



Of Special Interest

- Name Changes at Ellis Island
- Wills and Terms
- Researching, Reaching And Reaching Out
- Zen of Genealogy

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The Myth of Ellis Island Name Changes

— Dick Eastman

Immigrants' surnames were changed thousands of times, but professional researchers have found that name changes were rare at Ellis Island (or at Castle Island, which was the New York port of entry prior to Ellis Island's opening). The myth of name changes usually revolves around the concept that the immigrant was unable to communicate properly with the English-speaking officials at Ellis Island. However, this ignores the fact that Ellis Island employed hundreds of translators who could speak, read, and write the immigrants' native tongues. It also ignores all the documentation that an immigrant needed to have in order to be admitted into the U.S.

In order to be admitted into the United States as an immigrant in the late nineteenth century or later, one had to have paperwork. Each immigrant had to have proof of identity. This would be a piece of paperwork filled out in "the old country" by a clerk who knew the language, and the paperwork would be filled out in the local language, not in English (unless the "old country" was an Eng-

lish-speaking country). The spelling of names on these documents generally conformed to local spellings within the immigrant's place of origin. Even if the person traveling was illiterate and did not know how to spell his or her own name, the clerks filling out the paperwork knew the spelling of that name in the local language or could sound it out properly according to the conventions of the language used. Also, in many countries one had to obtain an exit visa in order to leave. Again, exit visas had to be filled out by local clerks who knew the language, and exit visas were written in the local language.

A ship's passenger list had to be prepared by the captain of the ship or his representatives before the ship left the old country. This list was created from the travelers' documents. These documents were created when the immigrant purchased his or her ticket. It is unlikely that anyone at the local steamship office was unable to communicate with this man. Even when the clerk selling the ticket did not speak the language of the would-be emigrant, someone had to be called in to interpret. Also, required exit visas and other paperwork had to be examined by ticket agents before a ticket would be sold. The name was most likely

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75% of Northern Civil War Soldiers Under the Age of 22

From genealogybulletin.com/archives

78 percent of the Union Army in the Civil War was comprised of lads 15 to 18 years of age. Data gleaned from government records reveals figures that may surprise you. Here are the statistics from the total enlistment of Northern soldiers during the Civil War:

| Age | Number of personnel |
|-------|---------------------|
| 10 | 25 |
| 11 | 34 |
| 12 | 225 |
| 13 | 380 |
| 14 | 1602 |
| 15 | 104,987 (3.5%) |
| 16 | 231,051 (8.0%) |
| 17 | 884,981 (28.0%) |
| 18 | 1,158,434 (38.5%) |
| 19-22 | 617,511 (20.5%) |
| 23-44 | 52,696 |
| 45+ | ? |

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MESA DWELLERS

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Annual Dues: \$10 Singles; \$12 Family. Membership period is March 1st to April 30th. Those with **UNPAID DUES (after April 30th.)** will not receive the Newsletter. Send a SASE to receive a current membership card if you do not attend regular meetings.

Contributions of neatly typed or written stories, requests for/or giving information, queries, or other information of importance to the membership are welcomed.

The Society disclaims responsibility for statement of fact or opinion made by contributors and will not accept material with obvious errors

The Mesa County Genealogical Society was established in 1980 as a non-profit organization to promote an interest in genealogy. A Newsletter is published in March, June, September, and December. **Note: All Society meetings are held at the Museum of Western Colorado 7:00 p.m., on the second Thursday of each month.** Visitors are welcome. The Museum is located at 4th and Ute. The meetings are held in the conference room located in the Whitman School Building.

Up Coming Programs

13 Sept 2001 Share Session Members to bring question and recent discoveries in their family history search.

11 Oct 2001 Dorothy roper and Dennis Jenkins will demonstrate the use of The New 1880 Census and Index CDROM Set from the Family History Center. This meeting is expected to be held at the Museum of Western Colorado dinosaur Journey Auditorium in Fruita Colorado

8 Nov 2001 David Bailey and Dr. DuJay from Mesa State College to present a program on Alferd Packer: Was He Innocent of Murder. This meeting will be held at the Museum's Whitman Education Building

13 Dec 2001 Annual Christmas Potluck Dinner

10 Jan 2002 Gloria Heitsman and Joe Farrell will share their Research Trip to Ireland. The will expound on their experiences using the records in the Public Records in Dublin and Belfast.

