will air on most PBS stations Sundays at 8 p.m. Eastern time from Sept. 9 to Oct. 28. Along with the TV series, look for a companion book, Web site www.pbs.org/africa/, video, DVD and exhibit of west African art in National Geographic Explorer’s Hall in Washington, DC.

PHOTOS: MICHAEL LEWIS/COURTESY OF THIRTEEN/WNET NEW YORK



NEW SOFTWARE FOR NEW MACS

If you just upgraded to Mac OS X and want to do your genealogy, GEDitCOM just released a beta version for the new Mac

operating system. This customizable genealogy program that reads and produces GEDCOMs has been “carbonized” for Mac OS X to run most efficiently. If you use GEDitCOM to read files, it’s free; as a file editor, the program is shareware. Interested? Get details and download at www.geditcom.com/GCBeta.html.

GOOD NEWS, BAD NEWS FROM GENEALOGY.COM

We’ll give you the good news first: Family Tree Maker has made its online debut. The Web Edition is a free, stripped-down version of the popular genealogy software. With it, you can create an online family tree, view it in three formats and download to the offline version of Family Tree Maker or Family Origins. Try it at www.genealogy.com. Also, prices recently plummeted for subscriptions to Genealogy.com’s databases. Genealogy Library and World Family Tree each cost \$49.99 per year or \$9.99 per month; the 1900 Census and International & Passenger Records each cost \$79.99 per year or \$14.99 per month. Get details at www.genealogy.com/datalibraries.html.

Now, for the not-so-good news: If you want a human being to help you with any of Genealogy.com’s products and services, you’ll have to pay \$2 a minute for it. We recommend first trying the new online help center at www.genealogy.com/help/. Still need help? Call (800) 326-8733, but remember: It’ll cost you.

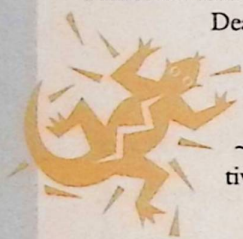
living history

Fall's best bets for celebrating your heritage and reliving your history. | By Crystal Conde

ROCHESTER, INDIANA

HISTORIC NATIVE AMERICA

Experience how Native Americans lived, prepared food, hunted, celebrated and traded goods before 1840. Visit encampments that highlight the French and Indian War, Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and western fur trade at the **Trail of Courage Living History Festival** in Rochester held Sept. 15-16. Observe traditional American Indian beadwork, music, dance and clothing. The festival pays tribute to those Native American families who had ancestors on the 1838 Trail of Death and to those pioneer families whose ancestors arrived before 1840. This year the festival will honor the descendants of Potawatomi Indian Chief Menominee. See <www.icss.net/~fchs> or call (219) 223-4436. (For more on Native American roots, see page 34.)



MCPHERSON, KANSAS

A TARTAN GOOD TIME

Bagpipes, Highland dance routines, sheep dogs and traditional foods set the scene for the annual **Scottish Festival and Highland Games** held Sept. 22-23. Join the town of McPherson in celebrating its Scottish heritage. Traditional Scottish dance songs and Celtic vocal groups will add to the flavor of the festival. If you've got a bit of Braveheart in you, jump into one of the strenuous Scottish athletic competitions. Call (800) 324-8022 or see <www.mcphersonks.org>.

branching out

Ancestry.com™ Rate Hike

The declining Internet economy has taken its toll on Ancestry.com. In May, the subscription-based Web site stopped allowing non-paying users to try databases for the first 10 days after they were posted. You can still tap into user-submitted data and other information that Ancestry posts, digitizes or acquires at "minimal costs." Also, all current free databases and services will remain free.

Full access to Ancestry's databases, however, now costs more. Beginning in June, both annual and census-only subscriptions increased to \$69.95, up from \$59.95. Quarterly subscriptions now cost \$24.95, up from \$19.95. The "bundled" data and census package will continue to be \$99.95 annually. As the Web's third-largest paid subscription service, Ancestry has not raised prices since it first charged for access in 1997. To subscribe or search free databases, see <www.ancestry.com>.

Getting on the Island

For a time, genealogy research beat out Britney Spears and Pokémon as the hottest destination on the Web. Upon its spring launch, the Web site offering free searches of immigrant and passenger records from **Ellis Island** <www.ellislandrecords.org> sparked millions of Americans to see if their forebears were among them. Soon after, "Ellis Island" rocketed to the No. 1 spot on the Lycos 50, which ranks the 50 most popular search terms at <www.lycos.com>.

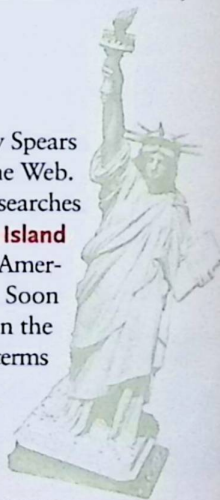
At first, the American Family Immigration History Center was deluged by users. Eight million visitors logged on in the first eight hours, and officials estimated that 85 percent were being turned away. *US News & World Report* called it "the most popular launch in Internet history."

Things have calmed down since then, and additional servers have allowed more people into the computer database. But the site continues to draw a huge number of people searching for their roots.

"We are still getting very significant traffic," says Peg Zitko, spokeswoman for the center. Some 60,000 people are logging on to Ellis Island each day, and at press time the site was nearing the 1-billion-hit mark.

Now the center is working on the site's e-commerce capabilities, which will allow users at home to order copies of their ancestors' original ship manifests and photos of the ships. The site's family scrapbook feature also will be available to site visitors. Initially, these features were available only to those who physically visited the new Ellis Island center.

Some site visitors who found their ancestors' records on the database complained that the data was incorrect. Zitko warns that nothing can be done "if the ship's clerk wrote (the information) down wrong," but the center is collecting reports of incorrect transcriptions of the data. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, whose volunteers transcribed the records, must approve and make any changes to the typed data. If you find such an error, send an e-mail to dberrors@ellisland.org.



Pride and Prejudice

Americans of native, African and Chinese descent were once negatively stereotyped and discriminated against because of their ethnicity. Now pride is beginning to replace prejudice—at least for some ethnic Americans.

The number of people who called themselves Native Americans in the 2000 US Census more than doubled from a decade ago, for instance. This was the first census to allow respondents to identify with more than one race category. But there's more to this sudden surge, according to the *Washington Post*. Reasons for the increase include gambling revenue from Indian-owned casinos; minority scholarships and affirmative action guidelines; the rising popularity of genealogy; and the "erosion of the stigma once borne by Native Americans." (For tips on tracing your Native American roots, see page 34.)

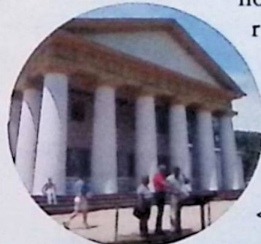
At the same time, African-Americans are seeing more historic homes and sites restoring long-forgotten and ignored slave areas to educate visitors about slaves' contributions to society, the *Post* said. Among the places broadening their scope:

- **Montpelier**, James Madison's former home in Montpelier Station, Va., which recently cleared away trees and vines from the estate's slave cemetery and cut a walkway to it for visitors touring the grounds. The estate is also restoring a log cabin built by one of its former slaves in 1870 and displaying small items found during an excavation of slave dwellings. See <www.montpelier.org> or call (540) 672-2728.



MONTPELIER

- **Arlington House**, Robert E. Lee's former home in Arlington, Va., which opened a one-room slave house long used for storage. See <www.nps.gov/arho/> or call (703) 557-0613.



ARLINGTON HOUSE

- **Monticello**, home of Thomas Jefferson in Charlottesville, Va., which recently found a slave cemetery that will open to tourists. See <www.monticello.org> or call (434) 984-9800.



MONTICELLO

- **The Hermitage** in Nashville, home of Andrew Jackson, which is home to archeological digs in its outlying slave quarters. See <www.thehermitage.com> or call (615) 889-2941.



THE HERMITAGE

Unfortunately, stereotypes and mistrust of Asians haven't changed much since the 19th century, when Chinese immigrants were legally barred from jobs, citizenship and equal rights. One quarter of Americans still have "strong negative attitudes" toward Chinese-Americans, according to a recent study by the Committee of 100, a Chinese-American-relations group. Another 43 percent see them in a "somewhat negative light." Most of those surveyed did not differentiate between Chinese-Americans and other Asian-Americans, either. Despite these negative preconceptions, however, nearly all Americans believe Chinese-Americans have strong family values and are honest as businesspeople.



KAUA'I, HAWAII

FLOWER POWER

Vaccinate yourself against the winter blahs with a Hawaiian dose of sun and culture. Kaua'i's Mokuhanua Festival, named after the light-violet flower native only to Kaua'i's forests, packs seven days full of contemporary Hawaiian culture Sept. 23-29. The celebration begins on Sunday with a Hawaiian church service and an instrumental competition. The rest of the week includes a composer's contest and concert, a canoe paddling workshop, a Maori drama, an ethnobotany workshop and hula competitions. Don't forget your grass skirts and flower-print shirts for one of Kaua'i's most celebrated events. Visit <www.kauai.net/mokuhanua> or call (808) 822-2166.



NEBRASKA CITY,
NEBRASKA

LIFE BEFORE MODERN LUXURIES

Learn to churn butter, make brooms and soap, press cider and paint china at Living History Days. Arbor Lodge will host this fall turn-of-the-century event Sept. 23, Sept. 30, Oct. 7 and Oct. 14. Enjoy four weekends of demonstrations that illustrate how Americans lived before the advent of today's modern conveniences. Take in a lecture on the Civil War, or participate in a doll-making lesson while becoming immersed in the past. Call (402) 873-3000 or visit <www.nebraskacity.com>.



MONTPELIER: © LEE SHIDER/CORBIS; ARLINGTON HOUSE: © JAMES P. BLAIR/CORBIS; MONTICELLO: © DAVID MUENCH/CORBIS; THE HERMITAGE: COURTESY OF THE HERMITAGE

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE KAUA'I MOKUHANUA FESTIVAL

PHOTOS COURTESY OF DONNA STRATKER

COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA

DIGGING UP THE PAST

Kick off a weekend of archaeology fun with the **Lantern Tour Through Time and Archaeology Festival** held Oct. 5-6. The tour is a Friday evening walk through the woods that will take you back to a variety of historic venues. Meet characters from Colonial and Civil War times, including an African-American storyteller. Then visit Charlestowne Landing State Historic Site on Saturday to learn about past cultures through primitive-living skill demonstrations. Get a hands-on look at technological change throughout history, and trace the evolution of man and culture. Featured attractions include stone tool making, blow guns, *atlatl* spear throwing, hide tanning, pottery making, shell engraving, and American Revolution and Civil War re-enactments. Call (803) 777-8170 or visit <www.cla.sc.edu/sciaa/sciaa.html>.



Billie Ann McKeller, Catawba Indian potter, demonstrates pottery making techniques used by the Catawba Indian Nation for the past 1,000 years.

PHOTO BY DARYL P. MILLER, COURTESY OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH CAROLINA.



PARIS, ARKANSAS

LIVING OFF THE LAND

Flash back to the territorial days of Arkansas when mountaineers and women fashioned their own weapons and equipment for survival on the frontier.

At the **Highpoint Rendezvous** Oct. 5-7, try your hand at starting a fire with raw materials, and learn how early Arkansas settlers used the land as an essential resource. Mount Magazine State Park, the site of Highpoint Rendezvous, is Arkansas' newest park and its highest point. Participants dress, camp and cook the way people did more than 100 years ago. Call Mount Magazine State Park at (501) 963-8502 or visit <www.mtmagazine@arkansas.com>.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ARKANSAS STATE PARKS

FamilySearch's Latest and Greatest

If you're one of the millions who rely on FamilySearch <www.familysearch.org> for free, fabulous family history data, check out its most recent hits.

The 1880 US Census and National Index on CD-ROM is now available on 56 CDs but costs only \$49.95. Unlike other recent census offerings, this set contains data only—not digitized copies of the actual records. Search the data to find your family among 50 million individuals. Also, look around at records of your ancestors' neighbors and easily select which records you'd like to print, export or save for future reference. Order the set online at <www.familysearch.org> (click Order/Download Products at the top right, then Software Products, then Census and Vital Records).

Also, you can now search the Social Security Death Index while on the FamilySearch site. This index of 64 million records contains information about those whose deaths were reported to the Social Security Administration from 1937 to Sept. 30, 2000, though most death records are from 1962 and later. Though the SSDI has previously been available on other sites, it's handy to be able to search it at the same time you're combing the rest of FamilySearch. Start looking at <www.familysearch.org/Eng/Search/frameset_search.asp>.

Finally, see if your missing ancestors pop up in the site's updated International Genealogical Index (IGI). Church volunteers have added 45 million new names, bringing the total to 705 million. FamilySearch maintains this index of records, which lists dates and places of birth, christening and marriage. It includes people who lived from the early 1500s to the early 1900s. Search this index at <www.familysearch.org/Eng/Search/frameset_search.asp>.

GENERATIONS GOES DVD

Generations just came out with "the first DVD genealogy product on the market."



Generations Deluxe DVD-ROM eliminates the need to switch CDs because the data and software are all on one disk. Other bonus items include a 3 billion-name search, multimedia tutorials on genealogy research, Web-authoring tools and a "Create-a-Family CD" wizard. Cost is \$49.95; it's PC-only and requires a DVD-ROM drive, 16 MB of computer memory (RAM) and 100 MB of hard drive space. To purchase, see <shop.sierra.com> or call (877) 446-0184.



COURTESY OF THE NUNYC

Railroad Crossing

Just like the original Underground Railroad, its museum counterpart will have a series of “stations” across the country, connecting resources and spreading the history of the slavery era’s freedom network. The **National Underground Railroad Freedom Center**, opening in Cincinnati in 2004, is affiliating with nine research institutions, social service agencies and other organizations nationwide. Eventually, the center hopes to join forces with all 50 states, but for now has partners in New York City; Philadelphia; New Haven, Conn.; Lawrence, Kan.; Los Angeles; Seattle; Wilberforce, Ohio; and Highland Heights, Ky.

Each freedom station will concentrate on some aspect of the Underground Railroad, using research, archival collaborations, genealogy programs, traveling exhibits and diversity training as part of its programs. For more information, see <www.undergroundrailroad.org> or call (513) 412-6900.

With 12 You Get History

The National Trust for Historic Preservation picked 12 communities as “some of the best preserved and unique in America” for its 2001 Dozen Distinctive Destinations awards. The winners are committed to historic preservation, are culturally diverse and have interesting architecture and dynamic downtowns, according to the Trust. And the envelope, please ...

- Eureka Springs, Ark.
- Calistoga, Calif.
- Silverton, Colo.
- Madison, Ind.
- Bonaparte, Iowa
- Northampton, Mass.
- Red Lodge, Mont.
- Las Vegas, NM
- Jacksonville, Ore.
- Doylestown, Penn.
- Beaufort, SC
- Staunton, Va.

To learn more about these “distinctive destinations,” see <www.nthp.org/main/ddd/>. ☛



JACKSONVILLE, ORE.



DOYLESTOWN, PENN.

JACKSONVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



SUN VALLEY, IDAHO

RUNNING OF THE SHEEP?



PHOTOS BY JACK WILLIAMS

Flock to the **Trailing of the Sheep Festival**, America’s version of Spain’s Running of the Bulls, **Oct. 12-14**. Trek alongside the bands of sheep as they complete their journey from summer pastures in the mountains north of Ketchum and Sun Valley to the south through the Wood River Valley into winter desert grazing areas. Beginning **Oct. 13**, participate in workshops that feature tools for capturing your family history. Embrace the region’s Scottish, Basque and Peruvian heritage. Also, visit Ketchum’s historic Lane Mercantile Building, where shepherders gathered to discuss business and to outfit their camps. Call (208) 726-3423 or visit <www.visitsunvalley.com>.

HUNTERSVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

OUT OF PLACE

Southern plantation meets townhouse at Latta Plantation’s **Folk Life Festival Oct. 13-14**. Costumed interpreters cook and prepare for the coming of winter in the 19th-century Philadelphia townhouse. Who is responsible for this oddly placed architecture? Visitors have traveling merchant James Latta, original owner of the home, to thank. His frequent business trips to Philadelphia inspired him when determining a design for the house. Tours of the home are given from noon to 5 p.m. both days. Call (704) 875-2312 or visit <www.lattaplantation.org>.

DOTHAN, ALABAMA

WORKING FOR PEANUTS



If the idea of roasted peanut-paved streets smells good to you, then the **National Peanut Festival** from **Nov. 2-10** is the perfect way to discover your nutty side. Scoop up a handful of peanuts from the ground and watch the peanut parade that makes this southern town’s festival so unique. And if you have a killer family recipe for a peanut-based dessert, enter it in the recipe contest. Dothan’s claim to peanut fame stems from the fact that 65 percent of the peanuts grown in the US are grown within 100 miles of the town. Call (334) 793-4323 or visit <nationalpeanutfestival.com>. ☛

CRYSTAL CONDE is editorial assistant of *Family Tree Magazine*.

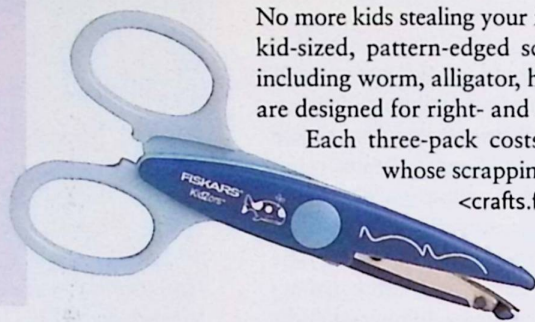
SUSAN WENNER is associate editor of *Family Tree Magazine*. Sign up to receive her free, weekly e-mail updates on the world of family history at <www.familytreemagazine.com/newsletter.asp>.

preserving memories

Turn scrapbooking into child's play with these supplies and suggestions for kid crafters. | By Diane Weiner

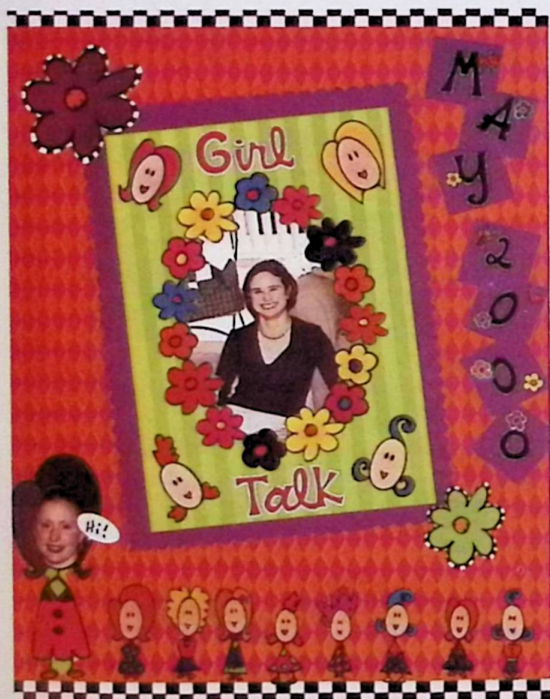
cool tools for kids

With all the cutting, gluing and coloring going on, scrapbooking sometimes feels reminiscent of kindergarten. So it's natural for the kids to be drawn to the dining room table when you're working on your albums. What a golden opportunity to have fun with your children or grandchildren and get them in the habit of preserving their memories. Here are some products just for them:



No more kids stealing your favorite scissors! Fiskars has introduced kid-sized, pattern-edged scissors in 12 animal-themed designs, including worm, alligator, hippo and whale (shown here). KidZors are designed for right- and left-handed use by kids ages 5 and up.

Each three-pack costs \$6.99. Now who will be invading whose scrapping supplies? For more information, visit .



For young journalers, making a journal can be just as fun as writing in it. Reynolds' journal and locking diary craft kits let your kid do just that. Each one comes with a blank book and everything a child needs to decorate it: foil papers, holographic stickers, adhesive, a gel pen and an idea booklet. Look for the kits at craft stores or find out more at .

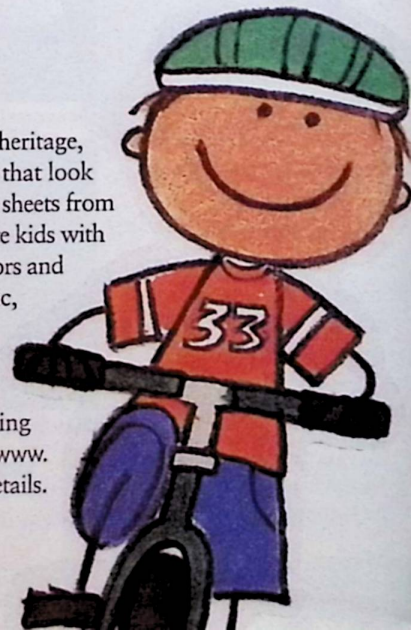


CHRISTINE POLOMSKY

Bright, funky and playful—that's the best way to describe Colorbök's new **2 Grrrrls** line of scrapbooking products. Girls and teens will love the colorful, boldly patterned papers, stickers and die-cut frames, like the ones used for the page above. There are also craft punches, decorated albums and scrapbooking kits. Prices range from about 30 cents (for a sheet of paper) to \$24 (for an album). For more information, visit .



No matter what your family's heritage, your children can find stickers that look like them. A Kid Like Me sticker sheets from Me & My Big Ideas feature cute kids with a variety of skin tones, hair colors and ethnicities, including Hispanic, Asian and African. Priced under \$2.50, each sheet contains 12 stickers of kids playing, going to school and doing other things kids do. See for details.





MASTERPIECE MEMORIES

Your refrigerator is papered with finger paintings and school art projects. How to save them all? Some ideas from scrappers we know:

- Take a photo of your little artist in front of the fridge or holding up his favorite drawings for your scrapbook.
- Color copy special projects at a reduced size. Ask the artist to tell you about her work, then incorporate her words and the photocopy on a layout.
- Keep flat art projects in a pocket page, created by gluing half of a page to another full-size sheet. Or just keep the projects in their own page protector.
- Use drawings to create greeting cards, wrapping paper, papier mâché picture frames or calendars for Grandma and Grandpa.

When it's time to clear the fridge, have the children help you select a few works of art to keep on display and a few to save. Pitch the rest or, if you can't bear to, put them in archival storage.

SCRAP SPEAK: "ABC ALBUM"

A **theme scrapbook** arranged not chronologically, but in alphabetical order with one page of photos and journaling per letter. For example, an ABC album about your child's favorite things might include pages like *A* for applesauce, *B* for his blankie, *C* for coloring and so on. It's a fun way to organize an album for kids who are learning their letters.

PICTURING A pedigree

Kids may have a tough time keeping all the branches of their family tree straight, especially when your pedigree stretches back centuries. Illustrate the relationships by creating a pictorial family tree together. Start with a simple paper-pieced tree like the one shown here—kids will love cutting out leaves and crumpling brown paper to make the bark texture. Collect photos of parents, grandparents and great-grandparents. Color copy them so you won't damage the originals, then crop the copies into apple shapes and mat them on red paper. "Hang" the apples on the tree and write the names on the leaves. Add a tire swing just for fun.



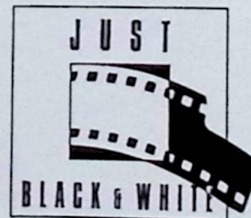
DULL RELATIVES?



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A GRAND TALE

Children will discover why scrapbooks are treasures in *Grandma's Scrapbook* (Gingerbread House, \$16.95). This beautiful story by Josephine Nobisso takes place as a girl pages through her grandmother's memory album, describing the keepsakes Grandma lovingly preserved and remembering their times together. Read it with children to celebrate memories and family ties, or to inspire them to start their own scrapbook. *Grandpa Loved* is a companion tale about a boy's memories of his grandfather. <www.gingerbreadbooks.com>

CHRISTINE POLOMSKY

SCRAPBOOKING, KID-STYLE

For ways to embellish your kids' pages, explore <www.dltk-kids.com>, where you'll find clip art from popular kids' cartoons and stories, cultural coloring pages and craft projects, kid-themed poems and other craft ideas. While testing projects with her two young girls, Webmaster Leanne Guenther has learned a few lessons about scrapping with kids. "I have a habit of making lovely scrapbooks, then locking them away so they don't get ruined," she confesses. "My girls love to leaf through theirs every week, share them with visitors and take them to school to show their friends. Let your kids make their own books and keep them in their rooms." Include photos of the kids enjoying their albums in the official family scrapbook that's stored safely away.

Rather than instruct your children on using your nice papers and stickers, Guenther says, purchase less expensive supplies—or print out paper and clip art from your computer—and let kids use them however they wish. Get doubles when you have film developed and give the extras to your children. Kids aren't acid-free or photo-safe, Guenther adds: "If you worry that the children's scrapbooking creations won't last forever, you're probably right. But their happy memories will—and that's really the whole point of scrapbooking." 🐾

DIANE WEINER is a Portland, Ore., writer and scrapper.

NEW FROM BETTERWAY BOOKS...MUST-HAVE RESEARCH GUIDE!

your guide to the Family History Library

How to Access the World's Largest Genealogy Resource

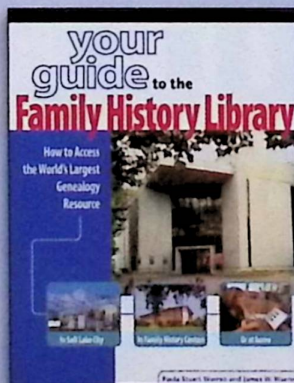
by Paula Stuart Warren & James W. Warren

The world's largest archive of genealogy and family history materials is the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. With this exceptional guide, you'll learn how to use the facility's resources effectively, whether you're conducting research at home or on-site! Inside, you'll find:

- Tips for trip preparation to ensure you make the most of your visit
- Guidelines for accessing the library collection from afar using FamilySearch Internet and from the 3,400 Family History Centers worldwide
- Details on Library records, including major U.S. and world collections
- On-site research tips to help you locate resources, organize your workday and materials, and use limited research time effectively
- And of course, so much more!

This new publication from Betterway Books is a must-have research guide for your reference library! #70513-K/\$19.99/248pgs/pb

Your Guide to the Family History Library is available at your favorite bookseller or direct from the publisher, using the Order Form or contact information to the right.



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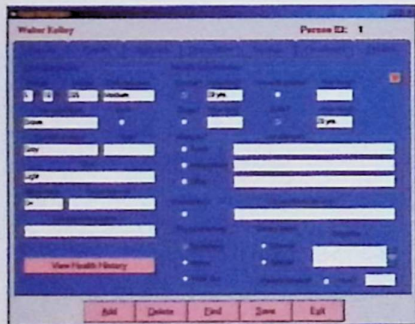
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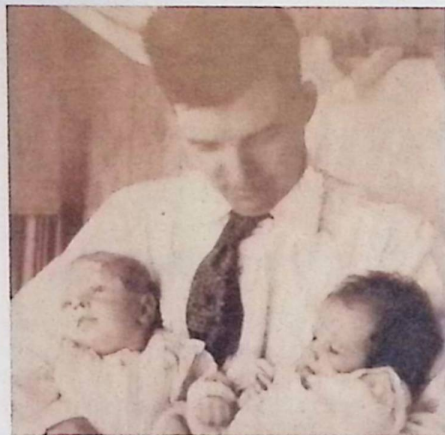
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everything's **relative**

The lighter side of family history.



Bonus Baby

My mother's family tree doesn't show an overabundance of one sex of offspring over the other. However, when it came my grandma's turn to have her family, she gave birth only to boys. After receiving four wonderful blessings of the male persuasion, she and Grandpa thought that was as large as their family would be. Grandma was disappointed she wouldn't mother any girls, but was happy to have her family of tall, brawny boys. Harder to accept was another pregnancy at age 38—back in 1921, considered an advanced age for a woman to give birth. Grandma worried, not only about her age, but about the fact that this pregnancy seemed so different from the others, though she couldn't quite put her finger on why. Her doctor didn't find anything out of the ordinary to worry about.

Then came time for the actual birth. My mother came into the world, and Grandma was thrilled she had her girl at last. "Wait," the doctor said after the girl was born. "Another baby is coming!" This was a surprise, but it explained why Grandma felt this pregnancy had been so different. And now, she thought, not only would she get the daughter she'd longed for, but she'd have two daughters! "Put a string to mark the second one so we don't get the two confused," Grandma told the doctor. "I want to know which one was born first." "Don't worry, this one already has a mark on ... him," the doctor replied. Grandma always said she was thankful to have a daughter at last, even if she did have to take another son with her.

KATHI ADAMS
Bloomington, Ind.

A Truly Tangled Family Tree

Here's how I came to be my own third cousin once removed. In the 1830s, there were two brothers born in Romania, Pesach and Yitzhak Clar. They each married and had offspring. Their offspring all came to the United States. Brother Yitzhak married and had a daughter Pauline. She married and had a daughter Rebecca and a son Irving. Rebecca married and had six children, one of whom was a daughter Rose.

Meanwhile, brother Pesach married and had six children, among whom was a son Morris, who inexplicably changed his last name from Clar to Mar. Morris married and had a son Philip and two daughters. Morris' son Philip married Rebecca's daughter Rose. Philip and Rose are therefore second cousins once removed. They had me and two other children. My mother is therefore my third cousin and my father is my second cousin twice removed. Since I am a branch on both Yitzhak's and his brother Pesach's family tree, I am my own third cousin once removed. My son is my fourth cousin. My son's son is his fifth cousin and my fourth cousin once removed, and on and on.

To make matters more confusing, when my grandmother Regina died, her husband, Morris Mar, married his late first wife's sister-in-law. The sister-in-law was my great-aunt and, upon her marriage to Grandfather Morris, also became my step-grandmother. Inbreeding can get very confusing.

NORMAN KLAT
Springfield, Va.

The Phantom Census Menace

Future British family history researchers may be puzzled by their early-21st-century ancestors' entry under "religion" on the UK census: "Jedi." According to the CNET news service, a recent e-mail stunt urged Brits to declare themselves members of the "religion" from the *Star Wars* movies. If enough people wrote "Jedi" on their census forms, the e-mails promised, the Office of National Statistics would have to officially recognize faith in "the Force" as a religion. "And remember," the e-mails added, "if you are a member of

PHOTO COURTESY OF KATHI ADAMS

BURIED TRUTH

According to the obituary in the *Gospel Herald* about Sgt. Jacob Rhodehamel, 75th Illinois, Company I, he was buried on the field where he'd fallen in the Battle of Resaca in Georgia. When I read in a travel guide that there was a Civil War cemetery adjacent to the battle grounds in Resaca, I figured I'd find him there—not exactly where he'd fallen, but close enough.

Alas, when I arrived in Resaca, Ga., I discovered the cemetery was purely for Confederate soldiers. It was established by two spinster sisters who were appalled that the fighting and death had messed up their flower gardens. Their daddy gave them a plot of land nearby and they had the slaves re-inter bodies and bury their own dead boys in marked graves—not a Yankee in sight.

After tromping around this cemetery, I concluded that Rhodehamel might indeed be buried where he'd fallen, maybe along the road or adjacent to a farmer's field. I even checked with the county recorder's office, to no avail. I decided it was a dead end, at least for now.

A few years later, I traveled to Acworth, Ga., to see my sister's new home. En route back north, I needed a break and noticed there was a national cemetery in Chattanooga, Tenn. That was about the right distance, so I stopped there. I noticed across the road a group of mounted books listing all the grave sites. I've always been fascinated with cemeteries and couldn't walk past without looking up someone. Jacob Rhodehamel was the only soldier whose name came to mind.

Of course you know the ending: His grave was listed under R. The search that had begun two years before ended with a longer stop than planned. I located his headstone—all the information was exactly correct. I took a whole roll of film, and wished I had stuff to do tracings with me in the car. Later I learned that Chattanooga was the staging arena for the operations at the battle of Resaca, and bodies were removed back of the line for burial.

MARILYN WITKO ROSINSKI
Perrysburg, Ohio



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the Jedi religion then you are by default a 'Jedi Knight.'"

Alas for would-be Jedi Knights, a representative of the UK's Office of National Statistics said, "There won't be any coding for Jedi. So it won't be called a religion even if 10,000 people do it." The spokesperson added, "We're encouraging people to take (the census) seriously, but we can't stop them putting 'Jedi.'"

Completion of the census form is mandatory under a 1920 British law, and those who give false information can be fined. But this penalty does not apply to question number 10, "Religion," so Jedi Knight wannabes are merely wasting time, not flouting the Census Act.

It's not an entirely new idea, either. Census officials said that avid soccer fans have written in the name of their favorite team as their "religion."

Similar Jedi e-mail campaigns also swept through New Zealand and Australia earlier this year. Technically, citizens in both countries could get into more trouble than British *Star Wars* zealots. New Zealand officials simply opted to ignore the scheme. But the chief of the Australian Bureau of Statistics, John Struik, initially threatened Jedi religionists with a \$1,000 fine.

Ultimately, Struik felt the Force, too, and backed off his threat. He even conceded, "It provides a bit of amusement, and people learn about the census."

Or, as Jedi Master Yoda would say, "Amusing it is. Learn about the census they do."

Grave Missions

My mother's mother passed away in 1909 in Louisiana, when her children were 6, 4 and nearly 2 years old. My mother's father was killed less than five years later in St. Louis by a train. The children were totally orphaned and grew up, first, with their maternal grandmother in northeastern Arkansas and then with their paternal grandmother in north-central Missouri.

Their only memories of their mother's burial in Louisiana were the red dirt at the graveside, the fact that the cemetery was on a hilltop, and a recollection of crossing a low water bridge, with alligators on the sides, to get to the cemetery.

In the late 1970s, we took my mother to Louisiana to find this cemetery. With only those memories to go on, we found a man who took us to the *only* hill in the entire parish with a cemetery and also the *only* place that had any red dirt. It overlooked a bayou with a low water crossing to the cemetery road. The cemetery had been long abandoned, with weeds over our heads, but my mother felt that this was the right place and was happy to have been able to go back. We didn't find any tombstone, as it was too weedy to look much.

Following the cemetery excursion, we then took her to northeastern Arkansas to find the graves of her maternal grandparents. Neither had a tombstone, but a cousin took us to the cemetery and knew which of the fieldstone-marked graves were the grandparents. This, again, was enough to make my mother happy.

The next February, my mother passed away from a heart attack.

Twenty years later, I had the chance to revisit the cemetery in northeastern Arkansas. To my dismay, I couldn't tell which were the proper fieldstones for my great-grandparents. My intentions were to mark them properly, but no one could tell me the correct graves. My mother's cousin who knew the location had also passed away.

The following year, I attended the annual "Homecoming" at this church and cemetery. It was a warm but gray cloudy day in June. As I walked into the cemetery to once again attempt to find these stones, a ray of sunshine came through the clouds and totally illuminated two large field rocks in a row of graves marked with fieldstones. I immediately recognized these two spotlighted stones as the ones I had seen years before and then couldn't find again later.

Much as my mother had 20 years before, I just accepted this find as a gift and was thankful. Some things, I decided, are just meant to be. ☺

BETTY GAINES BROOKS
Horseshoe Bend, Ark.

Got an amusing or unusual family history story to share? We'll pay \$25 for every item we use. Send to: Everything's Relative, *Family Tree Magazine*, 1507 Dana Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45207, or e-mail to FTMrelative@fwpubs.com. Sorry, we can't return or acknowledge submissions.

Telling Time

An ancestor's watch may help you turn back the clock to see what life was like when it was still ticking. | By Maureen A. Taylor

Sometimes it's the little things our ancestors left behind that tell us something personal about them. My grandmother raised five children and all that's left are a few things that were important to her—a cookbook with her handwritten notations, a set of ceramic bowls and her watch. Since she died when I was a baby, the artifacts and family stories have provided me with a sense of knowing her. I can imagine her using the bowls and her cookbook to create some of the recipes my family still makes today, but it's her watch that tells me a story of her life before marriage and children.

What can you learn about an ancestor from one piece of her life? More than you think. Family heirlooms can help fill in the details of your ancestors' lives—that's what makes them "attic treasures."

By today's standards, a watch is an ordinary accessory. Most people own more than one and wear them as a coordinating piece of an outfit. But to previous generations, a watch was a treasured possession.

Pocket watches like the one my grandmother owned signified maturity and status. Women wore them hung from small chains and kept them in waistband pockets or pinned to their dress bodices, as my grandmother did. Two family photographs show her wearing the watch. In one, her sister Rose is wearing an identical timepiece. The other (above) is her wedding portrait.

As young women, the sisters worked in the cotton mills in Pawtucket, RI, to contribute to the family income. The watches may have been given as gifts, but it's more likely they bought identical watches with their earnings. While watches could be purchased by mail, women also could visit a local jeweler to select the mechanism and the case to create a personal-



The author's grandmother passed down this watch, which she wore for her wedding portrait (left).

When you start to delve for data, don't forget to examine each artifact with these questions in mind:

- Are there any stories associated with it?
- Are there any photographs that include the object?
- What technical data is available in collectors guides and historical sources?
- What's the origin of the item, such as who owned it?

Learn more about a watch in your collection at www.oldwatch.com and in *Alan Smith's Clocks & Watches* (Connoisseur, out of print), which provides an overview of the history of watches with illustrations.

There isn't much left of my grandmother's watch today. The glass covering and parts of the hands are missing. She wore it until one of her sons damaged it with a hammer when he was a toddler. It was a valuable part of her life, a symbol of her financial achievement and a leftover from her life before she met my grandfather. I can imagine her looking at it and reflecting on her young adult life. When she died, the watch became the property of her youngest daughter who looks to it as a visual reminder of her mother. There are an awful lot of memories in one broken watch, worth more than any antique appraiser could estimate. ♣

MAUREEN A. TAYLOR is a contributing editor of *Family Tree Magazine* and the author of *Preserving Your Family Photographs* (Betterway Books, \$19.99). Tell her about treasures you've discovered in the attic that you'd like to know more about. Her e-mail address is mtaylor@taylorandstrong.com.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MAUREEN TAYLOR

ized watch. My grandmother had her initials engraved on the exterior of the watch.

Gently removing the watch mechanism from its case reveals a serial number. Generally, the manufacturer's name appears either on the face of the watch or on the mechanism. The Hampden Watch Company manufactured this watch in 1910, a year it made 2 million watches in various styles.

When you look for genealogical treasures in your attic, be sure to research the history behind the item so that you can better understand when it was popular and to whom it belonged. Read Katherine Sturdevant's *Bringing Your Family History to Life through Social History* (Betterway Books, \$19.99) to learn more about the types of items that have genealogical significance.





PUTTING THE

pieces

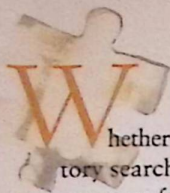
TOGETHER

The author of the all-time genealogy how-to best seller *Unpuzzling Your Past* shares 29 tips for getting started solving the mysteries of your ancestry.



BY EMILY ANNE CROOM

ILLUSTRATIONS BY KATY LEMAY



Whether you're beginning your family history search or have been researching your ancestors for years, you're creating a unique, personalized family picture. You can choose which ancestors to study and how deeply you want to delve into their lives. Regardless of your ultimate goal, you and your family will appreciate your work if it's well-done and interesting and you clearly have correct information. How do you make your family history both interesting and accurate? Follow these tips for success as you unpuzzle your past.

1 ORGANIZE EARLY AND OFTEN. There's no right or wrong way to organize your research notes and record copies, but there are better and worse ways. The worst ways include taking notes in spiral notebooks and storing them on the dining room table. Better ways are numerous, usually involving three-ring binders, file folders or a combination of the two.

Your choice is personal, considering your time, space and budget. The goal is to be able to find quickly any given piece of information. Thus, you need to keep together all information about each person or ancestral couple. Use whatever system works for you, and change your system if you devise a more effective one.

2 BEGIN WITH WHAT YOU KNOW. At the beginning of your family history search, write down names and applicable vital statistics (dates and places of birth, marriage and death) for family members you know best—you, your spouse, your children, your parents and your siblings. If you're working on a more distant or more elusive ancestor, the process is similar—list in chronological order every fact you've collected about the person and build on that foundation.

3 CONCENTRATE FIRST ON THE GENERATIONS CLOSEST TO YOU—yourself and siblings, your parents, your four grandparents and your eight great-grandparents. The goal is to locate the names, dates, places and relationships that identify individuals and form links between generations. Ask family members for pertinent vital statistics; collect in-

formation from tombstones and family records.

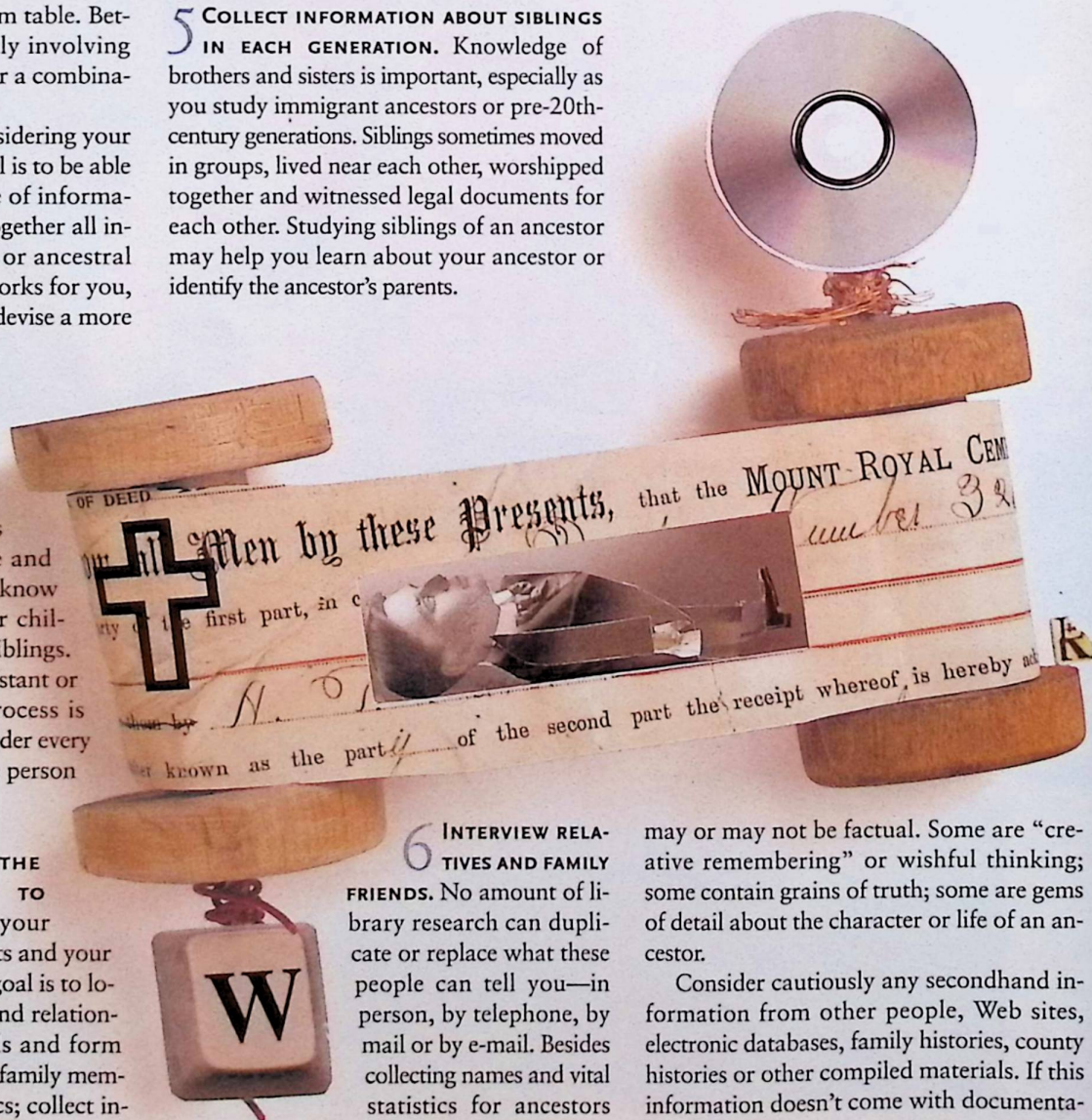
4 RECORD EXACTLY WHERE YOU GET YOUR INFORMATION. In your notes, write down who told you what and when, or which tombstone, newspaper, book or document furnished data and where that record is located. This documenting process is essential. The goal is for you or someone else to be able to find the same information again. The purpose is to demonstrate that you have collected valid information from the best possible sources and that, to the best of your knowledge, you are claiming the correct ancestors. For more on documenting sources, see *The Sleuth Book for Genealogists* (Betterway Books, \$18.99).

5 COLLECT INFORMATION ABOUT SIBLINGS IN EACH GENERATION. Knowledge of brothers and sisters is important, especially as you study immigrant ancestors or pre-20th-century generations. Siblings sometimes moved in groups, lived near each other, worshipped together and witnessed legal documents for each other. Studying siblings of an ancestor may help you learn about your ancestor or identify the ancestor's parents.

and their relatives, you need to gather details of daily life and seek to understand your family's experience with the historical events happening around them. These details make family history interesting and meaningful.

Ask questions about school, meals, household chores and rules, housing, work, crops and gardens, religious affiliation, holiday customs, reactions to historical events and how historical events affected family members—the Great Depression, a war, a storm. Ask about personalities of family members. View each ancestor as an individual who lived an interesting life that you want to know more about.

7 BE A SKEPTICAL DETECTIVE. Remember that family stories and oral traditions



6 INTERVIEW RELATIVES AND FAMILY FRIENDS. No amount of library research can duplicate or replace what these people can tell you—in person, by telephone, by mail or by e-mail. Besides collecting names and vital statistics for ancestors

may or may not be factual. Some are "creative remembering" or wishful thinking; some contain grains of truth; some are gems of detail about the character or life of an ancestor.

Consider cautiously any secondhand information from other people, Web sites, electronic databases, family histories, county histories or other compiled materials. If this information doesn't come with documenta-

tion of where the details originated, use it as clues for research; don't accept it automatically as fact. If information from others does contain documentation, evaluate those sources and check their information yourself.

Whenever you find transcriptions of ancestral records, get a photocopy of the original record. Try to verify details—even original records sometimes contain errors.

8 READ ALL ABOUT IT. Start with a basic book on genealogy, such as *Unpuzzling Your Past*. Also read books or articles about genealogical research in any state or country where your ancestors lived. States and nations vary in the kinds of records they keep, where they keep them and how you can access them. Knowing about sources in ancestral locales helps you research thoroughly. You can also learn by reading case studies in books such as *The Sleuth Book for Genealogists* and the journals of genealogy societies, such as the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* (available in most major libraries).

9 TAKE ADVANTAGE OF EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES. Attending genealogy classes, seminars, workshops and meetings of genealogical or historical societies can boost your knowledge so that you can research more effectively. Besides, the personal interaction with other researchers can be very rewarding. Also consider membership in a society in your ancestral locale; it's often money well-spent. (You can find information on the more than 500 member organizations of the Federation of Genealogical Societies at <www.familyhistory.com/societyhall/>.)

10 CHOOSE ONE OR TWO ANCESTORS AT A TIME FOR CONCENTRATED STUDY. Your other ancestors aren't going anywhere; they'll be there for you to research later. Besides, researchers who spread their efforts too thin by trying to work on too many ancestors at once usually don't tackle and solve the tough questions. By limiting your scope, you can stay organized and focused on the details.

11 WORK BACKWARD IN TIME, ONE GENERATION AT A TIME. The goal in genealogy is to connect each generation to the previous one accurately. If you skip generations trying to reach early, foreign or famous ancestors,

you may miss important information or jump to erroneous conclusions. Before researching immigrants in their country of origin, study the ancestors and descendants thoroughly in their adopted country.

12 USE WHAT YOU KNOW ALONG WITH THE HOLES IN YOUR INFORMATION TO PLAN YOUR NEXT STEP. Family history puzzles aren't handed to us with all the pieces mixed in a box with a completed picture on the front. We have many missing pieces—names, dates, places, relationships and life history. Finding these is the fun and the challenge of genealogy.

Study what you know, identify what's missing, then decide what you want to find next and where you might find it. Although the goal in each generation is to verify the parents, the first step toward that goal often is finding a birthplace, a maiden name, a marriage record or siblings' names. These are the building blocks by which you approach your goal.

13 USE ORIGINAL AND CONTEMPORARY RECORDS WHENEVER THEY EXIST. First-hand accounts and documents closest in time to the events they report are usually the most reliable and desirable. A newspaper obituary for an ancestor may contain names and dates not available in other sources, for example, but the person who prepared the obituary may not have had firsthand information about the ancestor's birth.

To double-check the birth information, look for a baptism or Bible record, a birth certificate or other record contemporary with the birth. Or try to find a passport, a Social Security application (beginning in 1936), or some other record for which the ancestor furnished his or her birth date.

Millions of original ancestral records exist. You can't know what interesting tidbits await you in these records until you look.

14 READ ENOUGH RECORDS TO BE CONFIDENT THAT YOU HAVE CORRECT INFORMATION. One original record may be enough to convince you and others that you've identified an ancestor's mother. Your degree of confidence will depend on what the record is and how reliable it may be. Sometimes you need to study many records and put the clues together before you can say with certainty that you have found that

find it on the web

■ Cyndi's List

<www.cyndislist.com>: Links to thousands of genealogy-related sites.

■ Family History Library and Family History Centers

<www.familysearch.org>

■ Georgia State Archives

<www.sos.state.ga.us/archives/rs/sarl.htm>: Offers the quickest link to other state archives. State archives with online databases or indexes include Michigan, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and Wisconsin. Many state archives' Web sites have information about records available for research at that facility or in that state.

■ National Archives

<www.nara.gov/genealogy/>

■ National Genealogical Society

4527 17th St. N.
Arlington, VA 22207
<www.ngsgenealogy.org>

mother's name.

Evaluating documents and data is a skill that improves with experience. And one thing is clear: The more records you read, the more you learn about your ancestor's life and times.

15 REMEMBER THAT NO BOOK OR WEB SITE CONTAINS ALL YOUR ANCESTORS. Have you ever heard someone brag, "I just found all my mother's ancestors on the XYZ database"? Such a person is sadly mistaken and misinformed. By their nature, books, Web sites and other compilations cannot be complete.

Besides, it's impossible to identify *all* your ancestors. The records that help us build our genealogies rarely extend much earlier than the 16th century. In some ancestral lines, we're lucky to confirm ancestors alive in 1750.

Don't worry about how many ancestors you identify or how far back their lives extend. Enjoy the ancestors you find and seek to learn as much about them as you can.

16 REMEMBER THAT HALF YOUR ANCESTORS WERE FEMALE. Have you ever heard the comment, "I don't have to work on my father's side of the family; my cousin's already done it"? Did that cousin include the female ancestors or present only the male line—the continuous surname? In either case, the new genealogist in that family probably still has plenty to do. (For more on finding your female ancestors, see the April 2001 *Family Tree Magazine*.)

17 STUDY THE ANCESTOR'S CLUSTER OF FRIENDS, RELATIVES AND NEIGHBORS. Not only does this strategy give you a better picture of the ancestor's life; it also helps you find the harder-to-get pieces of the puzzle—maiden names, parents' names and places of origin. Think of it as going on a trip: If the

on the bookshelf

- *Ancestry's Red Book*, revised edition, edited by Alice Eichholz (Ancestry, \$49.95): Information about records and research in each state.
- *The Genealogist's Companion & Sourcebook* by Emily Anne Croom (Betterway Books, \$16.99): Hundreds of US public sources, where to find them and how to use them.
- *A Genealogist's Guide to Discovering Your Immigrant & Ethnic Ancestors* by Sharon DeBartolo Carmack (Betterway Books, \$18.99)
- *Organizing Your Family History Search* by Sharon DeBartolo Carmack (Betterway Books, \$17.99)
- *The Sleuth Book for Genealogists* by Emily Anne Croom (Betterway Books, \$18.99): Focuses on genealogy problem solving; contains case studies and a detailed guide to documentation.
- *Unpuzzling Your Past*, 4th edition, by Emily Anne Croom (Betterway Books, \$18.99): Chapters on beginning, interviewing, research, records and sources, old handwriting and more.

road from A to B is washed out, you may have to travel from A to C to D to reach B.

The same is true in genealogy. When you're trying to identify a female ancestor's parents, you probably need her maiden name first. To get that piece of the puzzle, you may have to discover her previous residence in order to look for a marriage record. Once you have the maiden name, you may need to study her neighbors or identify her brothers and let their records lead you to her parents. The success that comes from this process is what gets so many genealogists "hooked."

18 EXPECT YOUR FAMILY NAME TO BE SPELLED VARIOUS WAYS IN PUBLIC DOCUMENTS. Clerks and census takers recorded what they heard or thought they heard. It doesn't matter what the family called themselves or how they spelled their name. Think creatively as you look in indexes and records. The family name *McClelland*, for instance, might be spelled *McClellan*, *McLeland* or *McLellan*. Such variations require that you look in different parts of each index you use and think of other ways to spell the name.

Many families tell a story of brothers who moved away and added an *e* to the end of the surname, while those who remained behind kept spelling the name without the final *e*. Don't be fooled: While brothers may have initiated such a change, you will find the same family with the name spelled both ways in the records.

19 BE ALERT FOR ANCESTORS WHO HAVE SURNAMES AS GIVEN NAMES. Is the surname the mother's or a grandmother's maiden name? Another relative's name? Or simply a name the parents liked? Only research can answer these questions. From actual census records, here are some examples that also illustrate the fun in research, since these names make interesting combinations: Ransom Cash, Valentine Power, Hardy Flowers, Eaton Cotton, Green House, Green P. Rice, DeForest Menace.

20 WATCH FOR NAMING PATTERNS. Does the same name appear in several branches or generations of the family? Can you find out why? Recurring given names and middle names sometimes are clues to the names of grandparents, great-grandparents or other relatives.



21 BE AWARE OF COMMON NICKNAMES AND ABBREVIATIONS, since they are often used in records. Nicknames include *Molly*, *Polly*, *Mamie* and *Minnie* for *Mary*; *Betty*, *Bess* or *Betsey* (among others) for *Elizabeth*; *Mattie* and *Patsy* for *Martha*. Common abbreviations include *Jno* for *John* and *Jonathan*, *Jas* for *James*, *Chas* for *Charles*, and *Wm* for *William*.

22 ASK WITHIN THE FAMILY ABOUT ANCESTRAL RECORDS. Ancestral papers within the family vary with the family but can include letters and diaries, scrapbooks and photographs, Bibles and religious certificates, school records and yearbooks, wedding albums and baby books, birth and death certificates, membership and voter registration cards and others. You'll never know if you don't ask!

23 USE RECORDS IN FOUR JURISDICTIONS: LOCAL, COUNTY, STATE AND FEDERAL. Local sources include cemeteries, newspapers, schools, business records and city government records, sometimes including vital registrations (birth, death, marriage). In most states, offices in the county courthouses maintain vital records, land and probate records, voter registrations and court records, including some naturalizations of the foreign-born.

State government sources can include state land grants, tax records, legislative petitions, prison and mental hospital records, state censuses and records from colonial, territorial, or Confederate governments. Federal government sources are numerous—especially census, military, immigration, naturalization, federal land and Social Security application records. The National Archives <www.nara.gov/genealogy/> makes available millions of federal records to researchers at its Washington, DC, headquarters, at regional branches, by mail and on microfilm.

24 TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE MANY PLACES AVAILABLE FOR RESEARCH. Many public and university libraries have materials you'll find useful, including census records, newspapers, county histories and historical periodicals. Some materials, especially newspapers, are available via interlibrary loan. State archives,

consult your local telephone directory under Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints or see <www.familysearch.org/Eng/Library/FHC/frameset_fhc.asp>.

Increasingly, some Web sites have searchable databases of transcribed records, and some original records have been digitized for online use. These sites are constantly chang-

26 READ ALL KNOWN CENSUS RECORDS FOR YOUR FOCUS ANCESTOR. Created every 10 years since 1790, federal census records help us identify family groups, place ancestors in a given place at a given time, and estimate birth dates and places. Beginning in 1850, the census named free persons in each household and, beginning in 1880, it showed each person's relationship to the head of household. Census schedules from 1790 to 1920 are now available for research; the 1930 census will be opened in 2002.

You can use the census records on microfilm and, increasingly, on CD-ROM at libraries, Family History Centers or National Archives branches. Some Web sites have census transcriptions, and some have selected digitized images of the originals. To find ancestors in federal census records, you need to know the state where they lived in the census year. Many indexes exist to help you find them in the records. Many states have also made their own enumerations of their population.

Censuses are valuable resources for researchers, but use them cautiously, as you would any other record—census takers and families sometimes made mistakes.

27 LOOK FOR ANCESTRAL NAMES IN RECORDS THE ANCESTORS DIDN'T CREATE. In county records, names of witnesses and neighbors can be as important as the names of the people buying and selling land, or the bride and groom. Uncles sometimes named nieces and nephews in their wills. You may find significant information by reading records of your ancestor's relatives, friends and neighbors. Even identifying an ancestor in a given place at a given time tells you the person was alive and suggests where to look for more records.

28 RECORD ALL INFORMATION GIVEN IN A DOCUMENT. When you find an ancestor mentioned in a document, copy all the information or photocopy the whole document. As your search progresses, you may need more details from the document.

29 ENJOY UNPUZZLING YOUR FAMILY! It's a fascinating experience. 🍷

EMILY ANNE CROOM is the author of four books on genealogy, including the best-selling *Unpuzzling Your Past* (Betterway Books, \$18.99), recently released in an updated and revised fourth edition, from which this article is adapted.

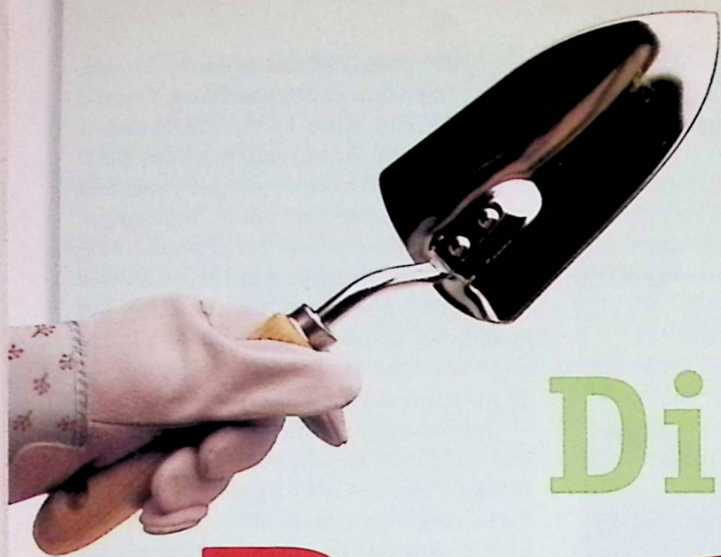


state historical societies and large genealogical societies often have impressive collections of research materials. Some state archives also have searchable databases and indexes online.

The largest genealogical library is the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. Its huge collection is available for use by non-members as well as members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Through this library's worldwide Family History Centers, researchers can rent microfilm and microfiche of millions of ancestral records. You can search the catalog online at <www.familysearch.org/Eng/Library/FHLC/frameset_fhc.asp>; to find the local Family History Center nearest you,

ing and enlarging.

25 PRACTICE READING HANDWRITING OF THE PAST. It's usually easier to read this handwriting than to duplicate it, and experience builds your reading skill. Be aware of quirks such as the old-style double *s* that can appear to be *fs* or *p*. When you find a word that's difficult to read, try finding the same word elsewhere in the same handwriting. Get a photocopy if possible. Ask yourself what word would make sense in the context of the sentence or name. More experience with records of the same locale usually helps you identify names. (For more on reading old handwriting, see page 56.)



Take our guided tour of the world's oldest and biggest grass-roots genealogy Web site—and make sure you're getting the most out of **RootsWeb**.

Digging into RootsWeb

Linda Lawson grew up thinking she had only a few relatives. Her grandfather's family scattered when he was 8, due to his father's death and his mother's abandonment of five of the six children. Because Lawson's grandfather rarely discussed his family, she knew little of her own heritage.

Years later, when Lawson visited a RootsWeb West Virginia Web site, she was surprised to find a message referencing the surname *Hinzman*—the maiden name of the woman who'd left her children so many years earlier. Although the posting was two years old, Lawson contacted the author, who e-mailed her back and in turn introduced her to many new cousins. Two cousins sent her the first photos of her great-grandmother she'd ever seen. "When I opened that e-mail," Lawson recalls, "I sat and cried."

Lawson's success is only one of thousands spawned by the RootsWeb network <www.rootsweb.com>. Ancestors have been found, living family reunited and Internet cousins introduced.

RootsWeb is the granddaddy of Internet genealogy, with a history that reaches back to the Dark Ages of Usenet and UNIX. It began as a small dream and evolved into a grand vision of unlimited access to free genealogical resources, assembled and put online by volunteers. Last year, its ambitions outstripping its not-for-profit resources, RootsWeb was purchased by Ancestry.com <www.ancestry.com>, which promised that access would remain free forever.

As of the middle of this year, the RootsWeb community

hosted 22,118 genealogy mailing lists and shipped more than 2 billion e-mails annually. Its WorldConnect project totaled more than 70 million names, and nearly a million entries have been submitted to the RootsWeb Surname List. If information about your ancestor is online, it's probably sitting in a database somewhere on this site.

In addition to its own offerings, RootsWeb plays host to some of the biggest and best genealogical sites on the Internet. These include Cyndi's List <www.cyndislist.com>, the USGenWeb <www.usgenweb.org> and WorldGenWeb <www.worldgenweb.org> projects, the Immigrant Ships Transcribers Guild <istg.rootsweb.com>, cemetery photos, FreeBMD (births, marriages, deaths) of England and Wales <freebmd.rootsweb.com> and the Obituary Daily Times <www.rootsweb.com/~obituary/>.