14 Feb 2002 open

14 March 2002 Dr Steve Schulte from Mesa State College will talk about American Western History concentrating on Early 20th Century including recent research on Rep. Wayne Aspinall.

Can You Help ?

Barnes Family:

Joshua Barnes buried is buried in Mesa Cemetery, Mesa, CO. Joshua came from Pope County, AR in the 1800s to Colorado with his immediate family and siblings. A Wm Franklin Barnes, brother of Joshua Barnes and a GGrandfather to my husband and his siblings died of T.B and buried somewhere along their trail through Colorado in a place with the word Rose in the name of the location.

Is there any information contained within the area that might give me a clue as to a contact person to obtain information on Joshua Barnes and his family.

I understand family are still living in Mesa County, CO area. Grand Junction has been repeatedly mentioned as a location with references such as "up on the mountain". I would appreciate any information you may be able to provide. Thank you.

Gwyn BalcomCny@aol.com

Ellis Island Name Changes

recorded with a high degree of accuracy at that time.

Next, the ship's captain or designated representative would examine each passenger's paperwork. The ship's officials might not know the immigrant's language, but they had to inspect the exit visa and the proof of identity. They knew that immigrants would not be accepted into Ellis Island without proper documentation and, if the paperwork wasn't there, the passengers would be sent back home at the shipping company's expense! You can believe that the ship's owners went to great lengths to insure the accuracy of the paperwork, including names, places of birth, and travel plans. It is believed that many more people were turned away at the point of embarkation than were ever turned away at Ellis Island. In other words, most of those without proper documentation never got on board the ship.

When the ship arrived at Ellis Island, the captain or his representative would disembark first with the passenger list. The Ellis Island officials would then bring in interpreters to handle the interrogations. These interpreters were usually earlier immigrants themselves or the children of immigrants, and they all knew how to speak, read, and write the language of the immigrants.

The usual immigrant processing time was one to three days. During this time, each immigrant was questioned about his/her identity, and all the required documentation was examined in detail. Keep in mind that this was not a quick two or three-minute conversation such as we have today at international airports. In the days of steamships, the Ellis Island officials had the luxury of time. They could make leisurely examinations. The questioning at Ellis Island would be done in the immigrant's native tongue. While the immigrant often was illiterate, the interpreter doing the questioning always could read and write the language involved. Ellis Island employed interpreters for Yiddish, Russian, Lithuanian, and all of the European languages. The immigration center in San Francisco did the same for all the Chinese dialects as well as Japanese, Korean, and many more Oriental languages. Other immigration centers in Boston, Philadelphia, New Orleans, Galveston, and elsewhere followed similar procedures.

Anyone who did not have proper paperwork (in

the native language) showing the correct name and place of birth was sent back. Many thousands were sent back for identification reasons or for medical reasons or because they did not have sponsors in the U.S. Most of the people who came through Ellis Island did so with correct paperwork showing the correct or at least plausible spellings of their real names in their original language.

There were a very few exceptions, however. Occasionally war refugees were admitted without much documentation. This was especially true in 1945 and 1946. A few others succeeded in falsifying documents in order to gain admittance when they could not be admitted under their true identities. Occasionally a child was admitted under the surname of a stepfather when the name of the natural father would have been more appropriate. Nobody can document the number of exceptions, but most professional researchers believe that the number of exceptions was very small.

Once settled into their new homes, however, anything could happen. Millions of immigrants had their names changed voluntarily or by clerks or by schoolteachers who couldn't pronounce or spell children's names. Some immigrants changed their names in order to obtain employment. Many immigrants found it easier to assimilate into American culture if they had American-sounding names, so they gladly went along with whatever their neighbors or schoolteachers called them. However, the records at Ellis Island remained in the original language.