In fact, RootsWeb is so huge and sprawling that it's easy to lose your way and not get the most out of this invaluable site. Here's a road map to help your next visit to RootsWeb be all that it can be:

WorldConnect: Instant family trees

<worldconnect.rootsweb.com>

Imagine what it would be like if everyone in the genealogy community uploaded their GEDCOM files to a central location, where they could then be freely searched. Well, it's already happening, and its name is WorldConnect.

This project, which began in 1999, is a collection of GEDCOMs (the universal file format for family trees) containing more than 70 million names, with almost 4

By Nancy Hendrickson



Photos by Al Parrish



million more added each month. The GEDCOMs can be uploaded by anyone, with the submitter retaining total control over the data, including the ability to remove individuals, revise and update data. Best yet, the whole shebang is searchable.

To contribute to the project, just create a GEDCOM file with your genealogy software (see the June 2001 issue of *Family Tree Magazine* for tips on how). Then, using an easy-to-fill-out online form, choose a user code for each tree you want to upload. During the submission process, you'll be given a number of options. These include whether you want others to be able to download your file (limited to six generations), or whether you want to remove or clean all information about living people (defined as anyone born within the last 100 years who doesn't have a death or burial date).

To search WorldConnect, you can enter as little as a surname. Using this method, I entered *Hendrickson* and got 5,705 hits. Optionally, search parameters can include a given name, place and date of birth and death, or the names of the father, mother or spouse. You can also check a "fuzzy search" box to use Soundex, which looks for spelling variations on a name. I changed my own search to look for *John Hendrickson*, with a father named

Aaron. All three hits were "my" John.

When you click on a name, you have the option of seeing all the names in that particular GEDCOM, or having the file displayed as a pedigree chart or Ahnentafel chart. Remember, none of this information has been checked by anyone other than the submitter, so use it as a jump-start for your research rather than gospel. Unlike some GEDCOM sites, however, many WorldConnect files do contain source information, making it easier to verify and build on what you find.

WorldConnect also contains a feature that connects researchers in a very special way—Post-em notes, the electronic equivalent of a sticky note. Using Post-ems, you can let other researchers know you're searching this particular family, note corrections to data or place Web site URLs for further reference. Once attached to an individual record, the Post-em will stay with that record, even if the file is updated.

Although WorldConnect is usually used to search for a surname, try leaving the surname box empty and just entering a place name in the location search box. Using this type of search you can find GEDCOMs containing neighbors, in-laws or allied families who lived in the same locale as your ancestors.

RootsWeb Surname List (RSL): Connect with kin

<rs1.rootsweb.com>

Want to find an Internet cousin who's already researched your family tree? Start here.

The RSL is a surname registry containing nearly a million entries, submitted by more than 194,000 genealogists. Associated with each surname are dates, places and the e-mail address of the researcher. With new entries arriving at the rate of 700 a day, your chances of connecting with another researcher through the RSL are excellent.

Search the RSL by entering a surname and selecting an exact or Soundex search option. The database will return a list of all of the matching surnames. If you get too many results, narrow the search by choosing an optional Location parameter.

The results are listed in a table format, with headings of: Surname, From, To, Migration, Submitter and Comments. The From and To columns note the range of dates the researcher has established about that surname. A typical listing might read, "1850 to now." The Migration column lists all known moves, and will look like this: "OH>IA>IN>MO>ID>OR." If you click on the submitter's name tag, you can access his or her e-mail address, as well as a list of every other surname that person has submitted to RSL.

If you have a common surname, try to define your search as narrowly as possible. And when you find a researcher you think is tackling the same branch of the family, take the time to look over the list of other surnames that person has submitted—it will give you clues to see if you have the right family. There's no point in inundating a Smith researcher with e-mails if she's not tracing your Smith branch.

To submit your own entries to the RSL, follow the directions on the site to create a name tag, which will then identify all of your submissions. Next, just fill out the form for each surname you're submitting. Be sure to keep your name tag and password information: You'll need it if you ever want to edit the data you've submitted or change your contact e-mail address.



Mailing Lists: You've got mail!

<lists.rootsweb.com>

At last count, RootsWeb hosted 22,118 genealogy mailing lists, on topics ranging from surnames and US counties to research techniques and ship passenger lists. Because everyone who subscribes to a mailing list has an interest in that topic, you have a good chance of connecting with other researchers or receiving research assistance on your subject.

Depending on the size and activity level of a list, you'll receive anywhere from dozens of e-mails a day to one or two a month. When you first subscribe, you have the option to receive messages in mail or digest mode. In mail mode you'll receive a copy of every e-mail sent to the list; in digest mode, several messages are combined and sent as a single e-mail.

Once subscribed, you'll receive a confirmation e-mail, along with a welcome message with any rules on posting to the list. This e-mail will also include instructions on how to unsubscribe, so tuck it away in a safe place.

RootsWeb mailing lists are like small communities. Each has its own personality. Some neighbors will help as much as possible; others will only occasionally take part in group discussions. John Martin, a newcomer to Internet genealogy, says of his experience, "I couldn't believe how much total strangers were willing to help me, with both lookups and research suggestions. Mailing lists are where I've had the most breakthroughs."

You can browse through an index of list names, which are grouped by surname, US and international locations, and "other." Surname lists are alphabetical, US lists by states and international by country. Or you can search all of the RootsWeb lists to find one that discusses your surname or the place where your ancestor lived (go to <searches2.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/listsearch.pl>).

Use surname lists to network with other people who are researching your name. Some surnames don't have their own mailing lists, but many lists serve as umbrellas for surnames with a similar spelling, or variations. For example, the Wyckliffe list includes such variations as Wickliffe and Wycliffe.

Location lists are for people who are researching a specific locale. Some cover statewide interests; others focus on the county level. I belong to the Shelby County, Ind., mailing list, which is administered by Phyllis Fleming, the USGenWeb coordinator for the county. Whenever Fleming adds new data to the Web site, she

automatically posts a notice to the mailing list. This keeps all of us on the list up-to-date on anything new coming online.

The "other" category contains a hodgepodge of lists. For instance, if your ancestor was a Friend, you might want to join the Quaker mailing list. Or, if Great-great-grandpa was in the California Gold Rush, a priceless nugget may be found on the Goldseekers list.

And let's not forget the Roots-L list—the oldest one of its kind on the Internet. With thousands of subscribers, this list is the place to request help, ask about techniques, refer researchers to great new sites, ask about nicknames or share a software problem.

Because of Roots-L's size, it has more guidelines than most lists, though its guiding principles are basic politeness and common sense. Instructions on subscribing are at <www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/>. From the same page, follow the link to search the entire 13-plus years of archived messages.

If you're new to mailing lists, you'll be tempted to subscribe to a dozen right off the bat. But until you get a feel for the number of messages you'll receive daily, you may want to subscribe to just a few. You can also search the archives (by year) of any mailing list you're interested in without subscribing—you may find that someone has already posted the clues to your ancestry you're after.

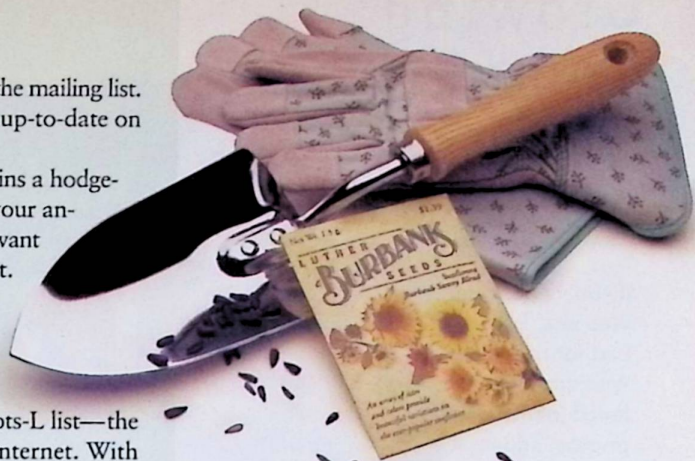
Roots-L State Resources: Really going places

<www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/usa.html>

Tucked away on a RootsWeb back road is an often overlooked treasure—all the odd bits and pieces that make up its US state resources. Were your ancestors Hawkeyes? Click on the Iowa link to read about the Iowa Pioneers Project, or study a guide to Iowa census schedules. Do you wonder what covered bridges your Kentucky ancestor might have traveled, or about the Kentucky long rifle he carried? Click on the link for the Bluegrass State.

The State Resources pages contain links to just about every useful genealogical and historical resource available for each state. Not only that, but within each state's pages is a box to search for surnames in that state's RSL database.

This section also contains gems you'd be hard-pressed to find elsewhere, such as a transcription of the graves in the Cairo Cemetery,



Extras at RootsWeb

The RootsWeb calendar currently has more than 3,800 family reunions and events posted. Is your family's gathering listed yet?

Go to <resources.rootsweb.com/~calendar/cgi-bin/calendar.cgi?calname=FAMILY_REUNIONS> to view reunions by month, or follow the links to see an index of all posted events. Click on Add Event to announce your family's reunion, wedding anniversary or birthday party. Don't worry if your plans change—you can go back and edit at any time.

But that's hardly the only "extra" at RootsWeb. In fact, so many goodies are tucked into this sprawling site that it's easy to miss them. Don't overlook these other handy tools:

- **Social Security Death Index (SSDI)**
<ssdi.genealogy.rootsweb.com>:
66,125,666 searchable records.
- **Soundex Converter**
<resources.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/soundexconverter>
- **Find a Place (US Town Finder)**
<resources.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/townco.cgi>
- **Genealogical and Historical Resources**
<www.rootsweb.com/~websites/uspages.html>
- **Surname Websites**
<www.rootsweb.com/~websites/surnames>

Growing Your Own Home on the Web

If you've hesitated about building a family Web site, RootsWeb may change your mind. Just for the asking, you can get unlimited Web space on its system, along with detailed instructions on uploading files and photos, adding a page counter and a guest book. Just go to <accounts.rootswb.com>.

You can request multiple Web sites, even if they aren't for genealogy. Got a green thumb? Create a "Nancy's Garden" site, complete with photos of your vegetable garden or apple trees. Love cats? Share "Tiger's Antics" with the world.

RootsWeb does have a few rules governing its free Web sites—no publication of copyrighted materials without permission and no commercial material, for example—but for the most part, you can create whatever personal pages you want.

If you see yourself as a potential Webmaster, check out the Webmasters FAQ <rootswb.com/rootswb/wizards>. This document will answer your questions on setting up a new account, adding bells and whistles to your site, and uploading pages. If you'd like to see what more than 5,000 other people have created on their free sites, visit the genealogy index <freepages.rootswb.com/directory/genealogy.html>.



Tippecanoe County, Ind., or a history of Antoine Janis, a French fur trapper.

Although resources vary per state, you'll usually find links to general resources; archives, libraries, special collections; military; cemeteries; photographs; societies; and vital records.

Searches: Find your trees in the forest

<www.rootswb.com>

Digging page by page through RootsWeb's archives, databases and mailing lists is a task best left to its powerful search engines. You can choose a Search Everything option from the Research Template on the home page, or limit your search to various parts of the system, such as Web sites, message boards and family trees.

For example, the Global Surname Search (found under Search Engines and Databases on the home page) will scour the entire message board system on a worldwide basis. RootsWeb and Ancestry recently merged their message boards; the system is now arranged by surname, locality and topic. You can search each category or narrow your query by combing through the numerous subcategories. Once you find the board you want, you can sort the messages by thread, date or type (Bible, birth, cemetery, census, obit, will, etc.). Try the advanced search form for the most precise searches: by a text or subject keyword, specific submitter, date range and Soundex.

If you use the GenSeeker search engine (also under Search Engines and Databases), it will go through all of the online documents registered at RootsWeb. This engine allows both simple and Boolean (and/or) searches. My search of the surname *Dimmitt* returned 67 hits, and included original land patentees in Wells County, Ind., a family tree going back to 1728 and mention of the family in a Tippecanoe, Ind., biography.

One of my favorite engines is the one that goes through the USGenWeb archives, looking at every text file ever posted to a USGenWeb page. A *Dimmitt* search there yielded 626 hits, spanning obituaries, marriage records and cemetery transcripts.

To get the most from RootsWeb's mighty resources, don't limit your search to the box at the top of the home page—scroll down to Search Engines and Databases, and pick

it clean. Then check out the searches organized by category <searches.rootswb.com> and by county or state <resources.rootswb.com/USA/>.

Guides and newsletters: Keeping up-to-date

<rwguide.rootswb.com>

If you're new to genealogy or delving into unfamiliar research waters, log on to RootsWeb's Guide to Tracing Family Trees. Authors Julia M. Case, Rhonda McClure and Myra Vanderpool Gormley have pooled their considerable genealogical knowledge to create more than 50 lessons on subjects ranging from genealogy fundamentals to the Social Security Death Index.

Each lesson contains an overview of the subject, defines terminology, offers research tips and tells where to find records. The lesson on marriage records, for example, tells where to find marriage records or evidence of a marriage, and defines marriage-related terms such as *banns* and *bonds*. You'll also learn how other countries record marriages, and where to search for those records.

Case and Gormley are also co-editors of two RootsWeb newsletters, RootsWeb Review and Missing Links. Both will arrive in your e-mail box—and those of about 850,000 others—every Thursday, for free. RootsWeb Review updates readers on new mailing lists, genealogy sites and RootsWeb databases, and gives tips on using WorldConnect. Missing Links is packed with helpful articles, submissions of "found" genealogical treasures looking for a home and readers' success stories. You can subscribe to both from the home page.

When Linda Lawson began climbing her family tree, she knew of only three cousins. Her chance reading of a RootsWeb e-mail eventually led to an in-person reunion with 66 people related to her by blood or marriage. "I met strangers," she says, "but left with family."

Her success came through a RootsWeb West Virginia site, but could just as easily have been the result of a mailing list, WorldConnect file or message board. Where on RootsWeb will you find your family? ♣

Contributing editor NANCY HENDRICKSON also wrote this issue's feature on finding your Native American roots (page 34).

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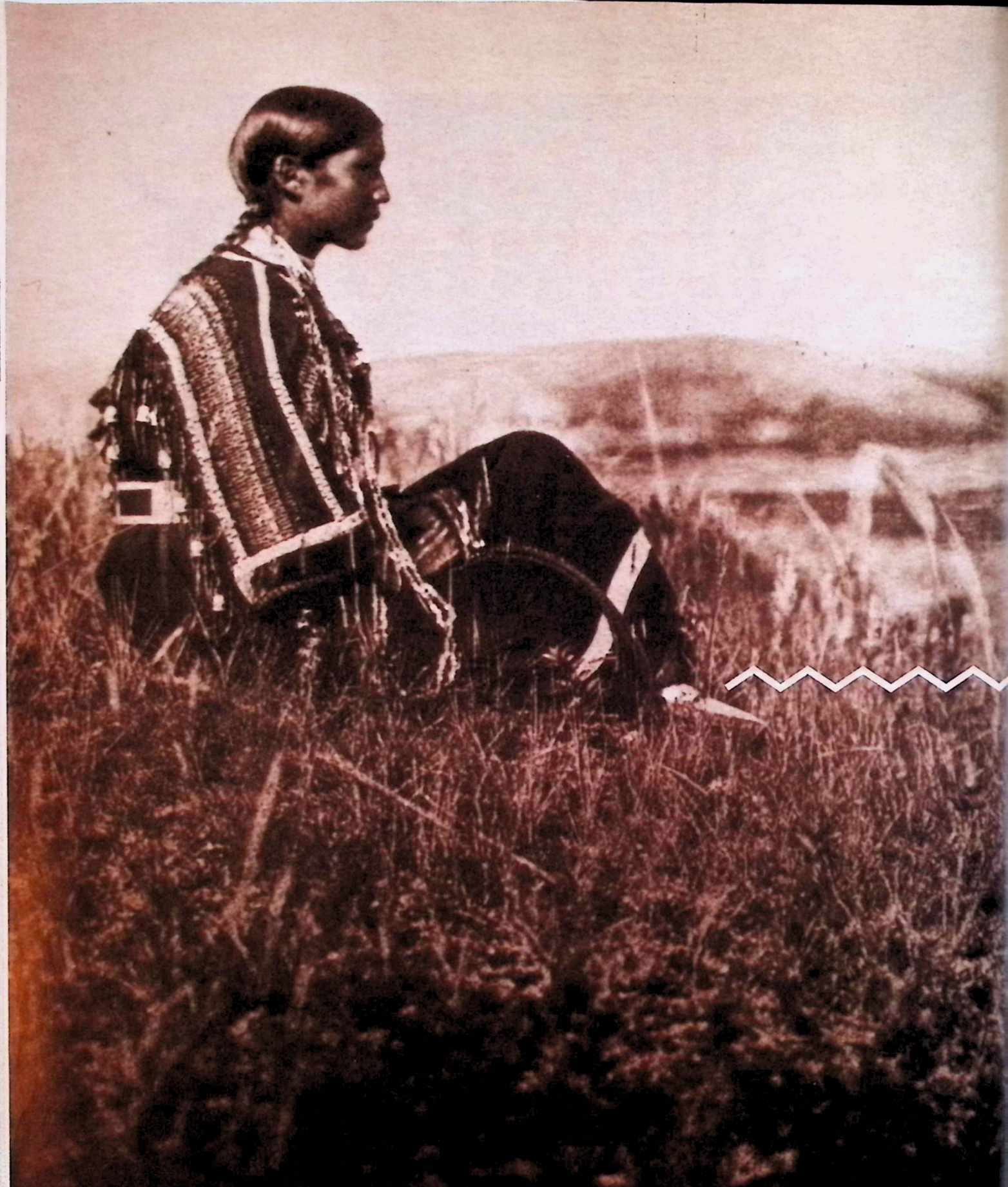
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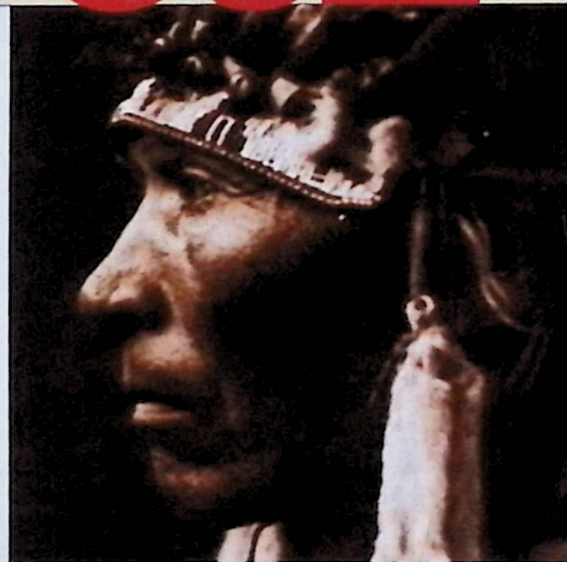
Use access code 26-5675-f563-6500 to take advantage of this exclusive offer.





Tribal

T I E S



Does your lineage lead to the first Americans? Connect your family tree to its native roots with our five-step guide to unearthing American Indian ancestry.

By Nancy Hendrickson

From 1907 to 1930, Edward S. Curtis attempted to document traditional American Indian culture through photography. The result was The North American Indian, 20 volumes of photogravures portraying 80 tribes, including the Piegan (left) and Nez Perce (right).

NATIVE AMERICAN PHOTOS FROM THE NORTH AMERICAN INDIAN BY EDWARD S. CURTIS; MAP ILLUSTRATIONS: ©2001 ELIZABETH WOLF; TEXTILE PHOTO: ©GEORGE H. H. HUEY/CORBIS; SAND PAINTING PHOTO: ©CHRISTINE OSBORNE/CORBIS

I grew up in a generation that both romanticized and vilified Native Americans. Watching actors such as Jeff Chandler and Donna Reed assume Indian faces, I remained blissfully ignorant of centuries of true-life miseries. Back then, claiming Native American roots would have been as unthinkable as choosing to play an Indian in backyard gunfights.

During the years I traced my own roots, I knew nothing about American Indian genealogy. Since my family was from Northern European stock, I figured I had no need to cross the threshold into researching the first Americans. But all that changed a couple of years ago, after I discovered that my great-

niece came from a mix of African- and Native American heritage.

Society's view of American Indians has changed a lot since I was growing up, from movie roles to the role-playing in America's backyards. For my great-niece—and millions of others—American Indian roots have become a source of pride. According to the 2000 census, the number of people who identified themselves solely as Indian and Alaska Native grew by 26 percent from 1990, to about 2.5 million. Add to that the option of declaring a multiracial identity and the number jumps to 4.1 million.

As curiosity about American Indian tribes has grown, so has the interest in tracing Native American roots. But exploring this heritage will take you into new territory, and away from familiar research habits. The federal census won't be the backbone of your investigation. And, although you may still find clues in land and military records, you'll be delving into regional files, federal "rolls" and a culture still deeply rooted in oral tradition. Your quest will introduce you to a realm of more than 550 federally recognized tribes whose members speak more than 250 languages.

If your search takes you to one of the "Five Civilized Tribes" (Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creek and Seminole), you'll appreciate the availability of records such as the Dawes Rolls—a listing of more than 100,000 tribal members. Researching smaller, less-documented tribes may take you to the National Archives, tribal offices and historical societies. Your research skills will be challenged and your resourcefulness tested—but the rewards of finding your connections to this continent's first people will make it worth the effort.

Here are five steps to help you get started:

1. Start with your family.

Like Alex Haley's search for his African-American roots, your search for Native American origins may have been inspired by snippets of an oral tradition or family legend. Maybe you heard someone mention an "Indian princess" or perhaps it's just a rumor of Indian blood. Whatever the case, the best place to begin your research is at home.

Because of past animosity toward Native Americans, many families hid Indian blood, and may still be uncomfortable disclosing old family stories about Indian ancestors. "It's im-

portant to talk with your family as much as possible. Obtain as much information regarding your ancestors as you can," advises Meg Hacker, director of archival operations at the National Archives, Southwest Region. "I would recommend sitting down and talking with your family. Ask questions: Why does your family believe they are Native American? Go through family papers, Bibles and letters, looking for birth, death and marriage records."

Clues about Indian ancestry can surface from unexpected sources. A name you vaguely remember hearing as a child may be your first link to a shadowy past. An old tombstone may contain a reference to an "Indian" name or place.

Tony Mack McClure, author of *Cherokee Proud* (Chu-Nan-Nee Books, \$22.95), encourages researchers to listen carefully to every old story "regardless of how ridiculous it may seem," and then to document every word. "A minuscule [piece] of information may seem unimportant at first, but could later prove to be the key that unlocks the mystery."

The most important mystery, of course, is the name of your ancestor's tribe—it's the key to finding records, as well as discovering your

Northeast

TERRITORY

Area bordered by Canada on the north, Great Lakes on the west, Tennessee River to the south and the Atlantic Ocean to the east.

TRIBES

Abenaki, Algonkin, Cayuga, Delaware, Huron, Iroquois, Kickapoo, Mohawk, Narraganset, Penobscot, Ottawa, Oneida, Seneca, Shawnee, Tuscarora, Wampanoag.

■ Delaware Tribe of Indians

<www.delawaretribeofindians.nsn.us>

■ Four Huron Wampum Records

<www.canadiana.org/cgi-bin/ECO/mtq?id=592d0157c5&doc=06665>

■ Mohawk and Iroquois Index

<www.kahonwes.com/index1.htm>

■ Mohawk Nation of Akwesasne

<www.peacetree.com/akwesasne/>

■ Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs

<hometown.aol.com/miketben2/miktben7.htm>

■ Oneida Nation

<www.oneida-nation.net>

■ Oneida Nation of Wisconsin

<www.oneidanation.org>

■ People of the Standing Stone

<www.peace4turtleisland.org/pages/oneida.htm>

■ The Seneca Nation of Indians

<www.sni.org>

■ The Six Nations

<www.ratical.org/many_worlds/6Nations/>

■ Traditional Abenaki of Mazipskwik and Related Bands

<hmt.com/abenaki/>

■ Tuscarora and Six Nations Web Sites

<tuscaroras.com/index.html>

■ United Tribe of Shawnee Indians

<www.sunflower.org/~hdqrs/>

■ Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head

<www.wampanoagtribe.net>

■ The Wampum Chronicles

<www.wampumchronicles.com>



ancestors' culture and heritage. Look for that information buried in family records, vital statistics, letters or diaries. If you don't find it there, you'll need to expand your research into tribal histories and migration patterns.

2. Find your ancestor's tribe.

To discover your ancestor's tribe, you need to know enough about tribal history and migration to recognize an error in assumption, says Hacker. For example, if someone in your family tells you that your Native American connection is a Cherokee tribe living in Michigan, you'll realize that scenario is impossible: The Cherokee migrated through many states, but Michigan wasn't one of them.

If your family hails from present-day New Mexico, you can probably narrow your first search down to Southwest tribes such as the Navajo or Apache. If your ancestors lived in the area around Lake Michigan or Lake Superior, looking into Chippewa (Ojibwa) roots is a logical first step.

Begin your search for your ancestor's tribe by locating the tribes that lived within the same area as your ancestor, and during the same period in time. *The Source: A Guidebook of American Genealogy* (Ancestry, \$49.95) contains a detailed map of "Indian Tribes, Reservations and Settlements in the United States," printed in 1939. Consult the *Atlas of the North American Indian* (Checkmark Books, \$21.95) for maps that chronicle tribes' movements over the centuries. And you'll find two excellent tribal maps online: a pre-European contact map of North America <kstrom.net/isk/maps/cultmap.html> and an overview of Native American Tribes, Culture Areas and Linguistic Stocks <ilt.columbia.edu/k12/naha/maps/nausa.html> (click on "Tribe Finder" to find links to tribal histories).

3. Learn tribal culture and history.

America's stormy history with indigenous tribes spanned centuries and countless conflicts. Searching for Native American roots means honing your skills as a historian. Without a basic understanding of tribal history and its historical context within the larger perspective of



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Study your ancestral tribe's history and its context in US history. Apache were forced onto reservations after Geronimo's Resistance in the 1880s.

American expansion, it will be far more difficult for you to dig out your roots. As a Native American researcher, you may become as adept at unraveling the ins and outs of the Grattan Massacre as a Civil War buff is at explaining the ramifications of Gettysburg.

In some cases, you'll need to know the migration patterns of a particular tribe or the many areas in which it was "resettled." For instance, over a 150-year time span, the Cherokee lived in the Carolinas, Georgia, Arkansas and Oklahoma.

If your family belonged to one of the Iroquois linguistic groups, you'll learn that the culture was *matrilineal*—descended through the female line. Children belonged to their mother's clan or tribe. Similarly, in the Ojibwa tribe, women controlled their homes and the family's property. Hopi women owned the property and their husbands worked to benefit the wife's family.

You may also encounter surprises with naming patterns and kinship systems. At birth, Plains Indian babies were given names that had a connection with their clan. Later in life, however, those children often received another name that reflected their personalities or deeds. Europeans frequently gave yet another (Anglo) name to the American Indians they interacted with. In the Wasco and Wishram tribes of the Interior Plateau, children received several new names during the course of their lives as they achieved higher rank or social position. Nicknames were also common.

find it on the web

- About.com's Native American Culture <nativeamculture.about.com/culture/nativeamculture/>
- Bureau of Indian Affairs Tribal Leaders Directory <www.doi.gov/bia/areas/agency.html>
- Cyndi's List—Native American <www.cyndislist.com/native.htm>
- Federally Recognized American Indian Tribes <www.indians.org/Resource/FedTribes99/fedtribes99.html>
- Heart of America Indian Center <members.aol.com/Indianbrav/haic.html>
- Index of Native American Resources on the Internet <www.hanksville.org/NAresources/>
- Indian Tribes—Index by State <www.kstrom.net/isk/maps/tribesbystate.html>
- National Museum of the American Indian <www.nmai.si.edu>
- Native American Genealogy Resources <www.distantcousin.com/Links/Ethnic/Native/>
- Native American Links <www.accessgenealogy.com/native>
- Native American Nations <www.nativeculture.com/lisamitten/nations.html>
- Native American Records and Databases <genealogy.about.com/hobbies/genealogy/cs/indianrecords/>
- Native American Resource Guide <www.usc.edu/jisd/archives/ethnicstudies/indian_main.html>
- Native American Resources <www.dhc.net/~design/namerica.htm>
- Native American Resources <www.rootsweb.com/~usgwnar/>
- Native Web <www.nativeweb.org/resources/genealogy_tracing_roots_>
- State Historical Society of Missouri <www.system.missouri.edu/shs/nativeam.html>
- Tawodi's American Indian Genealogy <members.aol.com/tawodi/>

Great Basin, Interior Plateau and Northwest Coast

TERRITORY

Western half of Wyoming, Montana and Colorado; Washington, Oregon, Utah, Nevada, Idaho.

TRIBES

Bannock, Cayuse, Chinook, Clatsop, Duwamish, Flathead, Haida, Kutenai, Klamath, Nez Perce, Paiute, Shoshone, Spokane, Suquamish, Tillamook, Ute, Wenatchee, Wishram, Yakama.

■ Chinook

<logos.uoregon.edu/explore/oregon/chinook.html>

■ Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs (Paiute)

<www.warmsprings.com>

■ Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

<www.umatilla.nsn.us>

■ Klamath Tribes

<www.klamathtribes.org/history.html>

■ Kuiu Thlingit Nation

<www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/5803/>

■ Northern Ute

<www.ubtanet.com/~northernute/>

■ Official Nez Perce Tribe Web Site

<www.nezperce.org>

■ Shoshone On-line!

<tlc.wtp.net/shoshone.htm>

■ Southern Ute

<www.southern-ute.nsn.us>

■ Spokane Tribe

<www.wellpinit.wednet.edu/spokan/spokan.html>

■ Suquamish Tribe

<www.suquamish.nsn.us>

■ Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska

<www.tlingit-haida.org>



Regional libraries or historical societies are a good bet for tracking down information on the tribes in your ancestor's area. The genealogical periodicals that cover the region where your ancestor lived may contain sought-after information. One of the best indexes to these periodicals is the *Periodical Source Index (PERSI)* <acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy/persi.html> (searchable at genealogical libraries and by subscription to <www.ancestry.com>). *PERSI* is a subject index that covers genealogy and local history periodicals since 1800; it contains more than 1.1 million index entries from nearly 6,000 titles. Using *PERSI*, you can find articles on subjects ranging from Ojibwa decorative quillwork to Seminole Negro-Indian Scouts, 1870-81.

Equally important are firsthand narratives

such as those found in *Wisdomkeepers: Meetings with Native American Spiritual Elders* (Beyond Words Publishing, \$22.95). In this book, 18 elders from different tribes discuss the location of spiritual places, the names for native homelands, historical details and sketches of family life. Stories such as that of Hopi Thomas Banyacya can offer insight into your ancestors' culture: The Hopi believe that Big Mountain on Black Mesa in Arizona is the center of the universe, and that the spiritual ceremonies performed on the mesa help determine the balance and harmony of nature. "We're the first people here," says Banyacya in *Wisdomkeepers*. "We're the

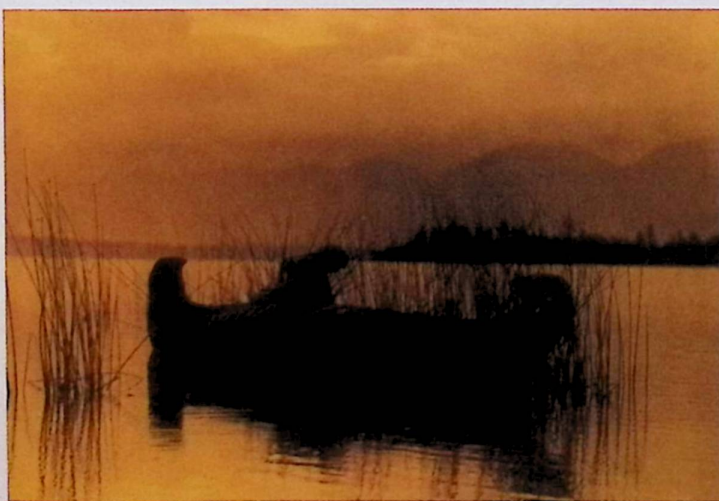
aborigines of this continent. We live here with the permission of Great Spirit."

4. Know what records are available.

Most genealogists depend on federal and state census records to lay a basic foundation of research. Tribal Indians weren't counted in early federal censuses, however. In fact, census records from 1790 to 1850 included only Indians living in settled areas who were taxed and didn't claim a tribal affiliation. Indians on reservations or those who lived a nomadic existence were not taxed, and therefore not counted.

The 1860 federal census added a category called "Indian (taxed)." From 1870 to 1910, the census had an "Indian" category, but it didn't include reservation Indians until 1890.

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Like other Plateau Indians, Kutenai relied on waterways. They gathered rushes to dry and string into mats they used for lodge covers and bedding.

Most of that census was lost to fire, though, so 1900 is the first available census that lists most Native Americans.

Special counts were made of several tribes, with the best-known being the Dawes Commission Rolls, taken between 1898 and 1914. These rolls listed members of the Five Civilized Tribes. Cherokee researchers should also check the Guion Miller Rolls, taken in the early 20th century. This lists applicants for a federal fund to compensate families of Cherokee who lost land as a result of the Indian Removal Act, the 1830 law that relocated most of the Cherokee Nation to what's now Oklahoma.

Once you've identified a tribe, your search will probably take you to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), where you'll find records from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). NARA's collection includes special censuses, school and land records. You may also find your ancestor on annuity payrolls or land allotments. Annuities resulted from treaties or acts of Congress in which the government made annual payments to tribal members. Allotment records were created when the government allotted land to individual tribe members; these are arranged by tribe. They usually include applications, registers of allottees' names, plat maps and improvements made to the land.

American Indians: A Select Catalog of National Archives Microfilm Publications (online at <www.nara.gov/publications/microfilm/amerindians/indians.html> and in print) lists NARA's various holdings, including the Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (Record Group 75). You'll find a complete description of NARA's Native American holdings in *Guide to Records in the National Archives Relating to American Indians* compiled by Edward E. Hill (National Archives and Records Administration, \$25) <www.nara.gov/publications/find.html#indian>. To order, send payment to National Archives Trust Fund, NWCC2, Dept. 2001, Box 100793, Atlanta, GA 30384.

Many BIA field records are now in regional offices of the National Archives. Each NARA branch has different BIA records; for example, records relating to the Kiowa Agency are in Fort Worth, Texas, the Zuni Agency in Denver, and the Potawatomi Agency in Kansas City, Mo. Depending on the location, you may be able to tap agency employee records, Indian index cards, vital statistics, sanitary and school records, individual history and marriage cards.

NARA's Hacker encourages researchers to contact the National Archives regional office in the area where their tribe is located <www.nara.gov/nara/goto/nara.html>. Write that office with as much information as you have (without reciting your whole family history), and the staff will try to point you to the available records.

Another option is to contact the Bureau of Indian Affairs to obtain the phone number and address of the tribal membership office.

Next, contact the tribe to see if it has records of your ancestor. You can access a tribal leaders directory at <doi.gov/bia/areas/agency.html> (in HTML or PDF format) or by contacting the BIA at 1849 C St. NW, Washington, DC 20240.

If your Native American ancestor served with federal troops, NARA may have a record of his veteran's benefits. The National Archives military records section has a separate alphabetical file for each American Indian

Southeast

TERRITORY

Area bordered by Kentucky and Virginia on the north, Mississippi River to the west, Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic on the south and east.

TRIBES

The Five Civilized Tribes—Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creek and Seminole—plus Alabama, Apalachee, Catawba, Natchez, Quapaw, Yamasee.

■ **All Things Cherokee**
<www.allthingscherokee.com>

■ **Beginning Your Cherokee Research**
<www.tngenweb.org/cherokee_by_blood/cher3.htm>

■ **Cherokee by Blood**
<www.tngenweb.org/cherokee_by_blood/>

■ **Cherokee Heritage Center**
<www.cherokeeheritage.org/genealogy.html>

■ **The Cherokee Messenger**
<www.powersource.com/cherokee/>

■ **The Cherokee Nation**
<www.cherokee.org>

■ **Cherokee National Historical Society**
<www.powersource.com/heritage/default.html>

■ **Chickasaw Nation**
<www.chickasaw.net>

■ **Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma**
<www.cableone.net/areeves/choctaw/>



■ **Eastern Band of Cherokee**
<www.cherokee-nc.com>

■ **History of the Cherokee**
<pages.tca.net/martikw/>

■ **Muscogee Creek Nation**
<www.ocevnet.org/creek.html>

■ **Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma**
<www.rootsweb.com/~itcreek/>

■ **The Official Quapaw Website**
<www.geocities.com/Athens/Aegean/1388/>

■ **Seminole genealogy**
<www.nativeamericanheritage.com/seminole-genealogy.html>

■ **Seminole Nation of Oklahoma**
<www.cowboy.net/native/seminole/>

■ **Seminole Tribe of Florida**
<www.seminoletribe.com>

■ **Unofficial Choctaw Nation**
<www.niti.net/~michael/choctaw/>

on the bookshelf

- *Everyday Life Among the American Indians* by Candy Vyvey Moulton (Writers Digest Books, \$16.99)
- *A Genealogist's Guide to Discovering Your Immigrant & Ethnic Ancestors* by Sharon DeBartolo Carmack (Betterway Books, \$18.99)
- *Handbook of North American Indians* edited by William C. Sturtevant (Government Printing Office, \$57)
- *How to Research American Blood Lines: A Manual on Indian Genealogical Research* by Cecelia Svinth Carpenter (Heritage Quest, \$8.95)
- *Indian Removal: The Emigration of the Five Civilized Tribes of Indians* by Grant Foreman (University of Oklahoma Press, \$19.95)
- *The Indian Tribes of North America* by John R. Swanton (Smithsonian Institution Press, \$35), especially helpful for learning which peoples lived where and when.
- *Native America in the Twentieth Century: An Encyclopedia* edited by Mary B. Davis (Garland Publishing, \$42.95)
- *Native American Genealogical Sourcebook* by Paula K. Byers (Gale Group, \$95)
- *Native Americans Information Directory* (Gale Group, \$110), with contact information for Native American-related organizations.
- *A Student's Guide to Native American Genealogy* (Oryx Press, \$24.95)
- "Tracking Native American Family History" by Curt B. Witcher and George J. Nixon in *The Source: A Guidebook of American Genealogy* (Ancestry, \$49.95)
- **Indian Scout Books**, HC 63, Box 81, Monticello, UT 84535, (435) 587-3623, jharvey@sanjuan.net
- **Native American Genealogical Research & Publishing Co.**, Box 908, Hixson, TN 37343, (423) 870-5960, <www.nagrpublishing.com>

veteran who served prior to 1870.

Because of the well-documented nature of the Five Civilized Tribes—so called because of their early assimilation to white culture—their records are among the easiest to find on the Internet. The NARA Archival Information Locator (NAIL) is a database of selected microfilm and archival holdings, including several on the Oklahoma tribes. To date, about 80 percent of the Dawes Commission Rolls are online in the NAIL database <www.nara.gov/nara/nail.html>.

To search for ancestors on the Dawes Rolls, go to the NAIL database and choose either a Standard or Expert search. Next, enter *dawes* in the first keyword box, then the person's name in the second keyword box. Click on Submit Search. If the database contains information on that person, the Records Retrieved number will change from 0 to the number of Dawes Commission applications containing that name. Click on Display Results for a list of hits, then click Full to see de-

tails of a particular record.

Other Native American databases on NAIL:

- Descriptions of 64,177 Cherokee, Chickasaw, Creek and Seminole applications for enrollment to the Five Civilized Tribes between 1898 and 1914. More than 10,000 of these applications have digital copies attached.
- A 634-page digitized version of a Description of Final Rolls of the Citizens and Freedmen of the Five Civilized Tribes in Indian Territory. You'll find names of people the Dawes Commission allowed on tribal rolls.
- A 635-page digitized Index to the Final Rolls of Citizens and Freedmen of the Five Civilized Tribes in Indian Territory.
- A 343-page index of Applications Submitted for the Eastern Cherokee Roll of 1909 (Guion Miller Roll).
- The 196-page digitized version of the Wallace Roll of Cherokee Freedmen in Indian Territory, 1890. Individuals listed were entitled to share with the Shawnee and Delaware

Southwest and California

TERRITORY

Most of Arizona and New Mexico, part of western and southern Texas, California.

TRIBES

Apache, Cahuilla, Chumash, Havasupai, Miwok, Modoc, Mojave, Navajo, Papago, Pima, Yaqui, Yavapai and Yuma, plus the Pueblo tribes of the Hopi, Laguna, Taos and Zuni.

- **Chumash Indians**
<expage.com/page/chumashindians>
- **The Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria**
<hometown.aol.com/coastmiwok/family/>
- **Hopi Cultural Preservation Office**
<www.nau.edu/~hcpc/p/>
- **Hopi Information Network**
<www.recycles.org/hopi/index.htm>
- **Hopi The Real Thing**
<www.ausbcomp.com/redman/hopi.htm>
- **Links to Apache Indians**
<members.tripod.com/~PHILKON/links12apache.html>

■ Navajo Nation

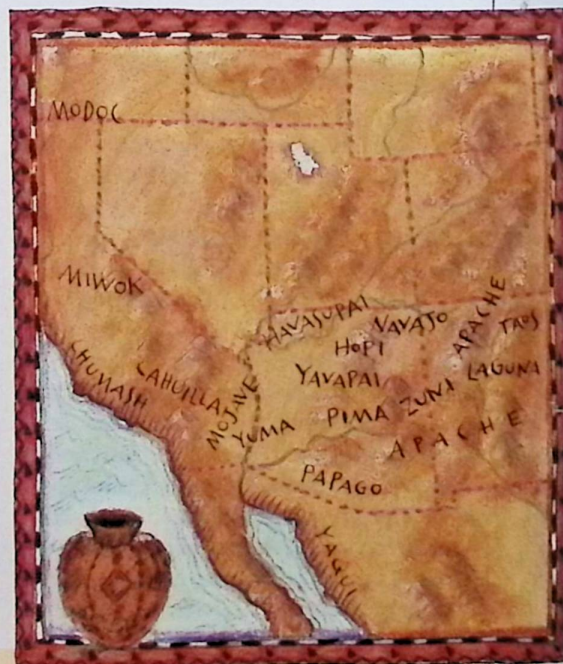
<www.navajo.org>

■ Navajo

<www.ausbcomp.com/redman/navajo.htm>

■ New Mexico's Pueblo Indians

<members.aol.com/chloes5/pueblos.html>



Plains, Prairies and Woodlands



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When you look for your ancestors' tribe, consider that tribes often had several names. The Plains Indians called Crow by Europeans referred to themselves as Apsaroka ("bird people").

in the per capita distribution of \$75,000.

- The Kern-Clifton Roll of Cherokee Freedmen, January 16, 1867. This is a census of freedmen of the Cherokee Nation and their descendants.

- 9,618 Citizenship Applications received by the Dawes Commission, 1896.

5. Utilize online resources

Besides NAIL, you have many other online resources to help you discover your Native American ancestry and heritage. As you're searching for your American Indian roots, make use of these three Internet tools:

- **Mailing lists**—Genealogy mailing lists are a quick and easy way for researchers to network with one another. When you join a mailing list, you'll receive e-mail messages sent from other list members. Mailing lists pertain to specific topics, and everyone on the list shares similar research goals. Once you've located your tribe, join in discussions at some of the nearly 60 mailing lists dedicated to Native American research at <rootsweb.com/~jfuller/gen_mail_natam.html> and <lists.rootsweb.com/index/other/Ethnic-Native>. Typical list topics are the Choctaw who moved from Mississippi to Oklahoma, Native American ancestry in Michigan and general Indian research. If you're just getting started, the NA-NEWBIES mailing list <www.accessgenealogy.com/native/nanewbies/> might be a good jumping-off place.

TERRITORY

Extended from Canada almost to Mexico. Southern Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba; eastern Montana, Wyoming and Colorado; extreme eastern part of New Mexico; North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Minnesota, Iowa, Kansas, Arkansas and Texas. Woodlands bounded by Lake Michigan and Lake Superior on the east, Missouri on the west; includes Illinois and parts of Wisconsin and Iowa.

TRIBES

Arapaho, Arikara, Assiniboine, Blackfeet, Cheyenne, Chippewa (Ojibwa), Comanche, Crow, Fox, Illinois, Kansa, Kiowa, Mandan, Menominee, Omaha, Osage, Pawnee, Sac, Sioux, Winnebago.

- **Blackfeet Nation**

<www.blackfeetnation.com>

- **Cheyenne-Arapaho Lands**

<rebelcherokee.tripod.com/itcheyenne_arapaho.html>

- **Cheyenne Genealogy**

<www.mcn.net/~hmscook/roots/cheyenne.html>

- **Lakota Dakota Information Home Page**

<puffin.creighton.edu/lakota/>

- **Northern Cheyenne**

<www.ncheyenne.net>

- **Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara**

<web.ndak.net/~tatlegal/>

- **Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux History**

<www.montana.edu/wwwfpcc/tribes/>

- **Comanche Language and Cultural Preservation Committee**

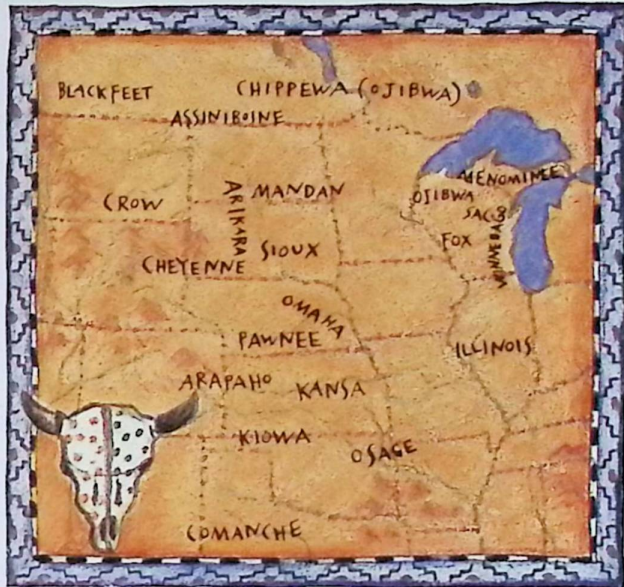
<www.comanchelanguage.org>

- **Great Lakes Intertribal Council**

<www.glitc.org>

- **Great Sioux Nation**

<www.eagleswatch.com/great_sioux_nation.htm>



- **The Illini Confederation**

<members.tripod.com/~RFester/>

- **An Introduction to Dakota Culture and History**

<www.geocities.com/Athens/Acropolis/5579/dakota.html>

- **Menominee of Wisconsin**

<www.menominee.nsn.us>

- **Ojibway Culture and History**

<www.geocities.com/Athens/Acropolis/5579/ojibwa.html>

- **Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma**

<www.pawneenation.org>

- **Rosebud Sioux**

<www.rosebudsiouxtribe.org>

- **The Sac and Fox Nation**

<www.cowboy.net/native/sacnfox.html>

- **The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians**

<www.sootribe.org>

- **Sioux Heritage**

<www.lakhota.com>

- **South Dakota Native American Genealogy**

<www.geocities.com/Heartland/Plains/8430/>

■ **Query boards**—Millions of researchers are on the Internet, and many of them routinely read queries. Query boards give you the chance to announce to the world the ancestor you're seeking, the heritage you're attempting to prove or the brick wall you've hit. You'll find dozens of query boards (also called forums) where you can post free messages requesting assistance at NativeTech.org <nativetech.org/msgboard/#genealogy>.

GenForum's American Indian bulletin board <genforum.genealogy.com/ai> is another popular forum. And check out the recently combined Native American message boards from FamilyHistory.com and RootsWeb, now at <boards.ancestry.com> under Topics. (See page 28 for more on this site.) Once you've tracked down the general area where your ancestor lived, leave queries on the USGenWeb <www.usgenweb.org> county pages for that location.

■ **Publications**—Many tribes, historical societies and individuals publish journals or newsletters about a specific tribe or about



Some Pueblo Indians still live much as their ancestors did. Here, women gather water from an Acoma well. Pueblos at Acoma and Taos in New Mexico are the oldest continually inhabited villages in the United States, dating from the 10th century.

American Indian research in general. These journals may include transcripts of tribal rolls, research tips or firsthand historical accounts.

Also look for online newsletters such as Native American Ancestry Hunting <members.aol.com/NAAHKITTY>. For a \$35 annual subscription fee, you'll receive tips on

searching, success stories, family histories, cultural information and links to tribal resources via e-mail. Publisher Laurie Beth Roman also maintains the free monthly NAAH Enquiries newsletter, in which you can post queries. To subscribe, send an e-mail to NAAHKITTY@aol.com and in the subject field type "Add to NAAH ENQUIRIES mailing list."

Native American Heritage Newsletter <naheritage.bigstep.com> is an e-zine from Manitou Publications. For \$14.95 a year, you'll receive 10 issues with articles on Native American genealogy and history, notes on various tribes, Internet links, queries and more.

For links to more than 100 Native American publications, check out Native American Print Media Resources <alt.net/~waltj/shea/nativep.html>.

Tracing your Native American ancestors may be one of the most challenging genealogy projects of your life—and one of the most rewarding. Through your quest to unearth your family's tribal ties, you're claiming kinship with a people who felt as connected to future generations as to their own ancestors. In fact, a law of the Iroquois Confederacy required chiefs to consider the impact of their decisions on the next seven generations. As a quote often attributed to Chief Seattle puts it, "The wind that gave our grandfather his first breath also receives his last sigh, and the wind must also give our children the spirit of life." It's up to you to keep your ancestors' spirit alive by discovering their legacy. ♣

Contributing editor **NANCY HENDRICKSON** is a family historian and the author of two astronomy books.

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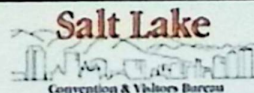
You could win a FREE trip for 2 to Salt Lake City, Utah — home of the Family History Library, the world's largest archive of genealogy and family history materials! And, you'll enjoy personalized research consultation and Library guidance from Heritage Consulting and Services, to ensure you make the most of your visit.

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where

Washington, Sept. 20, 1888

Washington, Sept. 20, 1888

Mrs. Julia Scivener,
636 I. Street, S.W.,
Washington, D.C.

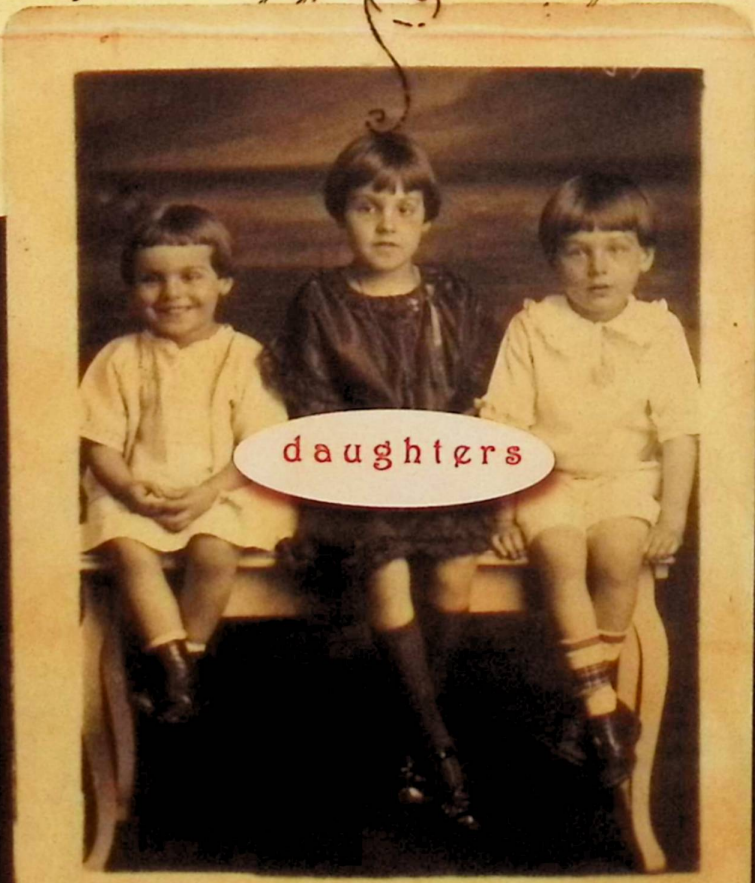
Madam:

In reply to your application for the
change of your son John A. Scivener, Band,
Cavalry, I have to inform you that the Secretary of
War regrets that he is, on account of
the public service, to decline
of your request, the reduction
and warranting any other

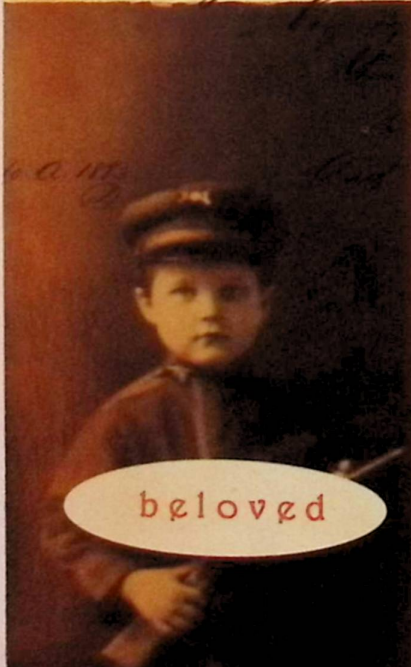
Scivener,
636 I. Street, S.W.,
Washington, D.C.

Madam:

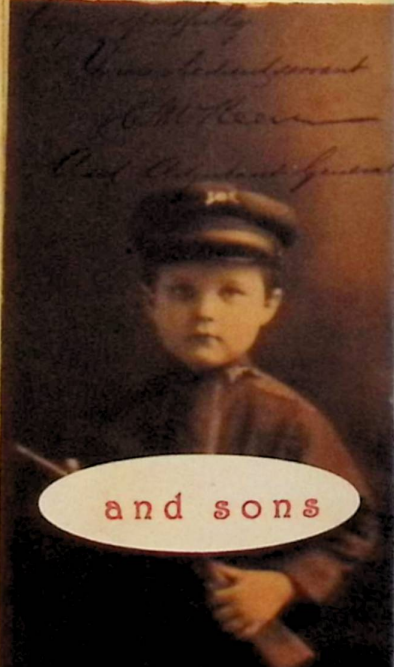
In reply to your application for the
change of your son John A. Scivener, Band,
Cavalry, I have to inform you that the Secretary
is constrained, in the interest
to decline a favorable consideration
of your request, on account of the
reduced condition of the
and warranting any other



daughters



beloved



and sons

Patricia

there's a will...

...there's a way to find it and use it to
fill the gaps in your family tree.
Our guide to **wills and probate**
shows you how.

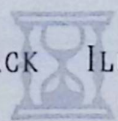
When William D. Gallagher made his will on March 27, 1869, in Hamilton County, Ohio, the sixth item stipulated that \$100 of his estate should go for the upkeep of his mother's grave. He further commented in his will that "when in Philadelphia I tried but in vain to find the remains of my father to have it removed with my mother in New Castle, Del., but the heathens had sold his house to build a big church. This they call Christianity. Heathens would not do so."

Sally Grymes made her will on Feb. 17, 1827, in Orange County, Va. She confessed that "as to my sons John Randolph and Thomas Nelson Grymes, I

have nothing worthy of their acceptance after providing for my helpless daughters."

While you might cringe at the thought of plowing through dry, intimidating legal documents, finding your ancestor's will can bring a smile to your face and some vivid color to your family history. Sure, there's that mumbo-jumbo legalese you wonder if even lawyers really understand. But once you get beyond the "sound mind and body" and the "I set my hand and seal" parts, you'll find some fun and interesting aspects about your ancestors in wills, giving you a rare glimpse of their personalities—not to mention fascinating facts for your family tree.

BY SHARON DEBARTOLO CARMACK ILLUSTRATIONS BY JEN RENNINGER



What's in a will?

Simply put, a will is a legal document providing for the distribution of a person's property after he or she dies. The person making the will is known as the "testator." Some wills are merely a page or less in length; others may be several pages long and go into unusual detail about instructions to be carried out after death.

There are several types of wills, but three are most common: An "attested will" is drafted by another party, such as a lawyer, for the testator. A "holographic will" is one that the testator writes, dates and signs in his or her own handwriting. A "nuncupative will" is one that's dictated orally by the testator, usually on his or her deathbed. This type of will must be written out within a short time period, and it may not be valid in some jurisdictions.

Genealogists love finding ancestors' wills because they usually state family relationships—but wills don't always give names. You may find a man leaving items to his "beloved wife" (I've yet

name in a will, stating, "to my beloved wife, Mary, formerly Mary Rogers." More likely, though, you'll find wills that merely say, "to my beloved wife, Sophia," or simply, "my wife." If you see "my now wife," this simply referred to the woman to whom he was married when he made out the will; it's not necessarily an indication that he'd been married before.

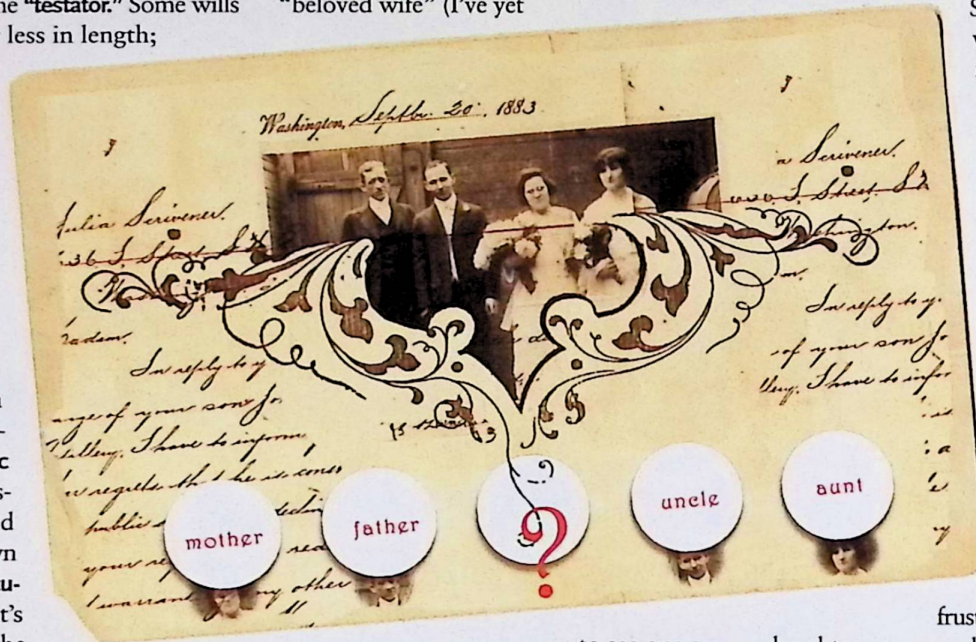
Wills often mention names of the testator's children; conversely, I've seen wills that give the names of barn animals, but not the names of the children. So these records can be

frustrating at times. Married

daughters are usually mentioned by their married names, and sometimes the husband's name will also be included: "to my daughter Mary Williamson, wife of John Williamson." Or you might find, "to my granddaughter, Polly, daughter of my late son Isaac." Those are the kinds of wills you hope for—you now have three generations named within one document.

Occasionally you'll find a will that omits more than a name—a child you know existed might be missing entirely. This can happen for several reasons. The parent could have already transferred property to that child, such as when a daughter or son married. The child might have died before the will was created, or been born after the parent's death. It's also possible the child was disowned. If that's the case, though, the will should state this omission so the disinherited offspring doesn't contest the will later.

Wills and probate records may reveal the testator's place of origin, or they may name relatives in the old country. Many immigrants—the



to see one say, "to my nagging wife") with no mention of her name. Why should there be? Everyone knew who she was. On rare occasions a husband will name his wife and give her maiden

will & probate glossary

- **abstract:** a summary of the important aspects of a document
- **administrator/administratrix:** person or persons appointed by the court to administer an intestate estate (administrator, male; administratrix, female)
- **codicil:** an amendment to a will
- **dower:** a provision in the law for the widow for her support and the care of her children. Upon the death of her husband, the widow received one-third in value of all lands that her husband owned at the time of his death.
- **estate:** the sum total of a person's property
- **executor/executrix:** person or persons named in a will to carry out the terms in the will (executor, male; executrix, female)
- **intestate:** a case where a person dies leaving no valid will
- **inventory:** an itemized list of a person's property
- **probate:** the legal process of transferring items of a deceased person's estate to heirs
- **testate:** a case where a person dies leaving a valid will
- **transcription:** a verbatim copy of a record
- **will:** a legal document providing for the disposition of a person's property

Irish in particular—were likely to leave bequests to relatives back home, naming the hometown. For example, Thomas Major, a merchant in New York, made his will on Oct. 18, 1800. In it, he directed that if he should not have any children by his present wife, then after her death, he would give to “the child or children of my sister Mary Cupples of Killyree, County of Antrim and Kingdom of Ireland, the residue of my estate....”

Although a will typically doesn't give the person's date of death, it does help you narrow down the time frame. For example, Townshend Dade made his will on April 9, 1761, and it was entered into the Stafford County, Va., probate court on June 9, 1761; so we can say that he died between April 9 and June 9, 1761. This is why it's important to take note of both dates. Once in a while, you'll find the death date mentioned with the date the will was admitted into probate.

Now that you know what goodies these legal documents can contain, how do you find your ancestor's will? Before you head out the door hunting for wills, it's helpful to know exactly what you're looking for and some terminology.

Probing into probate

Wills enter into a court process known as **probate**, which oversees the transfer of the deceased's property and possessions to heirs. When a person dies leaving a valid will, that person is said to have died “**testate**.” When a person dies leaving no valid will, he or she is said to have died “**intestate**.”