Types of Genealogical Information on the Internet

Most of the genealogical information on the Internet is secondary and should be viewed with some skepticism. Some, however, may be primary. Let's differentiate between these two sets of materials.

The first set of materials originates with humans and is therefore subject to error. These materials include Web pages, e-mail received from individuals and mailing lists, message board postings, GEDCOM files, online pedigree charts, abstracts, extracts, and transcriptions. All of these are created, compiled, or otherwise processed and are likely to include some typographical and/or transcription errors.

When you encounter these materials on the Internet or exchange information with other researchers, you should always be interested in seeing the original materials yourself. That means that you should contact the person who submitted,

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RESEARCHING, REACHING, AND REACHING OUT

The three Rs of cultivating family on the Internet

by Sean Egen

Digging for Roots

The whole notion of tracking down my family tree had always conjured up images of long hours sifting through books in musty record halls, knocking on doors in quaint villages back in the old country, and searching for faded names on weathered tombstones in rustic cemeteries. While your search may involve these things, I quickly learned there are so many online resources at your disposal that the majority of your research can be conducted from the comfort of your own home. Just entering the word "genealogy" into the search engine from my Personal Start Page yielded over 1.6 million matches alone. Clearly, there was no shortage of online resources dealing with this popular hobby. The problem was where to begin.

Since I was completely green on the subject, I decided to first see what the experts had to say. There are many excellent resources on the subject of genealogy available online, including *Getting Started in Genealogy and Family History* by Phil Stringer, and the companion Web site to the PBS series *Ancestors*, hosted by Brigham Young University, which also features streaming video clips from the show. You can even take free online classes taught by professional genealogist Diana Muir.

Three key pieces of advice kept popping up in my research: (1) Set goals for what you hope to learn about your family and stick to them; (2) Keep things organized, preferably with a good genealogy software program; and (3) Start with what you know and work backward. The Internet may be a great resource for tracing your ancestry, but it can't begin to compete with the detailed family knowledge possessed by actual family members. The experts all seemed to agree: pick the brains of your family and friends first, then use the Internet to go back in time and help fill in the blanks.

If an actual family member is one of the best resources for gathering ancestral information, it only seemed logical that an actual person who'd used the Internet to trace his roots would be a great resource for better understanding that process. Enter Dr. James Boyle, an acquaintance of one of my editors. He knows a thing or two about genealogy, having spent the past 10 years researching his family tree. Boyle has managed to amass a database of names and dates made up of over 40,000 relatives—over 10,000 of whom he collected with the help of the Internet. Sometimes devoting up to 30 hours a week to his hobby, Boyle was able to trace his Scottish roots back to 1780, and his English roots back even further. Says Boyle, "Once you get into genealogy, you're not likely to get out of it. It's like smoking—the going can be a little tough at first, but once you get the hang of it, it's addictive."

Before the Internet, according to Boyle, the process of tracking down one's genealogy included a lot of letter writing followed by frequent periods of downtime waiting for responses, which may or may not

have contained leads. But with the Internet, there are plenty of resources that can yield instant results, as well as message boards and other online forums where you can post queries and exchange information (more on that later). Message boards, says Boyle, are a key part of the process. Because there are so many people out there looking (genealogy is purported to be the number one hobby in the world), many leads will likely come from other searchers who have come across the information you're seeking. Boyle adds that the process is not necessarily about searching for and finding mysterious pieces of missing information, so much as it is piggybacking on groundwork laid by others—then verifying the information to be accurate:

"Information is posted by human beings, so it may not be 100 percent accurate. You need to verify the accuracy of information for yourself, as best you can."

Armed with my new knowledge and a few recommended sites, I decided to get my feet wet. First stop: RootsWeb, which claims to be the Web's oldest and largest free genealogy site. I typed my maternal grandfather's first initial and last name into appropriate fields and clicked on **Search**. One click of a mouse instantly searched over 20 genealogy databases. **Surname Helper**, a search engine for surnames, listed 28 results for my grandfather's surname. One of them was for Olmsted County, Minnesota, where I knew my grandfather was from. A click on the link instantly took me to the Olmsted County Genealogy page. From there I could search through message boards featuring biographies, deeds, wills, bible records, and more—all specific to Olmsted County. What would've taken several letters and multiple phone calls only a few short years ago could now be done in four clicks...I was impressed.