Not everyone left a will, and not all wills were recorded. Wills are usually probated in the court that has jurisdiction where the person resided at death.

Here's a simplified look at the probate process:

1. *A person makes a will.*
2. *The person dies.*
3. *An interested party, usually an heir, presents the will to the probate court.*
4. *The court admits the will to probate.*
5. *The will is recorded.*
6. *The executor (the person named in the will who will see that it gets carried out; it's the executrix if the named person is female) usually makes an inventory of the deceased's estate. Other items in the process may include a notice to heirs of accounts, distributions and sale of property (real and personal).*

7. *The provisions of the will are carried out after all debts are paid.*

If a person died intestate, the heirs may enter the deceased's estate into probate, assuming the person left an estate of sufficient worth. This worth depends on each state's laws. You may find intestate cases recorded in a separate volume from wills, or they might be included in the will books. In an intestate case, the probate process is slightly different:

1. *The person dies.*
2. *Someone with an interest in the estate petitions the probate court, seeking what's known as **letters of administration**.*
3. *The court appoints an **administrator** (**administratrix** if a woman is appointed), who assumes essentially the same tasks as an executor or executrix.*
4. *The administrator makes an inventory of the estate.*
5. *The administrator makes a list of heirs, including their present residences.*
6. *After debts have been paid, the remaining estate is divided among the heirs according to state laws.*

When you find a will in a clerk's will book, you're looking at the recorded will, not the original. Ask if the “**probate packet**” still exists, as this should contain all the surviving documents generated during the probate process, including the original will. Contested wills and records are kept in the court of the original probate, usually within this packet. If the original will still exists, make sure to check it because errors could have been made when the clerk hand-copied it into the will book. Sometimes the recorded will is all that's survived.

Also check the local newspaper around the time your ancestor died. You may find a notice asking interested parties to come forward in an attempt to settle the estate. (For more

making abstracts of wills

While you'll want to make a photocopy of your ancestor's will when you find it, abstracting the record for later use is easier than reading through the whole document again. Here are the key items to record when abstracting a will:

- type of record (will, inventory, intestate proceedings, etc.)
- source citation (book, page/s, file number, microfilm number)
- repository name and address
- name of testator (person making the will)
- personal information (“of sound mind and body,” desired burial, etc.)
- names and relationships (if given) of executors
- date the will was signed
- date the will was entered into probate and/or recorded
- signature or mark of testator
- names and addresses (if given) of witnesses
- bequests and devises (names, relationships, items each person is to receive, including land descriptions)

on finding old newspapers, see page 62.)

Inventories of estates

Within the probate packet, or recorded in the will books or separate volumes, you might find an inventory of your ancestor's estate, which will detail the deceased's belongings and assign a monetary value to them. From an inventory, you can figuratively follow the executor or administrator from room to room in the person's house. Here's a small sampling from an inventory of Mary Clark's household belongings in Greenwich, Conn., from a 1908 probate record:

on the bookshelf

■ *Inheritance in America: From Colonial Times to the Present* by Carole Shammas, Marylyn Salmon and Michel Dahlin (Frontier Press, \$19.95)

■ *The Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy*, 3rd edition, by Val D. Greenwood (Genealogical Publishing Co., \$29.95). In particular, see chapters 15–17.

find it on the web

■ **Cyndi's List—Wills and Probate**
<www.cyndislist.com/wills.htm>:
Nearly 100 links.

■ **Glossary of Legal Terms**
<www.mylawyer.com/glossary.htm>

■ **Glossary of Unusual Terms Found in Wills**
<ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/dave_tylcoat/gloss.htm>

■ **Board for Certification of Genealogists: Analyzing Wills for Useful Clues**
<www.bcgcertification.org/skbl955.html>

■ **DoHistory.org: How to Read Probate Records**
<www.dohistory.org/on_your_own/toolkit/probateRecords.html>

■ **England Wills Exchange Database**
<members.tripod.com/~Caryl_Williams/ewills.html>

■ **Irish Ancestors—Wills**
<scripts.ireland.com/ancestor/browse/records/wills/>

■ **National Archives of Scotland Fact Sheets—Wills and Testaments**
<www.nas.gov.uk/miniframe/fact_sheet/wills.pdf>: Requires free Adobe Acrobat Reader (download at <www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readermain.html>).

■ **Scottish Archives Network**
<www.scan.org.uk>: Working to put 3.3 million Scottish wills online.

■ **Wills of Mayflower Passengers**
<members.aol.com/mayfl01620/wills.html>

■ **Wills on the Web**
<www.ca-probate.com/wills.htm>:
Links to online wills of celebrities and ordinary people alike.

Personal Property:

<i>North Bed-Room Carpet</i>	\$.25
<i>Bedstead</i>	2.00
<i>3 Mattresses</i>	2.50
<i>1 Bed Spring</i>	.50
<i>2 Pair Curtains</i>	.50
<i>Feather Bed</i>	.05
<i>Bed Spread & Bolsters</i>	2.00
<i>Steamer Chair</i>	.40
<i>Low Chair</i>	.25
<i>Bureau</i>	.25
<i>Wash-stand</i>	.75
<i>Lantern</i>	.20
<i>Trunk</i>	.75
<i>7 Pictures</i>	.75
<i>1 Glass</i>	.25
<i>2 Frames</i>	.20
<i>Small Box</i>	.10

Also look for the list of outstanding bills to be paid out of the estate. Some of these list doctors' fees, payment for making the coffin and other assorted expenses the deceased incurred before and after death.

Finding wills

Probate packets and wills recorded in will books are held at the county courthouse, unless the records have been transferred to a state archive. Not all states call their probate courts the same thing. The jurisdiction that recorded your ancestor's will might be called the superior court, a circuit court, a district court, a chancery court, a register of wills or a surrogate's court. Check *The Handybook for Genealogists* (Everton Publishers, \$34.99) or *Ancestry's Red Book* (Ancestry, \$49.95) for county courthouse addresses and the name of the appropriate jurisdiction. Probate records are usually indexed; they'll be listed by the name of the testator or intestate person, not by the people named in the will.

Here are some quick tips for finding your ancestors' wills:

■ Working from the date your ancestor died, check microfilmed indexes of wills through the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah. You can access the library's catalog online at <www.familysearch.org/Eng/Library/FHLC/frameset_fhlc.asp>. Look under the county and state your ancestor last resided or died in, then under "probate records." You'll get a list of the resources available on microfilm. Sometimes the library has the index to probate records, but the actual

records haven't been filmed. Even so, searching the index yourself is always better than relying on a clerk who may not check for other relatives or under variant spellings. Remember, the indexes and the records will not be online; you'll need to order the microfilm through one of the 3,400 worldwide Family History Centers. To find the center nearest you, see <www.familysearch.org/Eng/Library/FHC/frameset_fhc.asp>.

■ Once you have the volume and page number from the index, order the relevant film(s). If the FHL doesn't have microfilm of the records, use the address given in the *Handybook* or *Red Book* to write the courthouse for the records.

■ If the FHL doesn't have a microfilmed index for the time period your ancestor died, you can still write directly to the probate clerk and ask if your ancestor left a will. Give your ancestor's full name, date of death and any other identifying information. Don't forget to include a self-addressed, stamped envelope so the clerk can tell you if the record is there and what the fee will be to obtain a copy. Remember, too, to ask if the entire probate packet still exists and how much it would cost to copy it.

Another useful resource is an abstract of wills. Kind-hearted genealogists make will abstracts available to the rest of us by reading every single will in a will book, then publishing a summary of the important aspects of a document, leaving out all the legal mumbo-jumbo. You might find published abstracts for your ancestor's area in a genealogical library, or check with a specialty genealogy publisher such as Heritage Books <www.heritagebooks.com>. Some abstracts and indexes are also popping up online; try a search engine such as Google <www.google.com> to see what's available for your state. Abstracts are wonderful starting points, but you should always then seek the original will or the recorded copy of the original in the courthouse. As wonderful as abstracts are, after all, they're only human and do make mistakes.

Seeking slaves

Family members aren't the only people you can find named in wills. Slaves, for example, were often named in the will of the white slave owner. But it's extremely important to learn the state laws of inheritance during a given time period—specifically, you'll need to find out whether slaves were considered real property (attached to the land, crops or build-

ings, as in “real estate”) or personal property. For example, in Maryland and South Carolina, slaves were considered personal property; in Virginia in 1705, the law was changed to make slaves real property for purposes of inheritance. When slaves were considered personal property, they were more likely to be passed along to daughters; when slaves were deemed real property, they probably went to the sons who inherited land.

If the owner didn't leave a will, tracing the inheritance of slaves can get complicated. The slaves may have become the property of the widow or may have been distributed to other heirs. The widow might have gained **absolute title**, meaning she could bequeath them to anyone she wanted at her death, or just a **life interest**, which terminated upon her death. And what happened if the widow remarried and then died? Did the slaves go to the second husband and his heirs, or to her heirs from her first marriage? You'll have to study the state's laws of inheritance during that period to determine the direction your research should take.

Here's an example of a will from Stafford County, Va., in the mid-18th century. See how it stated who was to inherit which slaves:

First I give to my Daughter Elizabeth Washington Dinah Virgin & their increase which she has in her possession, to her, & her assigns forever. Secondly I give to my Grandson Langhorn Dade one negro man named Juba. Thirdly I give to my son Baldwin Dade, two negro men called Solomon & George—Fourthly I give to Sarah Dade widow of Cadwallador Dade two negroes Ben & Sukey. Fifthly I give to my Daughter Frances Stuart the following Negroes Jem, Kate, Nancy, & their increase, which she has in her possession. Sixthly, I give to my son Horatio Dade the Following—negroes Harry, Jolly, Daniel, Moses, Nan & her increase....

Note the language “and their increase” after female slaves are mentioned—this means the slave woman's children. Also notice the



lack of punctuation: “I give to my Daughter Elizabeth Washington Dinah Virgin & their increase....” Is the daughter's name just Elizabeth, and the slaves she's inheriting are Washington and Dinah and Virgin? Or is the daughter's name Elizabeth Washington, and she's receiving two slaves, Dinah and Virgin? Obviously, further research about Elizabeth will be needed to answer the question.

Women in wills

The treatment of women in wills is also worth noting. For example, let's look at the will left by James Madison Fitzhugh dated May 8, 1844, and recorded March 24, 1845, in Orange County, Va. He bequeathed his whole estate, real and personal, to his wife, Mary F. Fitzhugh. He also gave her the power to dispose of any of his property that she thought best, provided she did not marry. James stipulated in his will that if she did remarry, she would forfeit all of his property, which would then be equally divided among his (unnamed) children.

You might think James was the jealous type and couldn't bear the thought of his wife marrying again after his death. Actually, this was his way of ensuring that his property would stay in

his family line. When a woman married, all of her property became her husband's, so this second husband would then own the first husband's property, and hubby number two could dispose of it as he wanted or pass it on to his own heirs. James wanted to ensure that this wouldn't happen and that his children—not a second husband—would get his property.

James further stated in his will that “If my wife should marry and demand her thirds, at her death, this portion of my estate I desire to be equally divided between my children forever.” James was acknowledging that, by law, Mary was entitled to her **dower rights** (known as the **widow's thirds**). Dower rights were a provision in the law so that a widow would not be left destitute. Even if there was no will, the widow was still entitled to one-third of her deceased husband's estate. In the Fitzhugh case, if Mary married again, she had a right to demand her one-third portion of James' property,

but it was only a life interest (for the term of her life). After she died, the property would go to James' children instead of any children Mary might have by a second marriage.

Feeling the need to call a lawyer yet? Don't worry—you don't have to pass the bar to understand some of the legal documents your ancestors created. Family historians just like you have learned how to read and interpret wills and probate records. In the process, they've discovered these documents are some of the most interesting that you'll come across.

In fact, the biggest problem with wills is not finding one. Too often, your ancestors didn't leave a will or their estate wasn't of sufficient value to be entered into probate. But never assume that's the situation and never give up. Always check to see if a will or intestate case was recorded for every one of your ancestors. Where there's a will, there's a way to find it. 🐾

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Junior

g • e • n • e • a • l • o • g • i • s • t • s

Get a jump on the next generation of family historians and make your hobby a true family affair with our guide to getting kids started in genealogy.

By Allison Stacy
Photos by Al Parrish

Turn kids into "junior genealogists" with family history activities they can have fun doing. Tombstone rubbings (opposite) show them how to record and preserve valuable facts about ancestors (activity 2, page 52).

You might not expect to see a group of adolescent boys absorbed in a discussion of pedigree charts, marriage certificates and census records—especially at 8:30 on a Saturday morning. But that's just what happened a few months ago when I helped teach a genealogy merit badge class for a group of local Boy Scouts. Here were 10 teens and pre-teens, eagerly telling me and two other counselors—as well as their peers—about their family history discoveries.

Their enthusiasm really shouldn't have been that surprising. Sure, you're more likely to find 9-year-olds swapping baseball cards than birth certificates. But kids genuinely enjoy learning about their families—they want to understand where they come from just as much as we do. Liana Brittain, a fifth-grade teacher and author of the book *Genealogy for Children* (Educational Support Personnel, \$14), says that at the end of the school year, 75 to 80 percent of her students pick genealogy as their favorite area of study. Genealogy helps kids attach meaning to history and to their own lives.

Of course, that's not the only reason to encourage children's interest in their past. It's a way to bridge the generation gap, helping you build meaningful relationships with your grandkids, kids, even nieces and nephews. And involving the younger generation in family history is like "insuring" the genealogical treasures you've toiled to uncover. You can leave them your research knowing they'll likely pick up where you left off—delving fur-

ther into the past, and just as important, chronicling tomorrow's family history.

A scouting badge or a school assignment can convince kids to become junior genealogists—and so can you, simply by sharing your stories and research in a kid-friendly way. Here's how to help the next generation inherit your addiction to family history.

Passion for the past

Before you head for the courthouse or cemetery with your "genealogists in training" in tow, take time to help kids develop an interest in their past. That starts with their own personal history: Jog their memory about important events in their lives—the birth of a sibling, a family vacation—and share your recollections of events they don't remember, such as "when you were born" stories. They'll quickly discover that family is a big part of their identity. Once they see themselves as part of something larger, they'll become even more curious about how they fit into the puzzle.

Anecdotes and memories are great tools to arouse children's interest in their ancestry. "Kids love to listen to stories that have relevance to their own lives," says Maureen Taylor, author of *Through the Eyes of Your Ancestors* (Houghton Mifflin, \$8.95), a genealogy guide for kids. "Begin by talking about things you did when you were their age. You'll find they want to hear the stories again and again."

Then move further into the past by connecting family stories to a child's interests—just



JUN
1845
aged 25 days
A pioneer of the
settled at Colchester
for several years he was

fun for the Whole Family

You know your enthusiastic cries of “Let’s look at vital records indexes!” probably aren’t going to make Billy and Susie’s pulses race. So how do you show them that learning about dead relatives can be just as fun as playing video games? Try these six activities to pique their genealogical curiosity and explore their past creatively:

1 Excavate Grandpa’s attic or basement.

Countless treasures and stories hide among the old “junk” packed away in boxes and trunks. Let kids root through Grandma’s hat boxes, Grandpa’s model train set, old clothes and other treasures. These mementos give children a glimpse of their relatives’ younger years and show them how times have changed. Make a special effort to pull out items from a parent’s childhood—Mom’s Barbie dolls or Dad’s high school science project, for example—so kids can see what their mother or father was like at their age.

2 Tour the cemetery. Visiting family grave sites shows children that their ancestors were real people. They’ll also learn about the clues found in cemeteries, a lesson they’ll appreciate if they start doing genealogical research on their own. Point out ancestors’ tombstones first, then other family members’. Explain everyone’s relationships to each other, and how they’re related to the kids (“This is Great-great-grandpa’s sister Mary. That would make her your third-great-aunt.”). Bring a book on gravestone art such as Allan Ludwig’s *Graven Images: New England Stonecarving and Its Symbols* (Utah State University Press, \$29.95) so the children (or you) can look up what the symbols on the headstones mean. And don’t leave without doing some tombstone rubbings—you’ll find a step-by-step guide at <www.familytreemagazine.com/articles/octoo/rubbing.html>, from the October 2000 issue of *Family Tree Magazine*.

3 Throw a birthday party for an ancestor. A birthday celebration is a fun way to teach kids about an ancestor’s life and times. You might start with your grand-

mother or grandfather—someone you knew but the kids didn’t—and celebrate the way the family did when that relative was still alive. Maybe even wrap up a few mementos of that person as “presents”; when the kids open them, you can share the story behind them. Or choose an ancestor who lived during a time period kids would recognize, such as the Civil War or Colonial times, and celebrate the way your ancestor might have back then.

4 Prepare Great-grandma’s favorite family recipe. Don’t keep Great-grandma’s apple pie recipe a secret—at least not from the kids. Instead of prompting thumb-wrestling matches over who gets the last piece, your family’s generations-old favorite recipe can keep Grandma alive in her great-grandchildren’s memory, even though she may have died years before they were born. Children will learn that creativity and patience were important ingredients in heirloom recipes.

5 Make a family trivia game. This is a good activity for family gatherings because you can draw on many relatives’ memories and experiences. Everyone can brainstorm questions, focusing on close family members first: What is Dad’s favorite color? Which famous singer did Aunt Lucy write love letters to? Use your genealogy information to extend the questions to more distant generations: Which country did Great-great-grandpa Heinrich emigrate from? Then let the kids turn the trivia into a game. See the June 2000 issue of *Family Tree Magazine* for a guide to creating a family history game. Or use a kit you can personalize, such as the (Your Surname) Family Trivia Game from Heart’s Corner (\$39.95 at <www.heartscorner.com> or write Box 1434, Wheat Ridge, CO 80034).

6 Create a time capsule—in reverse. If your ancestors had left a time capsule, what would

have been in it? Pick an ancestor and try to create a snapshot of his or her life. If you have objects such as photographs, recipe cards or diaries, make copies and include them in the time capsule. Kids can also re-create “artifacts” from the chosen ancestor’s lifetime using historical and genealogical facts. For example, they could use a marriage date and place to make up a wedding invitation. Create a newspaper page detailing the important events of the time. Show the trendy fashions that ancestor might have worn—the links at the Costume Page <members.aol.com/nebula5/tcpinfo2.html#history> will help track down pictures of popular clothing from that era. Have kids draw or print out a picture of what a dollar looked like (see <www.frbsf.org/currency/> for images of historical US currency) and find out what it would be worth in today’s money (use the converter at <www.eh.net/ehresources/howmuch/dollarq.php>). Display the “artifacts” in a scrapbook or on a family Web site.



find it on the web

◦ America's Story

<www.americaslibrary.com/cgi-bin/page.cgi/jb>: The Library of Congress guides kids through American history with fun facts about people, places and pastimes.

◦ "Ancestors" Teacher's Guide

<www.pbs.org/kbyu/ancestors/teachersguide/>: Tips for teaching kids about the lessons in each of the PBS series' 13 episodes.

◦ Ask Jeeves Kids <www.ajkids.com>:

Filtered search engine especially for kids.

◦ Boy Scouts Genealogy

Merit Badge Requirements
<www.meritbadge.com/bsa/mb/056.htm>

◦ Canada GenWeb for Kids

<www.rootsweb.com/~cangwkid/>

◦ Cyndi's List—Kids & Teens

<www.cyndislist.com/kids.htm>:
Nearly 100 links.

◦ FamilyEducation.com

Family History Package
<familyeducation.com/topic/front/0%2C1156%2C35%2D10913%2C00.html>

◦ Fun & Easy Family Projects

<www.amberskyline.com/treasuremaps/famproj.html>

◦ Genealogy for Kids

<countingcousins.tripod.com/genealogy_for_kids.htm>

◦ Genealogy Instruction Beginners, Teenagers and Kids

<home.earthlink.net/~howardorjeff/instruct.htm>

◦ **Genealogy Today—Junior Edition**
<www.genealogytoday.com/junior/>

◦ **Helping Your Child Learn History**
<www.ed.gov/pubs/parents/History/>

◦ **Hometown History Program**
<www.historychannel.com/classroom/>:
Teaching Girl Scouts about their community's past.

◦ **INS Teacher and Student Resources**
<www.ins.usdoj.gov/graphics/aboutins/history/teacher/>: Links to information about US immigration history. A kid's corner is under construction.

◦ Kids' Castle

<www.kidscastle.si.edu>: Explore history, personality and the world at this *Smithsonian* magazine site for kids.

◦ Myfamilytales

<www.myfamilytales.com>: Create a personalized 32-page children's book that tells the story of an ancestor or relative; for more information, call 866-MY TALES.

◦ My History Is America's History Kids' Corner

<www.myhistory.org/kids/>

◦ National Genealogical Society's Rubincam Youth Award

<www.ngsgenealogy.org/comrubincam.htm>: Annual award for 8th- through 12th-grade genealogists. The winner receives \$500 and a one-year NGS membership.

◦ What is Genealogy?

<www.geocities.com/EnchantedForest/5283/genekids.htm>:
Instructions for getting started.

◦ World GenWeb for Kids

<www.rootsweb.com/~wgwkids/>

about any activity has the potential to connect to family history. Use Lizzie's rock collecting hobby as an opportunity to tell her about the ancestor who joined the California gold rush, for instance. If Joey enjoys building model airplanes, tell him about Grandpa's experience as a World War II pilot; maybe the next model he builds will be the type of plane his grandfather flew. Once Brian finds out Great-great-grandpa was a sheriff, you may find him assuming that role when he plays cops and robbers with his neighborhood buddies.

Share family history in the context of their studies, too. "There's an infinite variety of possibilities to pull genealogy into the learning environment," says Brittain. Her genealogy curriculum encompasses oral and written communication, math, research, media and social studies through activities such as conducting interviews, writing biographies and discussing naming patterns. Most students do a family history project at some point (often in intermediate grades), so seize on these assignments as a chance to get youngsters hooked on family history.

Even if it's not a regular part of children's curriculum, you can inject a dose of genealogy into their schoolwork. When kids study the Revolutionary War, talk about their colonial ancestors. During a unit on genetics, discuss your family health history. Use geography lessons to show where and why your ancestors migrated. You may find that kids develop a new interest in topics they otherwise found boring, because suddenly those subjects connect to them and their family.

The giant leap backward

When kids are ready to turn genealogy into a hobby of their own, prepare to take a different approach than you're used to. Choose age-appropriate activities, advises Taylor, and keep in mind that many kids aren't interested in the details. "Don't overwhelm them with full names, dates and place of birth," she says. "Lure them in

Great-grandpa's old toys could serve as presents at an ancestral birthday party (activity 3).

by taking advantage of their natural curiosity. For instance, show them photographs or teach them games from your youth. If children think that family history is fun, they will be happy to learn more in small pieces."

You might put together an activity box with art supplies, a scrapbook kit, disposable cameras, clipboards and copies of old photographs. Or create a genealogy "treasure chest" full of family memorabilia. Children enjoy looking at old photographs and seeing how clothing and hairstyles have changed.

Kids also love to fill out pedigree charts, so show them how to use these and other charts to keep track of their ancestors. When adop-

tion, stepfamilies or half-siblings are part of the family tree, don't force kids to stick within the bloodlines-only frame of traditional pedigree charts—let them do whatever makes them comfortable. You'll find charts that reflect different kinds of families in Brittain's book, such as a "single branch" tree and a "mirror" tree that displays a mother and stepfather on one side and a father and stepmother on the other. Kids may even want to design their own family tree (see page 15).

Kids are growing up in a wired world, so take advantage of their tech savvy to involve them in preserving the family history. Work together to scan photos and create online scrap-

books Just for Kids

A sampling of instructional and activity books to help children start exploring family history topics:

Genealogy

- *Climbing Your Family Tree: Online and Offline Genealogy for Kids* by Ira Wolfman (Workman Publishing, \$12.95)
- *Family History: A DK First Activity Pack* by Chris and Melanie Rice (DK Publishing, \$16.95)
- *The Family Tree Detective: Cracking the Case of Your Family's Story* by Ann Douglas (Firefly Books, \$9.95)
- *The Great Ancestor Hunt: The Fun of Finding Out Who You Are* by Lila Perl (Clarion Books, \$7.95)
- *Genealogy Just for Kids!* by Sherrie A. Styx (Styx Enterprises, \$2.50)
- *Kids and Grandparents: An Activity Book* by Ann Love and Jane Drake (Kids Can Press, \$10.95)
- *Me and My Family Tree* by Joan Sweeney (Dragonfly, \$6.99)
- *My Family Tree Workbook: Genealogy for Beginners* by Rosemary Chorzempa (Dover Publications, \$2.95)
- *My Grandmother and Me* (Kids Can Press, \$4.95): Fill-in memory scrapbook; grandfather, mother and father editions are also available.
- *Roots for Kids* by Susan Provost Beller (Genealogical Publishing Co., \$16.95)
- *Through the Eyes of Your Ancestors* by Maureen Taylor (Houghton Mifflin, \$8.95)
- *Oryx American Family Tree Series* (Oryx Press, \$24.95): Genealogical guides for students, covering 12 ethnic ancestries.
- *Who's Who in My Family?* by Loreen Leedy (Holiday House, \$6.95)

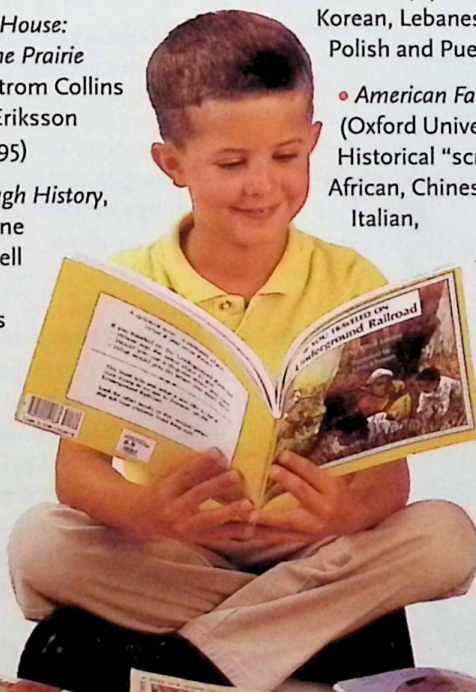
American history

- *Across America on an Emigrant Train* by Jim Murphy (Clarion Books, \$17)
- The American Girls Collection (Pleasant Co., \$14.95): The adventures of seven "American Girls" and their families illustrate 19th- and 20th-century history.
- *Children of the Gold Rush* by Jane G. Haigh and Claire Rudolph Murphy (Roberts Rinehart Publishing, \$14.95)
- *The Civil War for Kids: A History with 21 Activities* by Janis Herbert (Chicago Review Press, \$14.95)
- *Daily Life in a Covered Wagon* by Paul Erickson (Puffin Books, \$7.99)
- *...If You Lived in Colonial Times* by Ann McGovern (Scholastic, \$5.99)
- *...If You Traveled on the Underground Railroad* by Ellen Levine (Scholastic, \$5.99)
- *...If Your Name Was Changed at Ellis Island* by Ellen Levine (Scholastic, \$5.99)
- *Inside Laura's Little House: The Little House on the Prairie Treasury* by Carolyn Strom Collins and Christina Wyss Eriksson (HarperCollins, \$24.95)
- *One-Day Trips through History*, second edition, by Jane Ockershausen (Howell Press, \$14.95): Heritage adventure ideas in the Washington, DC, region.
- *Your Travel Guide to Colonial America* by Nancy Day (Lerner Publications, \$7.95)

- Picture the American Past series (Lerner Publications, \$22.60): Describes kids' experiences on orphan trains, at Indian boarding schools, on the World War II home front and during the Civil Rights era.

Ethnic heritage

- American Origins series (Avalon Travel Publishing, \$12.95): Traces the "roots" of Chinese, English, French, Germans, Irish, Italians, Japanese and Poles in the United States.
- The Peoples of North America series (Chelsea House, out of print): Books detailing the history, culture and achievements of nearly 50 ethnic groups, from *The Afro-Americans* to *The Hungarian Americans* to *The West Indian Americans*.
- Cultures of America series (Benchmark Books, out of print): Books on American ethnic groups, including African, Chinese, Cuban, French, Greek, Irish, Italian, Japanese, Jewish, Korean, Lebanese, Mexican, Polish and Puerto Rican.
- *American Family Albums* (Oxford University Press, \$12.95): Historical "scrapbooks" of African, Chinese, German, Irish, Italian, Jewish, Mexican and Scandinavian immigrants in America.





Photographs, postcards, diaries and old money are "artifacts" for kids to create a reverse time capsule (activity 6).

Grown-up Guidance

- *Bringing History Home: Local and Family History Projects for Grades K-6* by M. Gail Hickey (Allyn and Bacon, \$24.95)
- *Genealogy for Children* by Liana Brittain (Educational Support Personnel, \$14 from <home.iSTAR.ca/~ljbritt/>)
- *Kids and Kin: The Family History Research Vacation That Involves Kids* by Patricia Suter and Corinne P. Earnest (Russell D. Earnest Associates, \$14.50)

books. Have them take pictures of documents and relatives with a digital camera. Make movies at family gatherings. Show children how to use your genealogy software to print family trees and charts and to save facts and stories about ancestors. Older kids might even want to create a free family Web site. Services such as MyFamily.com <www.myfamily.com> offer pre-designed, password-protected pages; at Tripod <www.tripod.lycos.com> you can design a free site from scratch using its online Web authoring tools.

Genealogy is also a constructive way for kids to use the Internet and e-mail. Encourage them to keep in touch with far-flung relatives they don't usually see in person. Introduce them to Internet "cousins" who can help broaden their knowledge of the family—as well as their view of the world. Kids will quickly learn about the country their ancestors came from by "talking" to a relative who lives there. But be sure to monitor kids when they're using the computer, says Brittain. Make e-mailing a family activity to help younger kids who aren't as comfortable with their writing skills. Steer them to Web sites you've taken the time to check out—including your own favorite family history sites. Ira Wolfman, author of the forthcoming *Climbing Your Family Tree: Online and Offline Genealogy for Kids* (Workman Publishing, \$12.95), points out that kids can find most of the genealogical information they want on "adult-directed" sites. Your job is to make those sites more approachable for younger

visitors. "Lists are exciting for adults, but kids may be less taken with words, words, words," explains Wolfman. "Look for places with graphic pizzazz. Photographs of the ship Great-grandpa was on are more interesting than a database entry; illustrations, animations or photographs make for a more intriguing introduction to the hobby you love so much."

During summer vacation or school breaks, take kids' ancestral activities on the road by traveling to places in your family's past. Grandparents could take their grandchildren to their hometown or old neighborhood. Show them your old house, your school, the park where you used to play, your church—any place that holds special memories for you. If you can't go to an ancestral town, visit a living history destination that would help children imagine their ancestors' lives, such as a working historical farm. Celebrate your ethnic heritage at a cultural festival, or really step into your immigrant ancestors' shoes and take a trip to their port of entry. Some cities have museums depicting the immigrant experience, such as Ellis Island in New York <www.ellisland.org> and Boston's Dreams of Freedom <www.dreamsoffreedom.org>. "Save research trips for older children unless you're going to combine it with a visit to a historic site with family significance," says Taylor. "Young children not interested in finding documents will love exploring an old fort."

When are kids ready to do actual ancestral research? For the most part, it's up to

them—wait until they express an interest. Then equip them with the necessary tools. "You need to do a lot of background work with them," says Brittain. That might include teaching them vocabulary, introducing them to genealogical documents and explaining how to interpret the clues they contain. (For starters, try turning them loose on your old copies of *Family Tree Magazine* and our Web site at <www.familytreemagazine.com>.)

Ultimately, your own passion for genealogy will be your greatest asset in passing on your family tree fervor to the next generation. In my merit badge class, the most enthusiastic scouts were the ones who had a genealogist in the family. Along with the birth certificates, photos and family Bible copies, these relatives shared their excitement for discovering their ancestry. Your kids or grandkids will also share your joy for discovering the past—even if census schedules and cemetery transcriptions don't tempt them away from cartoons on Saturday morning. 🐾

ALLISON STACY is associate editor of *Family Tree Magazine*.

A 1755 textbook on geometry and military fortification, possibly written in a special script used in mapmaking.

The simple Pace, is the Distance of three Geometrical Faces.
The Cubit, is the Length of a Foot and a half.
The Geometrical Foot, is the Distance of twelve thumbs breadth.
A Thumbs Breadth, is the Length of 12 lines, of which one is a bar.
A German League, is the Space of 1000 Geometrical Faces.
A Italian League, is the Space of 1000 Geometrical Faces.

- / Justinian
- || Samuel
- || William
- ✓ Samuel

Hannah Holden b. Feb. 12, 1763; in Dorchester, Mass.
d. Dec. 18, 1832;

of Cape
n. Apr. 5, 1780
b. Dec. 12, 1780
|| June 24

Samuel & Hannah (Hutton) Holden
John Mellish of Dorchester, Mass.

GETTING a hand

STUMPED BY THE CHICKEN
SCRATCHES AND ORNATE SCRIPT ON
YOUR ANCESTORS' OLD DOCUMENTS?
FOLLOW THESE SEVEN STEPS TO
START DECIPHERING THE
HANDWRITING OF YESTERYEAR.

By Maureen A. Taylor

Durant desired me the Subscriber to app
 ize a law which he had taken up. Dange
 proceed with as a story, and accordingly
 apprized at four pounds by Esq. John Stone
 ing junior who were by the appointed and
 faithfully and indifferently therein
 John Stone Justice of Peace

Charles E. Tucker

Subscriber to
 to be about
 three years old
 to be proceede
 apprized at five
 in Parker and
 sworn to deal

record in the Archives of the Society. Please fill out this blank, and
 SECRETARY, 18 Somerset Street, Boston, at your early convenience.

Charles Edwin Tucker

Mass.
 6th 1847.
 St. West
 Office, City Hall, Boston.
 am Tucker.
 N.H.
 2nd 1817.

This correspondence from the papers of Eben Putnam was written in one form of the Copperplate handwriting style.

Justice John Stone of Holliston, Mass., kept this account book and journal from 1778 to 1797 in another form of Copperplate.

DOCUMENTS COURTESY OF THE NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

My husband works with computers, not old documents, so one night when he glanced over as I sat transcribing a census page, he cried, "How can you read that?" Used to the uniformity and predictability of fonts on a computer screen, he was baffled by the curlicues and chicken scratches on the old census document. He couldn't read it at all.

You may have felt the same way when you've struggled to decipher handwritten pages about your ancestors, from census pages to deeds to personal family letters and diaries. The answers you're after may be there, but they might as well be written in Martian.

The good news is, as I reassured my husband, the more you read older documents the more familiar you'll become with old-fashioned handwriting. But it does take patience to learn to read and transcribe unfamiliar script and to understand the clues in a manuscript.

Eventually, you can even "read between

the lines." While graphologists claim that handwriting analysis provides insight into the personality of the writer (see page 59), there are also genealogical hints in a person's handwriting. For instance, penmanship can establish a time period for a document and the educational level of the person who wrote it.

Here are seven steps to help you get started discovering new things about your family through their handwriting:

1. MATCH HANDWRITING TO HISTORY.

Today we equate literacy with being able to read and write, but that's strictly a 20th-century concept. In earlier centuries, writing was taught separately from reading. In fact, questions regarding an individual's skill in reading and writing continued as separate columns on the US census until 1930.

Reading, after all, was important to study the Bible, but writing wasn't deemed essen-

CARING FOR old documents

- Remove staples, paperclips, rubber bands and metal fasteners from documents. They deteriorate and cause damage.
- Handle documents as little as possible and wear cotton gloves.
- Store flat in acid-free and lignin-free enclosures such as folders and certain types of plastics such as Mylar.
- Never laminate documents. (For step-by-step instructions on how to safely encapsulate documents instead, see the April 2001 *Family Tree Magazine*.)
- Keep them in a dark place with a stable temperature and humidity.
- Let professionals repair and de-acidify documents.

1100s Paper first appears in Europe

1686 *New England Primer* used in schools

1761 Faber pencil dynasty started by Kaspar Faber

Late 1700s Autograph collecting starts as a hobby

1816 *The Art of Judging the Mind and Character of Men and Women from Their Handwriting* by Edouard Auguste Patrice Hocquart discusses handwriting analysis

1884 First practical fountain pen invented

1888 Austin Palmer invents his famous handwriting method

1890-1945 Schools teach several different methods from Palmer, the American Book Company and Zaner-Bloser; all are characterized by free arm movements

1894 Palmer's *Guide to Business Writing* published

1914 Frank Freeman's *Teaching of Handwriting* introduces "scientific penmanship"

1942 American Society of Questioned Document Examiners founded

1945 Ballpoint pen transforms writing by eliminating the need for desks

1964 D'Nealian script introduced in schools

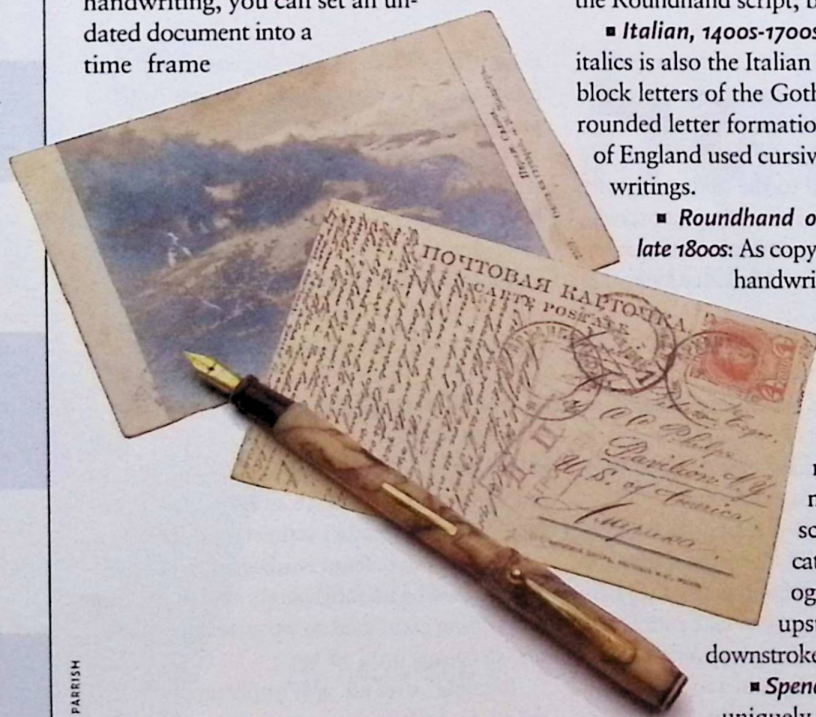
tial. Even signing your name wasn't required: Officials wrote documents and men who couldn't write signed their mark, a design that distinguished them from others.

As writing came to reflect economic affluence or social position, however, businessmen, clergy and public officials began to learn. In Colonial America, individuals could enroll in private writing classes as early as 1684, or use self-teaching manuals. In the 18th and 19th centuries, penmanship masters traveled around the country teaching the fine art of handwriting to persons wanting to sign their name or to young women using penmanship as a means of artistic expression.

Handwriting is not only different for each generation of your family tree, but also reflects the writing technology available at the time. The shape and style of the pen nib influenced the development of new handwriting methods. For example, it's difficult to create certain scripts with a flat pen nib. You can study 20th-century handwriting methods by asking relatives to write the alphabet on a separate sheet of paper and comparing them. While individuals tend to develop their own style regardless of the method taught in school, certain letter formations will let you identify when they were taught to write and in what script.

2. RECOGNIZE THE STYLE.

As you become familiar with different types of handwriting, you can set an undated document into a time frame



AL PARRISH

and learn more about the person who wrote the words. In Colonial America, most of the population learned one style of handwriting, but well-educated individuals often learned several different methods of script or "hands." For instance, John Winthrop of Massachusetts often wrote in various scripts within the same sentence. At least four different calligraphic styles of script—Gothic, Italian, Secretary and Roundhand—co-existed in Colonial America.

Men and women often learned different scripts, so someone would be able to identify the sex of the writer from their handwriting. The same was true for social status: Private secretaries wrote in a particular style, while their employers would sign in another, thus establishing that they did not write the document. According to Tamara Plakins Thornton, author of *Handwriting in America* (Yale University Press, \$16.95), different hands "were a marker of a specific occupation, gender or class." Not until the late 19th century did one method become dominant in the United States.

Here's a quick look at some styles you'll encounter, and when they were popular:

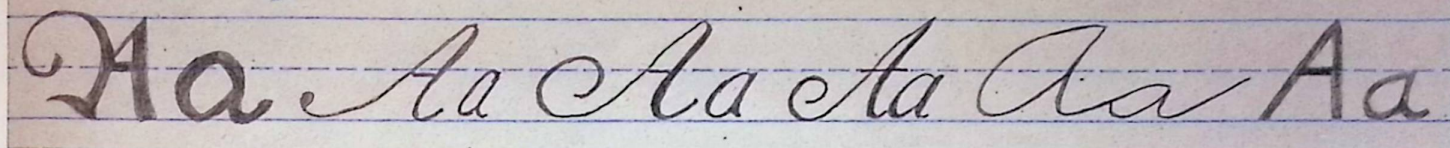
■ **Secretary, Court Hand or Gothic, 1600s:** Known by multiple names, this is the most common script you'll encounter in 17th-century materials. It reflects the handwriting style of early English immigrants. You'll also see Mayflower Century script, which is a combination of this style with Italian and, by 1700, the Roundhand script, below.

■ **Italian, 1400s-1700s:** The script we call italics is also the Italian hand. Instead of the block letters of the Gothic script, Italian has rounded letter formations. Queen Elizabeth of England used cursive Italian script in her writings.

■ **Roundhand or Copperplate, 1700-late 1800s:** As copybooks—self-teaching handwriting manuals—began to be printed by copperplate engraving, the Roundhand became popular. It also helped introduce new writing implements so that the fine script could be duplicated. Roundhand is recognizable by its thin upstrokes and thicker downstrokes.

■ **Spencerian, 1865-1890:** This uniquely American handwrit-

TYPE styles



SECRETARY,
COURT HAND
OR GOTHIC

ITALIAN

ROUNDHAND
OR
COPPERPLATE

SPENCERIAN

PALMER

D'NEALIAN

ing system was derived from three competing penmanship masters. Characterized by flourishes, Spencerian reflected the feminine pursuits of the Victorian period. Writing was a slow process because of the number of loops and times the pen lifted from the page to form letters. Spencerian handwriting became the dominant method of script in the late 19th century, taught in schools and in copybooks.

■ **Palmer, 1880-1960s:** Austin Palmer developed his method of plain, legible script to be more suited to the fast pace of business than the slow pen strokes of the Spencerian method. Ask your parents or grandparents about the movement drills practiced in the classroom to master Palmer penmanship.

■ **D'Nealian, 1965-present:** If you have children or grandchildren currently learning to write, this is probably what they're being taught. The letters in the printed version of D'Nealian help children learn manuscript writing without learning different letter formations. See <www.dnealian.com> for examples of this style.

3. ADJUST FOR STYLISTIC VARIATIONS.

If you've ever tried to read a document from the 17th century or earlier, you know it can be like learning another language. Part of the reason it's so challenging isn't just the different script—you'll also encounter variations such as these:

■ **Handwriting difficulties:** Illegible handwriting can be evidence of improper or interrupted instruction, illness or even learning disabilities. In earlier centuries, pupils learned writing through the use of copybooks, requiring students to exactly duplicate the letters and style shown. If your ancestors' schooling wasn't completed, penmanship lacked the discipline of the repetitious practicing. Evidence of certain types of medical conditions and old age appear as tremulous writing with shaky letter forma-

READING *between the lines*

Handwriting can reveal more than just what your ancestor was writing *about*—it also may reveal personality traits of the writer herself.

Since the 1600s, various theorists have tossed around the idea that handwriting reveals personality. But it wasn't until the 20th century that graphology—the inference of character from a person's handwriting—emerged as a “science.” An individual's character shows itself in the size of letters, along with how they are slanted, decorated, angled and curved (a *t* crossed near the top indicates vanity, for example). Today, psychologists, teachers, social workers and personnel departments hire graphoanalysts to study the handwriting of living persons. Certified graphoanalyst Christina Meide decided

to apply her training to a longtime hobby: genealogy.

“Handwriting can show many amazing traits—good traits—in an individual who has taken the wrong road in life,” Meide explains. “It is not unusual for me to hear, ‘This can't be right. My great-great-uncle was a horse thief and an unfaithful husband.’ This may be true, but Great-great-uncle was also a person with a very complicated personality. After all, he wasn't born ‘bad.’”

To learn more about Meide and her work, see her Web site <handwriting.bizhosting.com> or write to her at 2040 105th St., Geneva, IA 50633. Also see the International Graphoanalysis Society at <www.igas.com>.

—Susan Wenner

tion. Illegible handwriting also may have been caused by dysgraphia, a learning disability.

■ **Immigration clues:** The handwriting styles discussed here are American versions. Penmanship styles differ in other countries and cultures. If you're trying to read script from someone who didn't learn the technique in this country, there will be variations in letter formation and often in the way certain numbers appear. Handwriting can help verify that your ancestor immigrated to the US after learning to write in his or her country of origin.

■ **Shorthand and abbreviations:** A type of shorthand still frustrates researchers trying to read the letters of Roger Williams, one of the original founders of Rhode Island. Even after being sent to a code breaker, many of his notes remain indecipherable. If you find self-created shorthand in family papers, the writer probably utilized it to expedite the

writing process and possibly to confuse anyone trying to sneak a peek at a diary or letter. Abbreviations are a type of shorthand, too. Some standard ones appear in official documents, while others are individual adaptations. When trying to decipher shorthand or abbreviations, it helps to create a reference chart of the idiosyncrasies in each manuscript.

■ **Left-handedness:** While not all left-handed individuals write with a backward slant, penmanship with that feature can indicate your ancestor's dominant hand. But be aware that at least one writing master in the mid-19th century purposefully taught his pupils to write with a backward slant.

■ **Flourishes:** Some writing instructors taught pupils to create artistic works with penmanship. With the same pen strokes used for letter formation, students could draw birds and borders with pen flourishes for graphic interest.

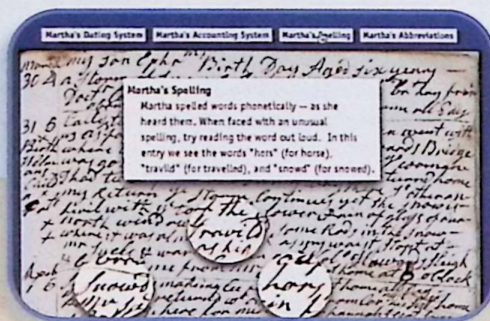
■ **Fraktur:** Decorated writings of the Pennsylvania German folk art tradition, *Fraktur* began appearing in Germany, Alsace and Switzerland in the early 17th century. *Fraktur* most commonly appears on certificates for births and baptisms and in family records for immigrants from those areas.

4. CHECK YOUR SPELLING.

Having only one way to spell a word is a 20th century concept springing from widely available free public schooling and mandatory education laws. If you can't figure out a word once you've transcribed it, try saying it aloud; it might be phonetic.

Older documents also often contain archaic words and phrases that are un-

familiar today, or words whose meaning has changed. Consulting the *Oxford English Dictionary* or a dictionary from the time period of the document will usually explain the meaning. There are also genealogical dictionaries or compilations of unusual words and phrases commonly found in materials used by family historians. You'll find hundreds of free online dictionaries to help you with foreign, archaic and specialty terms at <www.yourdictionary.com>.



find it on the web

■ Name and Word Spellings

<www.genealogy.com/00000015.html>: Description of handwriting mistakes and misspellings.

■ Examples of Old Handwriting

<www.rootsweb.com/~genepool/oldalpha.htm>: Shows letters found in 17th-century documents.

■ Medieval Paleography

<orb.rhodes.edu/textbooks/palindex.html>: Online course from England's Leicester University on the study of written documents from the Middle Ages.

■ Old English Mailing List

A mailing list for anyone who is deciphering old English documents. To subscribe send "subscribe" to old-english-l-request@rootsweb.com (mail mode) or old-english-d-request@rootsweb.com (digest mode).

■ Old Handwriting Examples

<homepages.rootsweb.com/~mahudson/ole-hw.htm>: References names and words in various scripts.

■ Reading Census Handwriting

<www.sierra.com/sierrahome/familytree/hqarticles/censusreading/>

■ Tips on Reading Old Handwriting

<www.sierra.com/sierrahome/familytree/hqarticles/handwriting/>

■ Martha Ballard's Diary

<www.dohistory.org/diary/>: Online display of the late 18th- and early 19th-century diary featured in the book *A Midwife's Tale*; features tutorials on reading handwriting and examples.

■ Deciphering Old Handwriting

<www.amberskyline.com/treasuremaps/oldhand.html>: Examine examples and try your hand at a few samples.

■ The Fraktur Tradition

<www.region.waterloo.on.ca/jshz/>: Learn more about *Fraktur* and look at a few examples. Click on Collections, then *Fraktur*.

■ History of Handwriting

<www.parkerpen.co.uk/history/>: Interesting overview of the history of handwriting from the Parker Pen Co.

■ Early English Handwriting

<ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/dave_tylcoat/handwrit.htm>: Try your hand at reading examples from 1547 to 1612.

■ Dysgraphia

<www.dyslexia-ca.org/dysgraph.htm>: Find out more about learning disabilities and handwriting.

5. GO LETTER BY LETTER.

Different styles of handwriting have idiosyncrasies that can lead to transcription errors. For instance, 17th-century documents written in Secretary hand are full of abbreviations and letter formations that look strange to us today. In Roundhand, the letter *s* is formed by a long flourish that's easily confused with a *p* or an *f*.

In her best-selling book *Unpuzzling Your Past* (Betterway Books, \$14.99; see page 22), Emily Croom offers these tips for making sense of old script:

■ Lower-case letters *u*, *n*, *w* and *m* often look alike.

■ Watch for undotted *i*'s and uncrossed *f*'s.

■ Words with double *ss* can appear to be *fs* or *ps*.

■ Capital letters *S*, *L* and *T* can have a similar appearance.

■ *I* and *J* can look the same.

Tackle these challenges one step at a time. Spend time poring over a document, looking

on the bookshelf

■ *Handwriting in America: A Cultural History* by Tamara Plakins Thornton (Yale University Press, \$16.95)

■ *Handwriting of American Records for 300 Years* by E. Kay Kirkham, (Everton Publishers, \$11)

■ *Handwriting of the 20th Century* by Rosemary Sassoon (Routledge, \$27.99)

■ *Pen, Ink, & Evidence: A Study of Writing and Writing Materials for the Penman, Collector, and Document Detective* by Joe Nickell (Oak Knoll Press, \$49.95)

■ *Reading Early American Handwriting* by Kip Sperry (Genealogical Publishing Co., \$29.99)

■ "Read It Right" in *Unpuzzling Your Past* by Emily Croom (Betterway Books, \$14.99)

■ *Understanding Colonial Handwriting* by Harriet Stryker-Rodda (Genealogical Publishing Co., \$4.50)

at each word and identifying all the capital and lower-case letters that you're sure of. When you find a letter that's indecipherable, try comparing it to letters in other words in the manuscript until you find similarities. There will be times when this doesn't work, but in many cases you can locate an approximate match. Deciphering each document letter by letter creates a stylistic alphabet chart and builds your self-confidence.

6. PUT IT IN CONTEXT.

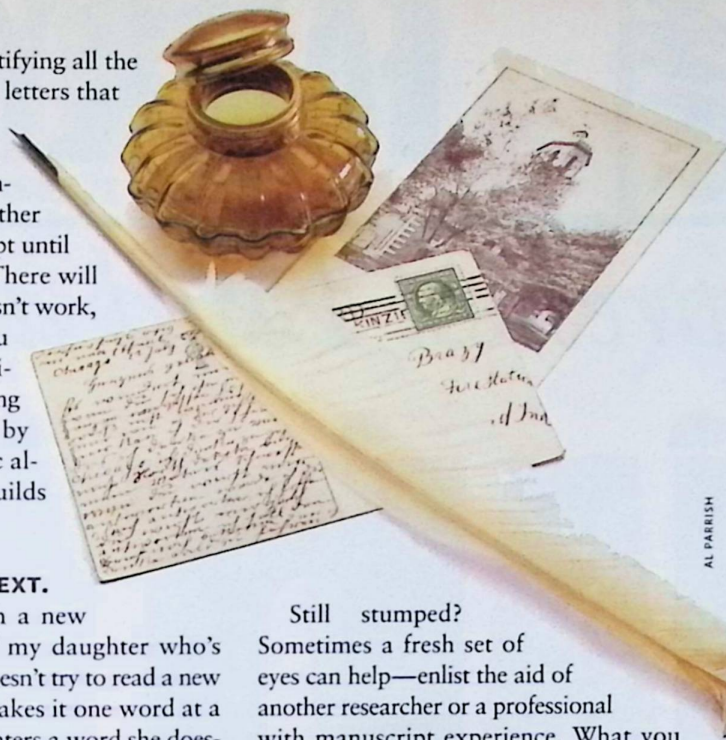
Whenever I approach a new document, I think of my daughter who's learning to read. She doesn't try to read a new book all at once; she takes it one word at a time. When she encounters a word she doesn't recognize, she tries to understand it in the context of the sentence. The same methods work for old documents. There are almost always words that will scare you with their illegibility. When this happens, step back from the word and read the rest of the document to see if you can pick up any contextual clues.

Remember how code breakers work, looking for patterns that let them turn gobbledygook into plain English. If you keep seeing a mystery letter followed by *he*, it's probably a *t*, making *the*.

7. OVERCOME OTHER OBSTACLES.

It may not be a problem with the handwriting that stops you from completely understanding a document. Physical deterioration—faded ink, water damage or worn documents—can obscure single letters or even whole paragraphs. My ancestors almost always end up on a census page smeared from exposure to water.

Don't give up just because, say, old ink has faded; ultraviolet light can help you read faded ink. *Family Tree Magazine* contributing editor Sharon DeBartolo Carmack recommends using a pale blue or bright yellow paper to enhance old documents on microfilm. Place the paper on the microfilm reader so that the image projects on the paper, not the screen; it helps cut the glare. Ask other researchers how they overcome these physical roadblocks to reading old documents, and share your own secrets.



AL PARISH

Still stumped? Sometimes a fresh set of eyes can help—enlist the aid of another researcher or a professional with manuscript experience. What you found difficult, someone else may be able to read effortlessly.

And be patient. Sometimes trying to read an old document takes hours or even days. While you want to be able to read it as easily as the words in this article, it may not be possible. You wouldn't expect to learn Greek in an afternoon, so why set yourself up for failure by rushing the process? When you become frustrated, set the document aside for a day or two until you're ready to try again.

Ultimately, the rewards are worth the effort. Reading an old family letter or diary is a bit like time travel. You have a sense of what your ancestors experienced, in their own words. Even deciphering an old census page or courthouse document in a stranger's handwriting can be a thrill—you're reading the words of someone who actually met your ancestor, after all.

Nothing in the sterile fonts on a computer screen can quite compare. So when my husband asks, "How can you read that?" I have to answer, "How can you not want to read it?"

MAUREEN A. TAYLOR, the owner and principal of Taylor & Strong Ancestral Connections <www.taylorandstrong.com>, is the author of *Preserving Your Family Photographs* (Betterway Books, \$19.99) and *Uncovering Your Ancestry through Family Photographs* (Betterway Books, \$18.99). In a regular feature on *Family Tree Magazine's* Web site, she helps users identify old family photographs <www.familytreemagazine.com/photos/photohelp.htm>.

PAGES from the past

Can you establish a time frame for an undated document? The answer is yes, but it can be challenging. Try answering these questions:

■ **What style is the handwriting?** First, try to identify the handwriting style to provide a general sense of when the document was written. Don't forget to compare the penmanship to other records possibly written by the same person.

■ **Is there a watermark?** Wearing gloves, hold the sheet of paper up to the light. Watermarks are set into the paper and identify the paper manufacturer. If there is one, you can then research that company at a large public library to see when that particular watermark was used.

■ **What type of paper is it?** Various styles of paper became fashionable at different dates, so examine the sheet of paper for color, edging and size. For example, parchment paper was not manufactured in the United States until 1885.

■ **What was used to create the document?** Other factors such as type of pen or pencil, ink eraser marks, and even drying sand and blotters can help you learn more about the document in your hands. Certain styles of pen nibs became popular at various times, so by comparing the undated document to another one from the same person may help you judge when it was created.

■ **Does a stamp appear on the document?** Postage stamps and wax seals can reveal a date for a document.

Still having trouble? Consult a professional. If establishing a date becomes important, contact the American Society of Questioned Document Examiners. The society maintains a referral list of members on its Web site <www.asqde.org>.



Stop the presses! Find all the

OLD

*with this five-step guide to
your roots and bring your pas*

THE JOURNAL

SEPTEMBER 1, 2001 ONE CENT



news that fits your family tree

NEWS

*Using old newspapers to trace
to life.* **By Nick D'Alto**

You already know that your great-grandfather survived the Johnstown flood. But isn't it time that you read the original tale of his miraculous escape? or remember that old family business, the one you've only heard about? What if you could find a full-page ad for their first store?

Your family history can come alive in the pages of old newspapers—even if you don't have any famous (or infamous) ancestors. From banner stories to period advertising to surprising discoveries from reading between the lines, newspaper archives can flesh out your family's past. You might have the thrill of spotting an ancestor's name in the antique typefaces of a bygone era. Or a news account describing your forefather's Civil War regi-

ment—even if he isn't mentioned by name—can help you relive his experiences more immediately than any secondhand history book could. Just scanning the same printed pages that your great-grandparents once read, by gaslight at their kitchen tables long ago, can help you gain insights into their lives and times.

Part public diary and part gossip fence, newspapers functioned as the original (and only) mass media of the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. Clarence Brigham's *History and Bibliography of American Newspapers* reports that more than 2,000 newspapers were published in the United States before 1820. And those numbers swelled many times as presses improved by mid-century. Published daily in the largest cities and the tiniest burghs, American newspapers recorded the ordinary and the extraordinary, from births to deaths and everything in between. Better preserved and documented than many other records, newspapers are often the only surviving written accounts of the events they describe.

Many fast, easy-to-use resources can help you search historic newspapers for information about your family's past. Indexes, union catalogs and impressive repositories can all speed your print-based research. And burgeoning Internet resources can help you locate family news at the click of mouse.

Here are five steps to get you started delving into yesterday's news:

1. CHART THE NEWS FROM YOUR PAST.

Begin your search by studying your genealogical records. List the newsworthy events in the lives of each ancestor you've traced. Begin with the obvious: birth, emigration, marriage, military service, death and so forth. Then start reading between the lines. For example, professions imply graduations and clergymen are usually ordained—both are common stories in the local press. If one of your ancestors witnessed Arizona's statehood, lived in a logging camp or drove a Stanley Steamer, write it down—you may find related stories.

Next, consider the unusual. Did an ancestor live to be 100? Did they celebrate a 50th wedding anniversary? Did a relative survive a train wreck, run for office, go to jail, win a county fair or participate in a labor strike? In

short, think like a newspaper reporter: If an event would have been news back then, there's a chance someone covered the story.

Try to identify a date (even just "late 1840s") for each event on your list. Also assign a place. Narrow a general area ("central Kansas") by consulting a state map. A gazetteer in your local library, such as *The Geography of the United States* by Milbrey Zellee or Jedidiah Morse's *American Gazetteer*, can help you locate a town or parish that may have disappeared from modern maps. (For more on map resources, see the August 2001 *Family Tree Magazine*.) Remember that news in one locale might be reported in neighboring towns as well. In rural settings, always identify the county seat, often a hub for news.

2. CONSULT THE CATALOG.


With your family timelines in hand, consult the directories and union catalogs of newspapers. Any well-stocked university library can provide you with the titles you need (see box on next page). Some directories chronicle particular periods (such as the 18th century), while others inventory specific collections (for example, the Library of Congress).

Virtually all catalogs are organized by state, and then list the region's newspapers by county, town and date. Most important, each entry identifies (usually through abbrevia-

Confectioners.	
JONATHAN HILDRETH,	Confectioner, corner of Elm and Fifth streets.
HENRY BRACHMAN,	Confectioner, and Steam Chocolate Manufacturer, Pearl street.
LEWIS KING,	Confectioner, Brown's Row Sixth street, between Elm and Plum.
Exchange Offices.	
ATKINSON & CO.,	Exchange Banking House east side of Main street, 2d building north of Second street.
DENTON DUNN,	Exchange Office, 66½, Main street.
E. GREENE,	Exchange Office, No. 39, Main street, Gilmore's old stand.
TH. HENRY YEATMAN,	Exchange Office West Third Street.
Loan Offices and Agencies.	
DAVID A. SANDERS,	Loan Office and Agent for Wesley Smead, corner of Vine and Fifth streets, 3d door above Burke's church.

tions) one or more repositories where surviving copies of each newspaper can be found. Top repositories include state libraries, universities, historical/antiquarian societies and local libraries. A catalog entry will tell you specific dates of the newspapers that each archive holds. Virtually all archives store their newspapers on microfilm. (See "Losing the Paper Chase" on page 68 to find out why.)

By scanning these reference volumes, it's easy to begin matching newsworthy events in your past with newspapers that might have reported them.



WARD'S VEGETABLE HAIR OIL.
L'Huile Vegetable De Ward.—In all ages of the world a beautiful head of hair has been considered the greatest ornament ever bestowed by nature upon the human frame, and indispensably necessary to the perfection of personal beauty. It is a very general complaint of young persons, that their hair is falling off, or becoming dry and unhealthy; this may be owing to the application of improper oils, or to the entire neglect of the hair. Without proper attentions, diseases of the hair will arise, which are often found to occasion thinness, falling off, and frequently total baldness. For these evils and the necessary inconveniences attending them, WARD'S VEGETABLE HAIR OIL, will in all cases be a sure remedy. Before offering this Oil to the public it had been tried in hundreds of cases of baldness, thinness and falling off of the hair, and in every instance its salutary effects have been realized to admiration. It has never failed to produce a new and beautiful growth of hair on heads already bald.