Next, I went to Ancestry.com and did a search on my paternal grandfather this time. Five databases were searched, with positive results under both **Census Records** and **Social Security Death Index (SSDI)**. The SSDI database contains the records of people who died after 1962 who were assigned Social Security numbers and whose deaths have been reported to the U.S. Social Security Administration. It contains over 65 million names. A click on the link confirmed Grandpa Egen was one of them. My research had indicated census records could also be valuable sources of information for piecing together family trees, so I clicked the **Census Records** link. A match in the Missouri census records between 1830 and 1870 resulted. However, to actually look at the information, I was required to become a member for a nominal fee.

I'd discovered an important fact about tracing your genealogy online—not all of the information out there is free. However, according to Dr. Boyle, spending a few dollars can many times be well worth it—especially when you're first starting out. It can give you access to valuable information that may save you time and money in the long run. (Page 5)

"INFORMATION IS POSTED BY HUMAN BEINGS, SO IT MAY NOT BE 100 PERCENT ACCURATE. YOU NEED TO VERIFY THE ACCURACY OF INFORMATION FOR YOURSELF."

Research *cont*

I noticed **Ancestry.com** also contained links to **Egen** message boards and the **Egen** branch of the World Family Tree, both of which allow access for free. There weren't any messages posted by fellow Egens, but there were 29 Egens on the World Family Tree. I was beginning to believe that maybe even I could put together a family tree.

My next stop was the genealogy Web site hosted by a group with a longstanding tradition in American genealogy. FamilySearch, hosted by the Mormon Church, gives you access to the vast ancestral records of the church. And you don't have to be Mormon to use it—it's available to both LDS members and nonmembers alike. This time a search of Grandpa Egen's name yielded over 80 results from five different databases—one of them dating back to 1051! The site also contained online research guidance and help, as well as a place to provide feedback and share your research with others.

Since Dr. Boyle had emphasized the importance of message boards in the search process, I decided to have a look around one of the better ones. GenForum on Genealogy.com contains message boards for topics based on region (both national and international), general genealogy, and for just about every conceivable surname. Unfortunately, **Egen** wasn't one of them. Then I remembered that my grandmother had once told me the spelling of our last name had been changed from E-G-A-N to E-G-E-N when our family arrived at Ellis Island from Ireland. I changed the "e" to an "a," reentered my search and bingo—there were plenty of messages posted under Egan. The majority of them were asking for leads in finding long-lost Egens. I was, however, pleasantly surprised to see there were also a few answers to posted queries—several of them quite promising. It looked like Dr. Boyle was right—message boards were a pretty good way to find answers to question marks and roadblocks in your family tree research.

I mentioned that my family came into this country through Ellis Island. I'm not alone. In fact, between 1892 and 1922 over 22 million people came through Ellis Island and the port of New York. You can search for passengers who came through Ellis Island between these years at The American Family Immigration History Center site. A quick search revealed that 21 Egens and 3,385 Egan's passed through Ellis Island between those years. Undoubtedly, a few of them were from my tribe.

There are also several other passenger registry search sites on the Internet you can use to find information, such as Immigrant Ships Transcribers Guild. This site is sponsored by **RootsWeb** and links to **Ancestry.com** and the Ellis Island site. I was learning something else about genealogy on the Internet. Most of the sites seemed to

recognize the importance in sharing information, so they frequently link to other useful sites. I couldn't help but feel they were actually rooting for me to succeed in my search...without regard to which particular site got me ahead.

I was more than a little impressed at the quantity and quality of the genealogy resources available online. It was pretty clear that the Internet could get just about anyone pointed in the right direction in his or her search. But most of the sites I'd found dealt primarily with European immigration, and European immigration is fairly well documented. What about Asian, or African, or Native Americans? Or what about those who were adopted? I wondered if there were any online resources available for these people?