Hardware Merchants.

- DONALDSON & CO.** Hardware Merchants
No. 18, Main street.
- H. Y. S. KELLOGG,** Hardware Merchant, No. 176, Main street.
- JOHN B. BROOKE, & CO.,** Importers and Dealers in Hardware, Cutlery, Saddlery, &c., E. corner of Main and Third streets.
- M. GREGOR & CO.** Importers and Dealers in Hardware, Cutlery, Saddlery, &c., No. 67 Main street.
- H. NORRIS & GIST,** Dealers in Hardware, Cutlery, &c. No. 177, Main street.
- D. PLACE & THORPE,** Importers and Dealers in Hardware, Cutlery, Saddlery, &c., No. 8 Pearl street.

Dentists.

- CHARLES HATCH,** Dentist, Third street, one door west of the Post Office.
- F. BOYCE,** resident Dentist, on Fifth street, between Main and Sycamore.

3. CREATE A STRATEGY.

As you pore over the directories, remember that big-city papers are the easiest to find, often available in libraries beyond their own states. They're also elaborately indexed; for example, *The Personal Name Index to the New York Times Index* cross-references every name in more than a century of the paper's annual indexes. But these major dailies covered only big national and local stories—they're not likely to have reported on the opening of Great-uncle Joe's auto dealership.

Small-town dailies and weeklies are harder to find, and surviving records are often incomplete. But it's far more likely that a 19th-century copy of the *Centennial City Post* contains information about your kin from that Wyoming town. Likewise, news about your Sicilian forebears in the town of Laurium, Mich., probably appeared in the *Italiano*. Immigrant, African-American and other specialty newspapers are even tougher to locate, but they often preserve history unknown in any other source.

Similarly, large repositories such as the Li-

Agent. ap27-6meod

MARRIED,

On April 28th, by the Rev. H. M. STORRS, J. R. TRADER of Hamilton, to Miss M. A. CULLEN, of this city. In this city, on the 2nd inst., by Rev. M. West, Mr. JNO. O. ANDERSON, Pilot, of Sewickleyville, Penn'a., to Miss ROSA HINTON, of Pittsburgh.

On Sabbath evening, May 2d, by Rev. J. J. THOMPSON, Mr. W. H. BARNES and Miss GEORGIANA BURTT, all of this city. (Times and Enquirer copy and charge Commercial.) At St. Louis, April 30th, by the Rev. Theodore A. HOPKINS, Mr. HENRY ROBERT GILM, of New York, to Miss EMMA, daughter of Mr. John Gilme, of St. Louis, Mo. (Parkersburgh, Va., papers please copy.) On the 30th of April, by the Rev. Dr. PARSONS, Mr. JAS. H. GIBSON, of St. Louis, to Miss MARGARETTA A. E. WARREN, of Delaware.

DIED.

On Friday evening, May 1st, at the residence of the late K. F. COOKE, in Storrs Township, Bassie, the only daughter of John S. and Eliza C. SANBORN, of Mississippi, aged two years. Bessie dear! thou lingered not, to be our little May flower, but withered as an opening bud, when culled from the garden of a mother's heart. "The choicest bud," that shed its influence o'er all around. The silver chord is loosened, and the golden band broken, but the chord is loosened to be bound in heaven. At Pittsburgh, on the 2nd inst. Mr. GEO. L. MOODY, in the 33d year of his age, after a long illness.

SPECIAL NOTICES

Your ancestors didn't have to be rich or famous to be in the newspaper. List the newsworthy events in the lives of each ancestor you've traced, such as profession, marriage, death and so forth. Then start searching for possible newspapers that might have written about these events.

NEWSPAPERS COURTESY OF THE CINCINNATI HISTORICAL SOCIETY/CINCINNATI MUSEUM CENTER, NEWSPAPER PHOTOS BY AL PARRISH

brary of Congress or university libraries can offer you the greatest number of holdings for your search visit. But a branch library in Lincoln County, Mich., may have actually indexed its collection of the *Alcona Herald*, which you're unlikely to find at the Library of Congress.

Library Resources

❖ *A History and Bibliography of American Newspapers 1690-1820* by Clarence Brigham (Greenwood Publishing Group, \$85)

❖ *American Newspapers 1821-1936: A Union List of Files Available in the United States and Canada* by Winifred Gregory (H.W. Wilson Co., out of print)

❖ *Gale Directory of Publications and Broadcast Media* (Gale Group, updated annually)

❖ *Newspaper Indexes: A Location and Subject Guide for Researchers* by Anita Cheek Milner, 3 volumes (Scarecrow Press, \$28 per volume)

❖ *A Checklist of American 18th Century Newspapers in the Library of Congress* edited by John Van Ness Ingram (Greenwood Publishing Group, out of print)

❖ *Newspapers in Microform* by Edmund Connery Latham (Library of Congress Catalog Publication Division, out of print)

❖ *The Lathrop Report on Newspaper Indexes* edited by Norman and Mary Lou Lathrop (Norman Lathrop Enterprises, out of print)

❖ *American Periodicals, 1741-1900: An Index to the Microfilm Collections* by Jean Hoornstra (University Microfilms, \$62)

❖ *African-American Newspapers and Periodicals: A National Bibliography* by James Philip Danky (Harvard University Press, \$130)

As part of your search strategy, assess the most time-effective way to access each title you're after. Your research can include:

- ☞ Site visits (the most time-consuming, but also most detailed)
- ☞ Interlibrary loans (but you must know the approximate date)
- ☞ Correspondence

For promising research that you can't perform in person, a well-constructed inquiry (letter or e-mail) to a local library or historical society in or near an ancestor's hometown may yield the data you need. For best results, be specific—exact names, specific dates, accurate place references. A brief request, focusing on one or two names or dates, stands the best chance of a generating a positive response. Don't forget to include a stamped, addressed envelope for a reply to paper inquiries.

You'll also want to prioritize your search, ranking each of your "targets" according to ease of access, likelihood of positive results and importance to your overall genealogy project.

4. FIND THE NON-FAMOUS.

Unfortunately, many family historians believe their ancestors "weren't important enough" to be mentioned in the press. Think again! Your kin need not have been provincial governors or Revolutionary War heroes to make the news.

Take a look, for instance, at a turn-of-the-century issue of *The New York Herald*. From just one page here you could learn that Mr. Stephen Norris, of 129 Jefferson St., was involved in a traffic accident (banner headline,

complete particulars); Mr. Rupert Bailey's estate in Mineola was robbed of jewels and silverplate (map, particulars); and 14-year-old Dora Frees, of the Bronx, was hurt at a birthday party (addresses, ages, other attendees).

To find news of your non-famous relatives, it helps to know where to look. As you formulate your search strategy, keep in mind that your family's news is most likely to turn up in these sections of old newspapers:

☞ *Marriages/betrothals*—Well-documented even in the first 17th-century American papers, these joyous announcements can yield the wedding parish, the location of the ceremony, parents of the bride and groom, and other vitals for your family tree.

☞ *Obituaries*—These "chronicles of passing" were an important staple in even the smallest press. Obituaries can yield age, ad-

Saving Papers

The United States Newspaper Program is a national effort to preserve America's historic press. Each state library inventories the newspaper collections of its local libraries, museums, courthouses and other sites, and catalogs them on a national database maintained by the Online Computer Library Center <www.oclc.org>.

Under the program, microfilm copies of newspapers are available anywhere in the country through interlibrary loan. Borrowers typically pay a small fee (\$5-\$20) and may have to wait four to six weeks. Visit <www.neh.gov/preservation/usnp.html> for more information; you can also access online newspaper morgues at 50 state libraries and eight National Newspaper Repositories, listed below:

☛ **American Antiquarian Society**, 14,324 titles cataloged: 185 Salisbury St., Worcester, MA 01609, (508) 755-5221, rlm@mwa.org, <www.americanantiquarian.org/collections.htm>

☛ **Center for Research Libraries**, 1,035 titles cataloged: 6050 S. Kenwood Ave., Chicago, IL 60637, (773) 955-4545, bloss@crlmail.uchicago.edu, <www.crl.uchicago.edu/info/handbook/hb43news.html>

☛ **Kansas State Historical Society**, 10,330 titles cataloged: 6425 SW 6th Ave., Topeka, KS 66615, (785) 272-8681, Ext. 201, dhaury@kshs.org, <www.kshs.org/library/news.htm>

☛ **Library of Congress**, 14,350 titles cataloged: Washington, DC 20540, (202) 707-2958, mswe@loc.gov, <lcweb.loc.gov/rr/news/extnewsp.html>

☛ **The New York Public Library**, 7,000 titles cataloged, 2 million pages microfilmed: Fifth Ave. & 42nd St., New York, NY 10018, (212) 930-0711, hkordish@nypl.org, <www.nypl.org/research/chss/grd/resguides/period.html>

☛ **The New York Historical Society**, 9,080 titles cataloged: 2 W. 77th St., New York, NY 10024, (212) 873-3400 Ext. 225, <www.nyhistory.org/librarycollection.html>

☛ **Rutgers University**, 3,139 titles cataloged: 169 College Ave., New Brunswick, NJ 08901, (732) 932-7006, rbecker@rci.rutgers.edu, <www.libraries.rutgers.edu/rulib/spcol/spcol.htm#newspapers>

☛ **State Historical Society of Wisconsin**, 7,000 titles cataloged: 816 State St., Madison, WI 53706, (608) 264-6598, james.danky@mail.shsw.wisc.edu, <www.shsw.wisc.edu/library/collect.html>

☛ **Western Reserve Historical Society**, 3,920 titles cataloged: 10825 East Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44106, (216) 721-5722, mweton@wrhs.org, <www.wrhs.org/sites/library.htm>

dress, house of worship, profession, survivors and sometimes a brief biography. Obits are also the most well-indexed section of most dailies. *The New York Times Obituaries Index, 1858-1968* is a well-known library re-

STEAMBOAT MATTERS.

BOATS LEAVING TO-DAY.

(See Advertisements.)

Pittsburg.....	JNO. L. RHOADS, Vandergrift, 12 M.
Kanawha Riv....	W. P. THOMPSON, Thorburg, 5 P.M.
Aurora.....	MINNIE, Fenton, 3 P.M.
Madison.....	LOUIS A. SHERLEY, Hildreth, 3 P.M.
Louisville.....	UNITED STATES, David, 5 P.M.
Memphis.....	ANDY BAUM, Vinton, 5 P.M.

Leave as Advertised.

Pittsburg.....	KATIE STOCKDALE, Thurs'y, Ap'14.
New Orleans....	C. B. CHURCH, Thursday, April 4.
New Orleans....	CHAS. MORGAN, Saturday, April 6.
New Orleans....	ROBT MITCHELL, Tuesday, April 6.

source, but even early and small-town papers have often been cross-referenced by later chroniclers.

☞ *Local news*—Imagine your own local newspaper, time-warped back to early America. In a small-town gazette of the 18th or 19th century, a local farmer, prominent merchant or rising businessman might make the news frequently. Look for stories ranging from building committees and political squabbles to temperance leagues and the doings of leading citizens.


☞ *Advertising*—Don't neglect this important, albeit usually unindexed source of ancestor info. In olden days, all kinds of businesses placed ads, ranging from the tiny box notices of antebellum days to the gloriously ornate tableaux of the late 19th century. Your ancestors either owned these establishments or worked for them.

☞ *Social and religious news*—Clubs and fraternal organizations formed the social glue of early America, and their lists of officers, installations and events fill the pages of old newspapers. News also abounded from churches, synagogues, Masonic lodges and trade associations. Rosters of county fair prizes packed rural pages—was your great-grandmother a master jelly maker or blue-ribbon quilter? You might even discover one of your more athletic forebears listed in antique box scores for “base-ball” and other sporting contests popular in early days.

☞ *Steamship arrivals*—City editions at ports of arrival (New York City or Galveston, for example) published page-long lists as immigration swelled.

☞ *Legal notices*—Just as today, yesterday's press carried reams of legal notices,

TRANSPORTATION



TRANSPORTATION to and from the Eastern Cities via Wheeling and Brownsville.—The subscribers, being the authorized Agents for the **DESPATCH AND RELIANCE FOUR DAY WAGON LINES**, are prepared to receive and forward Merchandise and Produce at the lowest current rates. Having no interest in steamboats, Merchants can rely upon their goods being forwarded promptly by the best boats.

AGENTS:

ELDER, GELSTON & CO., Baltimore;
 WILSON & BURNS, do;
 FORSYTH & BROTHER, No 15 South 4th st. Philad.;
 C. F. GRANDIN, No. 2 Wall street, New York;
 FORSYTH & BAKER, Wheeling;
 FORSYTH & BAKER, Brownsville.


Refer to—Taylor & Osborne,
 Rogers & Sherlock, } Cincinnati.
 dec 19-3m And Merchants generally. }

LOAN OFFICE

TEMPORARY LOANS may be obtained on application to **JOHN BAILEY**, Office on East Fourth Street, between Main and Sycamore, opposite Mr. Wm. Hawkins' Furniture Warehouse.

☞ Those who may require pecuniary assistance for a limited period, will be pleased to apply between the hours of 9 o'clock in the morning, and 3 in the afternoon.
 Nov 22 73if

FASHIONABLE HAT WAREHOUSE.
GEORGE A. COLTON



Has the pleasure of informing his friends, customers, & the public, that he has resumed the **HATTING BUSINESS** again, at his new store, No. 156, Main Street, a few doors below Dennison's Hotel, where he has an entirely new stock of Hats. Consisting of, gentlemen's black and drab Beaver and Otter, also fine Romans, from 3 to \$5 each, together with a general assortment of all kinds of hats usually called for; all of which are newly manufactured this spring, and warranted, for texture and durability, not to be surpassed by any manufactory in the United States. Particular attention will be paid to hats made to order, as usual Country merchants and others that purchase by the case are invited to call
 may 2 81f

To find news of your non-famous relatives, it helps to know where to look. They are most likely to turn up in certain sections of old newspapers, such as those pictured above: steamboat schedules, advertisements and legal notices.

bankruptcies, judgments and petitions. If your ancestors rented or owned residential or business properties, you might also find notices of sale or mortgage.

☞ *Police blotter*—Many papers carried regular lists of burglaries, house fires, thefts and the like—an ideal way to substantiate family yarns of such events.

☞ *Military records*—During wartime, many papers printed induction records, battle casualties, regimental compositions and other troop listings, indicating rank and other details.

☞ *Letters to the editor*—Occasionally indexed by local antiquarians, letters to the editor might hold an opinionated ancestor's own words.

On the Web

✦ **Library of Congress Microfilm Index** <lcweb.loc.gov/rr/news/oltitles.html>: Links to dozens of period newspapers for more than three centuries of indexed announcements, death notices, photographs and other news items.

✦ **National Library of Canada** <www.nlc-bnc.ca/8/16/index-e.html>: More than 200,000 reels of newspapers on microfilm.

✦ **American Newspaper Repository** <www.gwi.net/~dnb/newsrep.html>: Nonprofit group founded by Nicholson Baker, author of the new book *Double Fold: Libraries and the Assault on Paper* (Random House, \$25.95). (See page 68 for more information on this organization.)

✦ **US News Archives on the Web** <www.ibiblio.org/slanews/internet/archives.html>: Links to recent newspaper archives online.

✦ **Newspaper Abstracts** <www.newspaperabstracts.com>: A searchable archive of newspapers published in 1923 or earlier.

✦ **America's Chronicles** <www.americaschronicles.com>: Digital archives of 3,600 American community newspapers, set to launch in mid-September.

✦ **The Olden Times** <theoldentimes.com>: Scanned collection of 18th-, 19th- and early 20th-century US newspapers.

✦ **Immigration History Research Center** <www.umn.edu/ihr>: Extensive collection of ethnic newspapers. Also call (612) 627-4208 or write to 826 Berry St., St. Paul, MN 55114.

5. GET THE STORY.

After a few minutes leafing through a union list of newspapers, let's say you've discovered that your Grand Rapids, Wis., ancestors probably received their news through *The Centralia Enterprise*, published between 1879 and 1887, when it was absorbed by the *Grand Rapids Tribune*. You've also learned that the University of Wisconsin holds the newspapers covering the dates you want. But how will you actually find a write-up about the marriage of your great-great-grandparents, an obituary for your second cousin four times removed, or an item confirming that family legend about the triplet birth?

If an index is available, of course you should check that first. Otherwise, working from your date approximations, you'll need to begin searching the microfilm. Scanning old newspapers page-for-page may sound daunting, but it's really no harder than reading your morning paper. Microfilm is durable, easy to handle and moves quickly. Different lenses on modern reading machines let you magnify and focus to speed your search. When you find material you'd like to copy for your records, you can take a good "wet-print" of an entire page or of a detail, usually for just a quarter.

Soon you'll begin finding treasures. A tattered front page from the *The Texas Mercury* announces the Great Land Bill that coaxed your Dublin-born O'Hara kin to leave Boston and set out for the West. Ornate fonts from the last century in *The Tecumseh Chief-tain* recount a howling blizzard that your ancestors surely braved during that first winter in the Nebraska Territory. The 1773 marriage announcement of your earliest American kin quivers in the faded, Benjamin Franklin type of the *Aurora Free Sentinel*. A harness shop owned by a Mexican cousin many times removed offers its wares in an advertisement in the old *San Marcos Daily Herald*.

Careful copies and copious notes of each find will further bolster the picture you're creating of your ancestral past. Don't pinch pennies when it comes to making copies of newspaper pages—you'll want to capture the information in context, and the pages make a fascinating addition to your family history files.

As with any of your research finds, you should always cross-check any evidence you gather. Keep in mind that the early press suf-

Losing the Paper Chase

As you search for mentions of ancestors in newspapers, most likely you won't be flipping through pages, but rather cranking through plastic sheets on a microfilm reader. But what if the film cuts off some important text? Or blackens out a photo of your ancestor? You might want to check the original newspaper to see what you're missing. Chances are, though, you're out of luck.

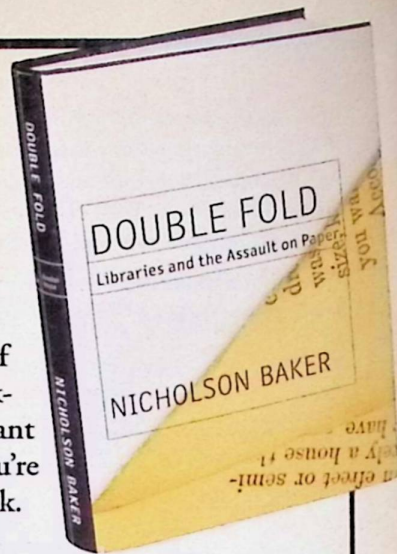
According to the new book *Double Fold: Libraries and the Assault on Paper* by Nicholson Baker (Random House, \$25.95), "the annihilation of once accessible collections of major daily papers of the late 19th and 20th centuries is pretty close to total." Since the advent of microfilm in the 1930s, libraries have been photographing their massive newspaper collections to preserve them on microfilm, then selling off or throwing away the originals.

Why don't libraries hold onto these rare volumes of America's past? Baker says the combination of misinformation (the myth that newspaper crumbles and disintegrates after a few years) and lack of storage space has led to the mass destruction of American newspapers, both here and abroad. But anyone who has used microfilm would know it often blurs or cuts off words, blackens or distorts images, and is usually in black and white.

"When you replace a broadsheet newspaper with microfilm, you effectively kill stone dead much of what it meant at its time," a librarian in Cambridge, England, told Baker. Newspapers from the late 1800s and early 1900s are most slighted by the medium, because they are heavily and colorfully illustrated—nuances lost on film.

Upon learning of original newspapers' extinction, Baker started a one-man crusade to save papers for posterity. He created the non-profit American Newspaper Repository "to keep safe for future scholarship a collection of about 7,000 bound volumes of original American newspapers." To learn more or help Baker's effort, see the Web site <www.gwi.net/~dnb/newsrep.html>, write to American Newspaper Repository, Box 643, Rollinsford, NH, 03869, or send an e-mail to newsrep@gwi.net.

—Susan Wenner



fered from its share of hyperbole. Garbled facts were not uncommon, and just because it's in print doesn't make it true.

Still, for anyone searching out their roots, it is a strange feeling to scan these old pages. Like a time machine, you spin the wheels of the microfilm reader and the days roll by in a blur of years. As headlines zip past your eyes, storms rage, businesses open and close, long-

ago people speak again. It's all here, in the forgotten pages of *The Sherburne Morning Star*, *The New Brunswick Genius of Liberty*, *The Grafton Minerva* and thousands more—life, just as your ancestors lived it. ♣

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Sepia-ing Away

Are your photos really charmingly sepia-toned or just fading away? | By David L. Mishkin

Buzz words seep into slogans, politics and professions—even into photo and restoration labs. “Sepia toning” is one such term, which you may have heard at a photo lab or store where you have your photographic copies made. Don’t let the lingo fool you—the difference between true sepia toning and its knockoffs can make family photos last or deteriorate more quickly.

Sepia toning is a chemical printing process that converts silver into a more durable compound, which helps to improve the stability of the image. Sepia-toned prints also are more stable because the printer must remove all residual chemicals (which contribute to deterioration) from the photo. If there’s any trace of harmful chemicals left in a print when it’s being toned, it will show an obvious stain. A sepia-toned print of good quality is obviously free of any harmful chemicals and is as stable as a print can be.

But don’t be fooled by photos that only appear to be sepia toned. Do you have any old family photographs that are brown in color? Have you been told (or do you believe) that these brownish prints have been sepia toned? While this may be true, it’s more likely you’re seeing a key sign of deterioration.

When 19th-century photographs deteriorate, in most cases they turn different shades of brown. So how can you tell whether the photograph of your great-grandfather is deteriorating or is in fact sepia toned? A sepia-toned print—if properly done—should retain most of its original qualities for about 100 years. If your photograph is losing some fine detail (especially in the lighter areas), you can be sure you are seeing deterioration and not sepia toning.




Don’t confuse the brown prints you get from one-hour photo labs with true sepia toning. Labs create these sepia knockoffs by using printing filters and colored paper. The final product, unlike chemically sepia-toned photos, is very unstable. Prints made on colored paper will last only 50 years before they start to deteriorate. If you aren’t storing these prints properly (including the brown prints from one-hour labs), they could start deteriorating in as little as 10 to 15 years—quite the opposite of what sepia toning does for prints. You’re doing more harm than good in the life of your photograph by requesting this service when it is not chemically sepia toned.

How did your ancestors’ photos come to be sepia-toned in the first place? In the mid-1800s, photographers were testing and experimenting with several different types of toners to change the color of final prints, be-

A true sepia-toned photograph (above) is very stable. But if you have a photographic copy made, it’s safer to go with black and white (left) than “faux sepia,” which deteriorates sooner.

cause many photos were turning out reddish or reddish-purple—not very pleasing to consumers. The objective was to improve the aesthetics of the photograph, not its preservation.

Today, we know and understand more about photographic preservation than ever before. Toners can be used for both aesthetics and preservation. Although we no longer have the fine-quality black-and-white printing papers of 50 years ago, we can enhance the look and life of the photograph with sepia toning—if it’s done right. 

DAVID L. MISHKIN is the president of Just Black & White in Portland, Maine, a custom photographic lab that specializes in copying and restoring historical and family photos <www.maine.com/photos>, photos@maine.com.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF DAVID MISHKIN

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and discover how easy it is to enjoy your genealogy hobby online.

Answers for the beginner, the befuddled and anyone hitting a brick wall.

Noble Cause

Q. Would you know of any sources for researching German nobility records? They are very difficult to find.

A. If you're looking for noble ancestors, there's good news and bad news. The good news is that nobles are well-recorded. The bad news is that sometimes family stories of noble ancestry are exaggerated, and many children of nobles came from extramarital unions that aren't recorded in nobility books.

Still, nobility records can be a source for clues about "average" ancestors, too. German nobles were both the rulers over and protectors of their subjects. So a German noble lord's *Hausbuch* (list of occupants) would contain records of even lower-class peasants. You could compare a *Hausbuch* to plantation records in the southern United States.

First you need to determine the nobleman and his noble family archive. Then head to the library. (And brush up on your *deutsch*—resources from Germany will be in German, of course.) Private nobility records are generally kept at the ancestral castle by a family member or an honorary (*ehrenamtlich*), unpaid part-time archivist. You'll find a good list of these archives in the set *Minerva: Handbuch der Archive unter Privatarhive*. Several are mentioned in Clifford Neal Smith's *Encyclopedia of German-American Genealogical Research* (R. R. Bowker Co., out of print). You could also look under the noble's name at <www.telefonbuch.de>. If it appears with the nobility predicate *v.* (which stands for *von*) and at the ancestral seat, you probably have the location of the family archive.

Other publications listing nobility (*Adel*) of various levels include *Genealogisches Handbuch des Adels*, *Der Gothaische genealogische Hofkalender* (or its French version *Almanach de Gotha*), *Genealogisches Taschenbuch der gräflichen Häuser* (counts),

Genealogisches Taschenbuch der freiherrlichen Häuser (barons), Ernst Heinrich Kneschke's *Neues allgemeines Adels-Lexikon* and the modern *Adelslexikon*.

Try to obtain these books via interlibrary loan. For multi-volume sets, check the index volume first. If they're totally unavailable, you'll have to go to a major genealogical library.

A Web site that looks promising for preliminary searching is <www.edelleute.de>, from the *Institut Deutsche Adelforschung*

(Institute for German Nobility Research). There you'll find an amazing number of periodicals dealing with German nobility. Click on English Summary for information about the institute and a description of the site.


—Ernie Thode

ERNIE THODE is the co-author of *A Genealogist's Guide to Discovering Your Germanic Ancestors* (Betterway Books, \$18.99) and the manager of the local history and genealogy department of the Washington County Public Library in Marietta, Ohio.

Permission to Publish

Q. I have some questions after reading "Copyrights and Wrongs" (Now What?, February 2001). I have been doing family research for several years and with the onset of the Internet, I correspond with several other researchers. We send photos back and forth and other documents. One of the other researchers opened a private family Web site at MyFamily.com <www.myfamily.com>, and we've posted photos, death certificates, marriage licenses and other documents on this site. Is that wrong or illegal? We don't want to get in trouble.

I am aware that photos cannot be reproduced if they are stamped "Do Not Copy" and if you want copies, you have to have written permission from the photographer. But I didn't know if we could legally make copies of death and marriage certificates or any other documents.

A. Public documents (deeds, marriage licenses, death certificates, etc.) are generally in the "public domain" and as such, anyone can copy them without permission or restriction. The only issues that may arise would be the privacy rights of the individuals named in the documents. These rights vary by state. Also, do not think that because a photo does not contain a restrictive legend you can copy it. Copyright law governs. 

—Joshua Kaufman

JOSHUA KAUFMAN is a partner in the Washington, DC, office of Venable, Baetjer, Howard and Civiletti, LLP. He is one of the country's leading copyright and art law lawyers. Some of his many articles may be found on his Web site <www.jjkaufman.com>. Read his advice on copyright and family photos at <www.familytreemagazine.com/feb01/copyright.html>.

Send questions to: Now What?, *Family Tree Magazine*, 1507 Dana Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45207, or e-mail FTMnowwhat@fwpubs.com. Sorry, we can't respond personally or answer all questions.



the toolkit

Web Sites ■ Genealogy Gadgets ■ Software
Building Your Bookshelf

Searching for tomes to tell you about your family? Genealogy Library offers an alternative to scouring genealogy books page-by-page. | By Rick Crume

TURNING UP the Volumes

Clues to the next chapter of your family history may be tucked away in the pages of a book—the century-old family history published by your fourth cousin twice removed, the local history chronicling the development of your ancestors' hometown, the record collection a kind-hearted genealogist transcribed for other researchers' benefit. But finding the right pages from the past can be tough. You may live a long way from any library with a major genealogy collection.

And even if you have access to them, genealogy and local history books often

have only partial indexes or no indexes at all, so you can easily overlook mention of your family. Genealogy.com, producer of the popular Family Tree Maker software, has created an online library to solve both problems.

Genealogy Library <www.genealogy.com/gl> brings you access to more than 3,200 genealogy books via the Internet. You can find a name anywhere in the whole collection in an instant. You can also browse through the books and print any page. Even if your local library has all of these books, it's far more efficient and convenient to search them with a few mouse clicks than to scour them page by page.

Sources fall into three categories:

1. Family Books—Digitized copies of genealogy books that make up the bulk of Genealogy Library's collection, including:

- More than 1,900 genealogies, typically tracing the descendants of immigrants to colonial New England.

- More than 250 town and county histories and published records, primarily from the New England and Mid-Atlantic states.

- More than 400 vital records collections, mostly from Indiana, Massachusetts, Georgia and Idaho.

- More than 300 US census indexes, primarily covering 1790 to 1860. Some extend up to 1880.

2. 1850 Census Images—A growing collection of scanned pages from the first US federal census to list every person, not just heads of household. So far, records from 22 of the 34 states covered by the 1850 census can be viewed and printed right from within Genealogy Li-



Library—far more convenient than going to a library to search the census on microfilm.

3. **Historical Records**—More than 50 collections of land, military, marriage, probate, church and other records Genealogy.com previously published as Family Archive CD-ROMs (*Pennsylvania German Church Records, 1729-1870*, for example).

Every week, Genealogy Library adds

vanced search form looks for matches in both Family Books and Historical Records. But the event, location and date or date range searches apply only to Historical Records—the search mechanism ignores those criteria when searching Family Books, so you'll still end up with every record containing the name you entered. The instructions say that it searches the 1850 Census

Images, too, but it really searches the index to heads of households in the 1850 census, not the images.

3. **Family Books only:** With this form (also accessible be-

text from the original book. Better yet, click on Show Hits to display the same thing with your search words highlighted. You can page through the book and print any page.

Book bargain?

A subscription to Genealogy Library costs \$9.99 per month or \$49.99 for a year. (Keep in mind that the subscription renews automatically until canceled.) When you buy Family Tree Maker or Family Origins software, you get a period of free access to Genealogy Library; that's a great way to try out the service. (Genealogy.com is also offering an exclusive free trial to *Family Tree Magazine* readers on page 33. You can take advantage of this offer to test the service yourself; our review isn't intended as an endorsement of Genealogy Library.)

Other than the census indexes, there's little overlap between Genealogy Library and other subscription data services such as Ancestry <www.ancestry.com>. So, although its simple name and keyword searches aren't as powerful or precise as other sites', Genealogy Library is still your best bet for accessing local and family history books online. And it's an excellent value.

Genealogy Library gives you easy access to an astounding volume of research materials from the comfort of your home. Still, it doesn't replace a visit to a real library: Genealogy Library has 1,900 genealogies and 250 local histories—a drop in the bucket compared to the more than 40,000 genealogies and 100,000 local histories at the Library of Congress. (For tips on tracking down other published family histories, see the June 2001 issue of *Family Tree Magazine*.) Genealogy Library's real value lies in its ability to search for any word in thousands of core genealogy books at once.

In addition to Genealogy Library, other subscription services in Genealogy.com's Online Data Library include the World Family Tree Diamond Collection (pedigree databases, \$9.99 per month or \$49.99 per year), International & Passenger Records Subscription (\$14.99 per month or \$79.99 per year) and the 1900 Census Subscription (indexes and images of census pages, \$14.99 per month or \$79.99 per year). Order at <www.genealogy.com> or (800) 548-1806.

RICK CRUME created the Genealogical Library Master Catalog <www.onelibrary.com>.



Search for books containing...

The word(s): First name: Last name:

10 matching documents, best matches first.

- 1: [1820 NY Census Index, Page 1607](#)
Hall, Johnson NY ONTARIO CO. MINDON 363
1820 Hall, Jonathan NY ONTARIO CO.
BENTON 263 1820 Hall, Jonathan NY
ONTARIO CO. BLOOMFIELD 373 1820 Hall,
Jonathan A. NY ...
- 2: [1830 NY Census Index, Page 2509](#)
Hale, Solon NY ONTARIO CO. RICHMOND 190
1830 Hall, Abraham B. NY ONTARIO CO.

Search Genealogy Library

First name: Middle: Last: (required)

[Advanced Search](#) | [Search Tips](#)
[Search Family Books Only](#)

three new data sets from existing Family Archive CDs, newly produced CDs and other data providers. Most of the sources in Genealogy Library cover families in the United States before 1900. The longer your family has been in this country, the more likely you'll find useful information (although Genealogy Library doesn't include much on African-American ancestry).

Search secrets

While Genealogy Library boasts impressive content, its bare-bones search capabilities are only adequate. You can choose from several search forms, but the meager instructions don't clearly explain the differences between them or how to use them most effectively. Here's a summary of each form's search options and the part of Genealogy Library that it searches:

1. **Simple search:** The basic search form on the main page scans all of Genealogy Library, including Family Books, the 1850 census index and Historical Records. You can search on first, middle and last name. This search works fine for rare names, but not common names: You'll get lots of irrelevant hits because it provides no way to limit your search to a certain place or time period.

2. **Advanced search:** Click on the link beneath the simple search to access a form that includes first, middle and last name; events; location; and date or date range. The ad-

neath the simple search), you can search the texts of all family books for a first name, last name or any word. Adding another word or words to your query is especially useful if you're searching on a common name. For example, if you search on the name *Jonathan Hall*, you might add the name of the town (South Bristol), county (Ontario) or state (New York) where he lived or the name of his spouse (Caroline).

4. **Browse Genealogy Library:** Below the simple search on the Genealogy Library home page is a directory of links. This lets you limit your search to a specific database or category of databases. Follow any category link and you can search that category by first name, last name or any word. If you're researching a family that lived in New York, for instance, you might select Places from the Family Books and 1850 Census category and then New York (under United States) to search only Family Books focusing on that state.

Each match shows the title of the work, your search term and the surrounding text so that you can quickly determine if the reference looks promising. Percentages indicate the quality of each match. Just click on the title of a match to view the whole page of

Your Surname Here

Custom CDs from Heritage Quest may help you fill in the blanks of your 1870 census research. | By Nancy Hendrickson

Efforts to put census records on the Web have been the buzz of the genealogy world lately, but those databases aren't the only way to tap the federal census from your computer. Census schedules have also been popping up on CDs—and now HeritageQuest <www.heritagequest.com> has come up with a unique way of packaging them. For \$19.95, you can order a customized CD-ROM with the nationwide listing of every head of household bearing your surname (and all Soundex variations, to cover spelling variations) for the 1870 census.

The searchable CD contains the head of household's name, age, sex, race, birthplace, locality, county, microfilm series, roll and page number. The data is organized in tables, and you can construct searches using any combination of the database fields.

This surname-specific CD won't list neighbors or relatives with different surnames—whose records often help you track down your own ancestors. But it does give you a good chance of finding ancestors whose names were misspelled or those who, because of changing boundaries, lived in a different locale than you previously searched. You can also find relatives you didn't even know existed.

The CD lets you search by surname, place of birth and/or the 1870 place of residence. For example, when I applied a Birth Place of KY and State of IN to the entire Soundex listing for my surname, I got 169 matches. Of those, several belonged to my family, and three actually had variant surname spellings. Locating them took less than five seconds.

Searching the database is as simple as clicking on any (or all) of the fields and then typing in your search criteria. If you set the search parameters to Auto (under the Search menu), the CD will automatically perform a new search each time you change criteria. You can easily remove any previously chosen fields by double-clicking them.

If your surname is frequently misspelled, don't specify an exact spelling match. Instead, let the system search through the entire Soundex listing using fields other than Surname. If your search returns too many hits, use the Contain or Exclude option to narrow your results. And once you've performed a search, you can sort any of the fields by ascending or descending order.

If you already know where your family lived in 1870, other CD-ROMs may be more valuable to you. But if a branch of your family is missing, or you've been unable to find them in printed indexes, these custom CDs may be your quickest ticket to success. And once you've located your forebears on CD, you can research the rest of the neighborhood by viewing the microfilm pages at your local research facility.

The Heritage Quest surname-specific CD-ROM requires Windows 95 or higher, Pentium 100 MHz or higher, 16 MB RAM and up to 88 MB hard disk space.

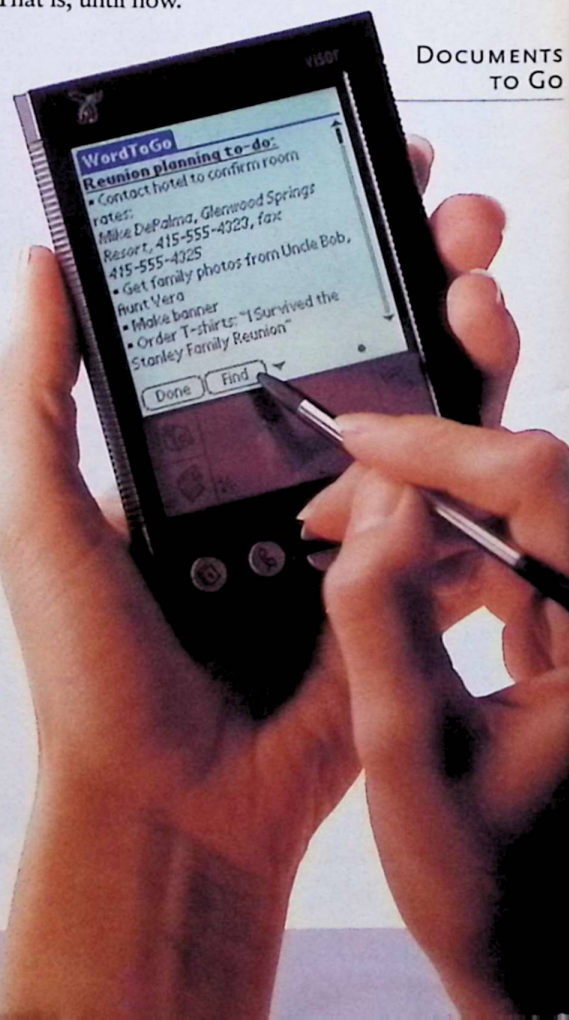
NANCY HENDRICKSON suggests more genealogy tools in her AncestorNews column, part of *Family Tree Magazine's* free, weekly e-mail update <www.familytreemagazine.com/newsletter.asp>.

Helping Handheld

Don't overload on family facts at your next reunion—upload and organize with a PDA. | By Sheri Wallace

You've just checked into the local hotel, and between reminding the kids to act like ladies and gentlemen—not Uncle Steve—and peeking in the mirror to make sure the extra 10 pounds you're sporting since the last reunion are as hidden as they're going to be, you're already feeling it—information overload.

Remember the last reunion, when you forgot to get Aunt Mabel's e-mail address and it took three months to find her home and awake when you called? Then there was the debacle after you forgot Uncle Phil's birthday. And the trauma cousin Anita endured because she lost the dinner napkin where she'd written Great-aunt Freda's first marriage date—just before Freda died. Family reunions are nesting grounds for information overload. Whether it's a gathering of 30 or 300, you just can't take in everything that those people who share your gene pool want to tell you. That is, until now.



DOCUMENTS
TO GO

DOWNLOAD DESTINATIONS

A Web search on *PDA software* or *handheld downloads* is sure to bring hundreds of sites promising free software to enhance your handheld. But several reputable sites offer reviews and lists of software—searchable by function—that will save you time and narrow the risk of getting a buggy piece of freeware:

■ ZDNet

<www.zdnet.com>: Select Handhelds from the option bar on the home page and search for the perfect PDA or software to accomplish exactly what you need.

■ PalmSpot

<www.palmspot.com>: Considered

the best site for all things Palm, this site has the latest and greatest, as well as reviews and general information.

■ EuroCool

<www.eurocool.com>: Why stick to only US-based reviews and software? EuroCool brings handheld owners the most popular options from Europe, and some choices you might not find on strictly US sites.

■ PalmGear

<www.palmgear.com>: With an easy-to-understand rating system and clear navigation, this site has quick access to the top downloads, accessories and software updates.

This year you can relax—all you need is a Personal Digital Assistant, commonly known as a PDA or handheld, and sold under such brand names as **Palm** <www.palm.com> and **Handspring** <www.handspring.com>. Lots of genealogists have already discovered how handy these pocket-sized processors can be on trips to the library or the courthouse. But a handheld can also help you process—and organize—all the family facts that will surface at your clan's annual get-together. Before you head to the next reunion, check out these tools and tips to prep your PDA.

Facing the facts

Almost all handhelds come with some kind of contact management software preloaded. This typically includes a date book, calculator, to-do list, address book and memo program. You can take advantage of these built-in features to make a list of family facts you want to verify with relatives, record phone numbers and e-mail addresses, add all your nieces' and nephews' birthdays to the calendar and so on. While most standard software packages are more than adequate for keeping track of friends and business associates, genealogy buffs have special needs. Before downloading any additional software, try out your memo pad and date reminder options to see if they'll suffice. If you'd like to upgrade, check out Franklin Planner's contact management software package at <www.franklinplanner.com>. It allows you to synchronize your entire planner with a Palm-compatible PDA and print pages that fit in your Franklin Planner for later reference.

Of course, you'll want to compare genealogy notes with your researching relatives. Rather than hauling stacks of charts, reports and documents to the reunion, you may find it easier to bring your family file with you digitally. Portable genealogy programs such as **GedStar 4.0** <www.ghecssoftware.com> and **HandyTree 1.0** <www.geocities.com/arkansoft>, as well

as several others (see the December 2000 issue of *Family Tree Magazine* for more options), put all your ancestors' info at your fingertips. Keep in mind that some programs are read-only: While you'd have instant access to data you've already researched, you'd have to enter new findings into a database, memo or word processing program on the PDA, then update your desktop genealogy program when you get back home.

The good news is that it's easy to send Microsoft Word and Excel documents back and forth from your desktop to your handheld using programs such as **Documents To Go** <www.dataviz.com> and **Quickoffice** <www.cesinc.com>. So the next time Uncle Samuel starts telling that story about his homestead and the IRS, take notes on your Palm and transfer them when you get home. You should practice using the stylus at the speed you expect to do data entry at the reunion—you may want the optional keyboard if you know you're going to be entering long stories.

Opting for extras

With the addition of a few extras, your PDA can also help with tasks from maps to memories. **US City Maps 1.3** and **HandMap Deluxe 3.8** <www.evolutionary.net> are two useful mapping programs that can keep even your father from getting lost. If you need to create your own maps—perhaps to the now-overgrown family burial plot—cemetery mapping programs such as **Cemetery V1.0** <www.palmgear.com/software/showsoftware.cfm?prodID=9184> let you record all the details of each stone.

Never have your recipe for scalloped potatoes handy when Aunt Patty asks? Check out the recipe management software available for your handheld. Programs such as **Recepalm 1.1** <www.blackboardsoftware.com> and **PocketRecipes** <beam.to/woodenbrain> can help you by sorting your entries by ingredient and then printing a shopping list. A fun way to remember this year's reunion might be a recipe book that you compile from all the potluck offerings.

And no reunion is complete without photos. If you want to snap and view photos on your handheld, the top of the line gadget is probably Kodak's **PalmPix Camera** <www.kodak.com/US/en/digital/cameras/palmPix/>. It turns your handheld into a digital camera with all the options you could ask for. Make sure your PDA has the memory and features to support the program you choose; for instance, you won't be able to view pix in color on a PDA with a grayscale screen. The same goes for e-mail programs: Read the fine print before deciding what bells and whistles you really need—especially if your handheld is more than a few months old.

With a little planning and some practice with your stylus, you can take the most basic model to your next reunion and wonder how you ever got along without it. And if you opt for extras, you might be one of the attendees who feel they captured every moment.

SHERI WALLACE is a Tuscon, Ariz., freelance writer.

Uniform Results

Enlisting at the American Civil War Research Database may bring you priceless facts about your Union or Confederate ancestor. | By Nancy Hendrickson

Our Civil War ancestors tramped across an American landscape ripped apart by sectionalism. Locating your soldier and tracing his long march can help you understand his role—and your family's place—in this significant period of US history. If you can't make it to the National Archives, though, don't fret—you may be able to locate your Civil War ancestor with a quick trip to your own computer.

The American Civil War Research Database <www.civilwardata.com> is one of the most comprehensive, fully searchable sources of soldier and regimental data on the Internet. For an annual fee of \$25, you can search through more than 2.6 million records, covering 85 percent of Union and 23 percent of Confederate personnel. The site's dynamic links will take you into several layers of information, ranging from the names of other hometown enlistees to those who died in any given battle.

Locating your ancestor is as easy as entering a surname and launching a search. Be sure to follow the search tips, though, as many records identify soldiers' first names only by an initial. And since many soldiers joined a neighboring state's military unit,

you may not find them if you specify the state where they lived.

Once you've found a soldier, click on the name to read his history. There you'll find dates of enlistment, age at enlistment and rank achieved, along with source citations. Because much of the information in the database comes from state rosters, you'll find data previously unavailable to the public.

As a bonus, you can follow the link to your ancestor's place of residence (if known) and see the names of every other soldier in town. You may even find your soldier in one of the 5,500 photos on the site.

You can also use the site to follow your ancestor's path through the war. If you know which regiment your soldier served in, use the Regiment Lookup to dive into battles fought, regimental assignments and the unit's combat experience. From the Casualty Analysis screen, you can view the dates and places where soldiers were killed, wounded, captured or reported missing; click for the names of the soldiers in each of those categories.

To see how losses in your ancestor's regiment compared with other regiments, use the



Regimental Dynamics screen to sort statistics by such options as the percentage of men who were killed, wounded, disabled or captured. You can also sort by unit type, state and length of enlistment. For example, in sorting Union regiments by percentage of deserters, you'll see that of the 257 men in the 154th Pennsylvania Infantry, nearly 44 percent went over the hill. These statistics lead, of course, to questions about the ability of the officer corps, camp conditions or recruiting techniques.

Although the American Civil War Research Database is available by subscription in various Ancestry databases, the dynamic links on this site make it a far more valuable resource. If you're interested only in locating your Civil War ancestor and don't want detailed regimental information, you can purchase a seven-day pass to the personnel database for \$10. In either case, a subscription to the American Civil War Research Database is one of the best bargains on the Net.

Contributing editor *NANCY HENDRICKSON* guides you through another valuable genealogy Web site, *RootsWeb*, on page 28.

Pixel Power

New version of Photoshop puts digital-imaging amateurs in their element. | By Allison Stacy

Dabbling in digital imaging? Now you can preserve your clan's pix like the pros—and on the cheap. The newest version of Adobe's powerful Photoshop software brings you the same nifty image-editing tools used by professional designers. But unlike its \$600 parent program, **Photoshop Elements** <www.adobe.com/elements> adds handy help features for novices and sells for only \$99 (or less if you already own a program included in Adobe's \$30 rebate).

Photoshop Elements' tech-assistance tools should eliminate the guesswork (or guidebooks) needed to master the original. Hints windows tell you what each tool does. Step-

by-step "Recipes" guide you through the tough stuff. You'll also find pictures that illustrate the program's different effects.

As with most consumer image-editing programs, you can correct common photo *faux pas* such as red eye and poor lighting. Photoshop Elements also borrows many of Photoshop's power-user features: for example, filters that create special effects and layers, which let you create one image from several pictures, add text or modify parts of a photo, all without altering the original. The History palette provides multiple "undos," so you can experiment without worrying you'll accidentally erase Uncle

Pete's mustache or turn Grandma's hair blue. And Internet-imaging tools such as templates and file compression help prep your pix for uploading to your family Web site.

Adobe offers Photoshop Elements for both Mac and PC. Mac users need a PowerPC running Mac OS 8.6 or higher. PC users require a Pentium-speed processor equipped with Windows 98 or higher. You'll need 64 MB RAM and 150 MB hard disk space on both platforms. Visit Adobe's Web site to order or download a free 30-day trial.

Associate editor *ALLISON STACY* explains how to get kids involved in genealogy on page 50.

Life Lines

Delve into your ancestors' day-to-day experiences with the help of these six social histories. | By Sharon DeBartolo Carmack

Whether you're ready to write your family history or you just want to know what your ancestors' daily lives were like, you can transport yourself back into their time with a trip to the bookstore or library. You'll find lots of books and series about everyday life in America. Written by experts in the various time periods and subjects, these volumes will add "flesh to the bones" of your skeletal pedigree charts. Here's a sampling:

1 *Colonial Living* by Edwin Tunis (Johns Hopkins University Press, \$18.95). Tunis re-creates the everyday lives of the men and women who lived in 17th- and 18th-century America with lively text and detailed illustrations. Learn how your colonial ancestors built their houses, spun yarn, made candles, cooked on open hearths, farmed and manufactured goods. *Colonial Living* also explores how various cultures—English, Dutch, Flemish, American Indian and African-American—shaped this period in history.

2 *Everyday Life Among the American Indians, 1800 to 1900* by Candy Moulton (Writer's Digest Books, \$16.99). The newest book in Writer's Digest Books' *Everyday Life* series, this resource will give you tons of details about your Native American ancestors (for more on Native American roots, see page


34). Covering more than 500 tribes, Moulton provides information on tribal leadership, weaponry and warfare, food and shelter, tools, medicine, languages, customs, religions and crime and punishment. Extensive bibliographies, maps, illustrations, chronologies and detailed overviews make this an invaluable reference.

3 *Frontier Living* by Edwin Tunis (The Lyons Press, \$18.95). This illustrated history of life on the frontier spans the arrival of Europeans in America to the days of the pioneers in the American West. You can immerse yourself in the character and culture of frontier men and women, finding information on log cabins, sod houses, farmers, fur traders, mountain men, forty-niners and cowhands. You'll also learn about guns and rifles, Conestoga wagons, stagecoaches, steamboats and the railroad.

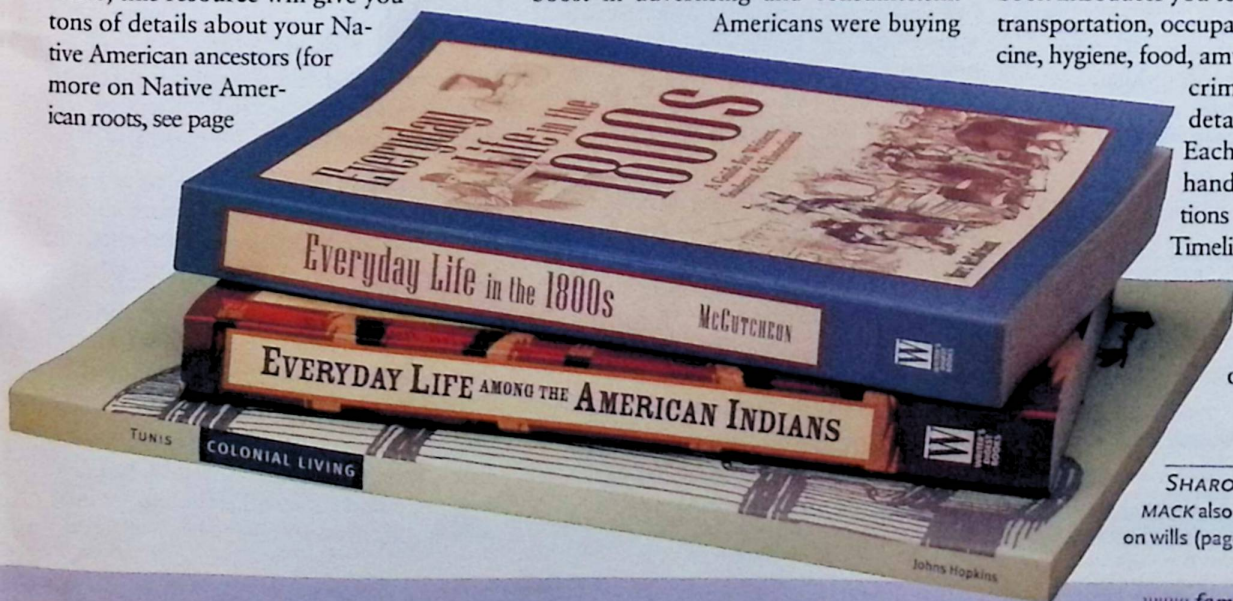
4 *The Uncertainty of Everyday Life, 1915-1945* by Harvey Green (HarperPerennial, \$15). This turbulent time in American history encompasses the Great Depression, World War I and World War II. During these three decades, society witnessed the Jazz Age and the stock market crash, followed by a boost in advertising and consumerism. Americans were buying

cars, radios and appliances, and many started enjoying running water, indoor plumbing and central heating. From work to play, from growing up to growing old, from health to home life, this highly readable account will give you insights into life during the early 20th century. It's a perfect complement to oral history interviews, too.

5 *Victorian America: Transformations in Everyday Life, 1876-1915* by Thomas J. Schlereth (HarperPerennial, \$15). Prior to the Civil War, people's lives revolved around their local community. But with the railroad spanning the nation, everyday life changed. Schlereth's book is a lively account of the changes in life and culture during the latter part of the 19th century. As with other books in HarperPerennial's *Everyday Life in America* series, you'll discover what people ate, which fashions they wore, how they traveled, what they did for fun, how they lived and how they died.

6 *The Writer's Guide to Everyday Life in the 1800s* by Marc McCutcheon (Writer's Digest Books, \$16.99). Drawing from contemporary sources such as magazines and books published during the time period, this book introduces you to 19th-century slang, transportation, occupations, money, medicine, hygiene, food, amusements, courtship, crime and more quirky details of everyday life. Each chapter contains a handy glossary of definitions and interesting facts. Timelines of events, books, magazines, innovations and popular songs round out this volume. 

SHARON DEBARTOLO CARMACK also wrote this issue's feature on wills (page 44).



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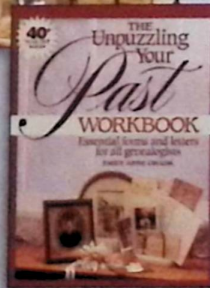
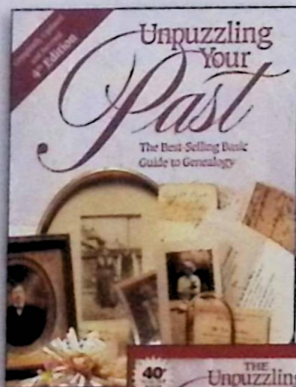
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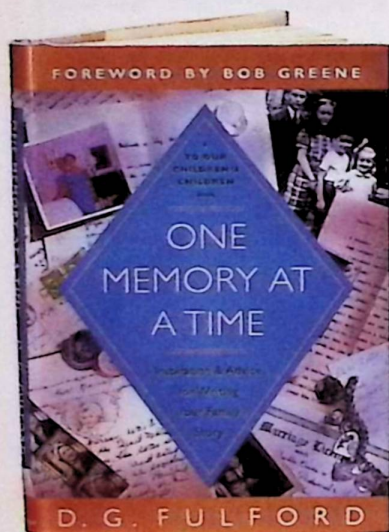


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Tree of Life

In an excerpt from her new book, the co-author of the best-selling *To Our Children's Children* shows how her family tree came to life with the help of written memories. | By D.G. Fulford



When my daughter and I both lived out of town and would come to visit my parents, we'd sleep in one of my brother's rooms, which still contains his little-boy beds. My mom has enough space in her house for us to sleep separately, but we chose this room so we could spend the night together and trade magazines back and forth across the great twin bed divide.

A family tree hangs on the wall beside the bed my daughter slept in. It is a semi-elaborate work, drawn in gold and royal blue ink. It was presented to my grandmother, my Nana Amy, for her 80th birthday. It is actually more a chart than a tree, a chart consisting of squares filled in with names that diverge and connect with each other.

I've been looking at these names for years now: Adolph and Blanche, Rosa and Abraham, Morris and Anna, Frances and Allen, Eliza and Aaron, Henry and Molly, Amelia and Max. Amy and Alfred and Milfred and Ruby, Rosina, Rosa, Cora, Flora, and the poor baby girl who died at birth.

That's what they've been. Names. Names in squares, not people. This is a geometric way to look at family, reminiscent, it has always seemed to me, of the way we used to diagram sentences in school. If Eliza and Aaron were the nouns, were Alfred and Amy the verbs? Was Uncle Mif the dangling participle?

This is why the stories are important. They put faces and actions and personalities to the names. They animate the squares.

My great-grandmother was Blanche. Blanche's square connects with Adolph's.

Blanche was literate and capable, according to my mother's written history. "Not to be trifled with," she writes. "Does that sound familiar?"

Yes, it sounds familiar. It describes my mother's mother, my Nana Amy, Blanche's eldest daughter, to a T.

Blanche's son, my Nana's brother, remembers his mother as small, her features quite regular.

"She expressed her love for us in a quiet way and we regarded her highly for her assumption of both

the father and mother role that became hers at a young age. Forty-six if my calculation is correct."

Adolph would have been 50 on April 13, 1914. Blanche had planned a party for him. He died four days before his birthday. He was two years younger than I am now.

"I remember the day he died," my great-uncle wrote in black ink on typing paper. "I was upstairs at home and I can remember my mother came in the house and said, 'It seems like a dream.'"

Blanche's friends were Stella, Tillie, Hattie, Jennie and Ida, Mink, Fanny and Eliza. Eliza became my great-grandmother, too. Her son, Alfred, married Amy, my Nana.

This I know from Nana's sister, my Aunt Rosina, who we called RoRo.

"By the way," RoRo wrote, "the ladies called each other 'Mrs.' for a long time after becoming friends."

A different era, a whole other time. I can see the ladies, Tillie and Stella and all the rest, arriving at a friend's porch or entry hall, wearing gloves and hats and calling out for "Mrs."

These are the things you don't get from a chart or a family tree. The images, the history lessons, the character sketches, the customs. For these, you need the memories someone has had the benevolent foresight to write down.

My daughter named one of her kittens Ruby Rosina. She swears she wasn't influenced by the family tree. I feel, though, some of its inhabitants must have whispered to her while we slept in those twin beds, having traded magazines and stayed up talking. Mother and daughter, connected forever, through Phyllis, through Amy, through Blanche. ♡

D.G. FULFORD is an award-winning writer, a nationally best-selling author, teacher and columnist. Excerpted from *One Memory at a Time: Inspiration and Advice for Writing Your Family Story* by D.G. Fulford (Doubleday, \$16.95). Copyright 2000 by D.G. Fulford. For more information on Fulford's *To Our Children's Children* book series, see <www.familyhistories.com> or write to 6956 East Broad St., Suite 245, Columbus, OH 43213. E-mail the author at dgfulford@familyhistories.com.

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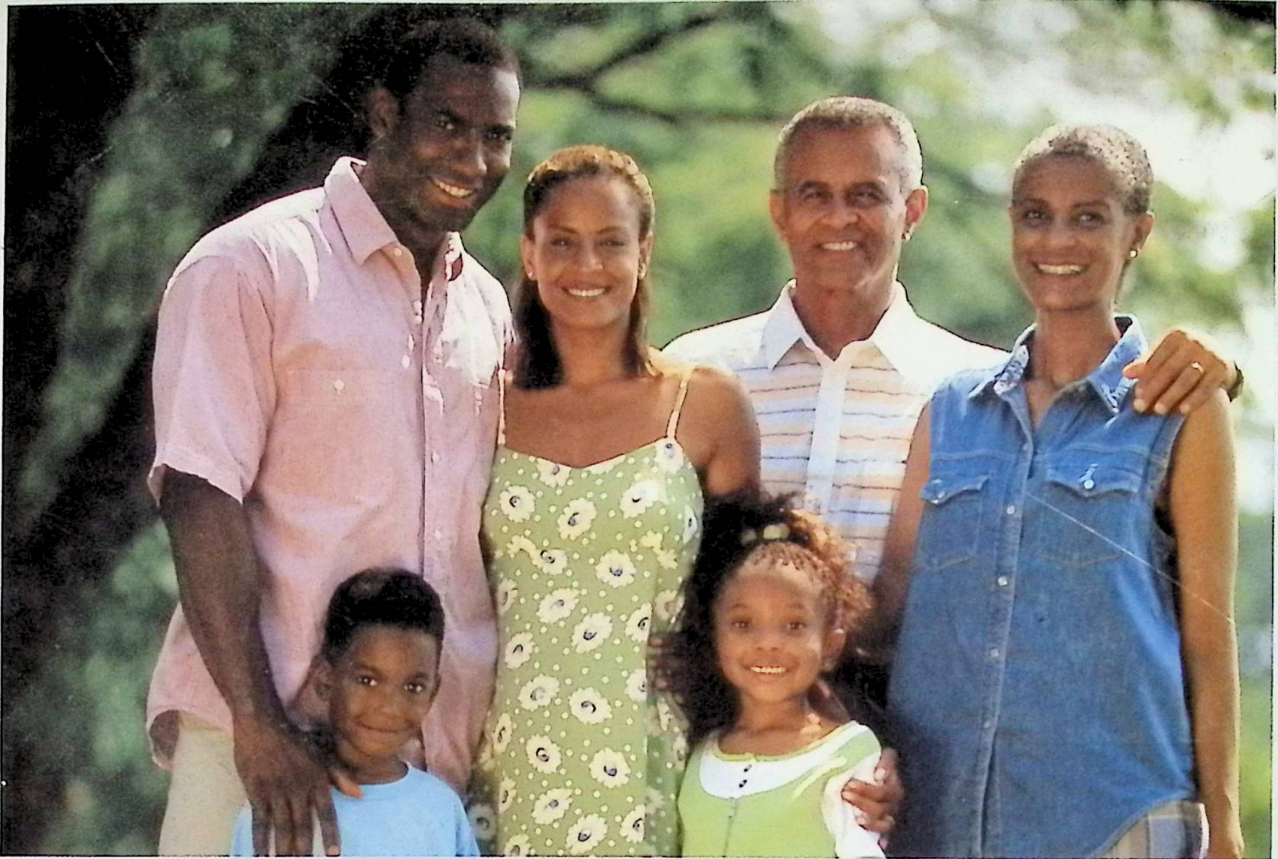


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