The answer is a resounding "yes." Take Cyndi's List of Genealogy Sites on the Internet, for example. This helpful site links to over 97,000 genealogy-related Web sites! Clicking on **Topical Index** from the Cyndi's homepage gives you a choice of 12 categorical indexes, one of them being **Ethnic Groups & People**. Under this category you'll find links for virtually every ethnic group. Under the **Records** category you'll find adoption links to aid adopted individuals in their search efforts.

I was convinced. Clearly the Internet is a great aid in helping to assemble your family tree. But I couldn't stop thinking about something else Dr. Boyle had told me—that the satisfaction and joy derived in putting together your family tree is only part of the fun of genealogy. Much more of the fun comes from researching the times and places uncovered in your search, to help you better understand your ancestors.

Another job tailor-made for the Internet. I could search for books on the Irish Potato Famine on Amazon.com, check out a historical map from Maps of Ireland, research my family's coat of arms at Irish Coats of Arms, learn about Celtic symbols and their meanings at Celtic Symbols Meaning & Mythology—the possibilities were endless! But first, I needed to start putting together my family tree.

This is part of a series from Blink magazine part of Earthlink an Internet Service Provider

Notices in newspapers can sometimes provide researchers with humor:

"This afternoon there will be a meeting in the north and south ends of the church. Children will be baptized at both ends."

"The service will close with *Little Drops of Water*. One of the ladies will quietly start and the rest of the congregation will join in."

"This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Sister Smith to come forward and lay an egg on the altar."

I saw a newspaper headline that read "Couple Married in Cement." Now, I know that people have gotten married jumping from an airplane and in other interesting places. But married in cement? In reading the article further I discovered the couple was married in Cement (Caddo County), Oklahoma.

In fact, between 1892 and 1922 over 22 million people came through Ellis Island and the port of New York.

Pennsylvania State Archives

The Archives Records Information Access System (ARIAS) is designed to facilitate citizen access to archival records created by all branches and levels of Pennsylvania State Government. Records series currently online or in the process of being digitized are:

- Revolutionary War Military Abstract Card File (Live) (*Image Below*)
- World War I Service Medal Application Cards (Live)
- Spanish American War Veterans' Card File of United States Volunteers (Live)
- Civil War Veterans' Card File (planned)
- Mexican Border Campaign Veterans' Card File (planned)

Currently, about 200,000 of some 500,000 records are accessible on the website, and the State Archives plans to make the remaining records available in the near future. The original paper records were microfilmed. From this microfilm, the images were digitized for presentation on the Web. The content, sequence and image quality among the records series will vary depending on how they were originally written/typed and subsequently filmed. In some instances, certain information may be illegible. Efforts were made to optimize the records for readability and presentation purposes for the Web.

<http://www.digitalarchives.state.pa.us/>

Visitors often spend \$30 for genealogical essays and maps, meeting half the society's annual budget

| | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|------------------------|---------|
| | | Active Duty Militia | |
| Hinkle, Jacob | | Rank Private | |
| County | Lancaster | Township | |
| Unit | 5th Bn. | Class | 3rd |
| Time of service | July 2 - July 29, 1781 | Mos. | Days 27 |
| Company or Commander | Militia | | |
| Bounty £ | Pay £ | Allowances £ | Total £ |
| Duty | "at Lancaster." | | |
| Muste Roll, July 10, 1781. | | A (5) VII, 480. | |
| Authority: State Papers , Militia Operations (Year 1781...), "Military Accounts," Records of the Comptroller General, or Auditor General, at D. P. R. | | | |
| MA-4- (03) | THE BASIC RECORD - VES ACTIVE DUTY. | | |

FAMILY TREES A GROWING BUSINESS

By Peter T Kilborn
The New York times

No one keeps track of the vacationing family archivists, but the nationwide boom in their numbers, fueled by the explosion of information on the Internet, shows no signs of abating.

Not only are the people combing their family trees as never before, they are hitting the road to do it, particularly in the summer.

The Matrix Marketing Research Co. near St.

Louis reported last year that 60 percent of Americans were at least somewhat interested in tracing their origins, up from 45 percent in 1995; 30 percent of those surveyed said they had drawn family trees.

The Learning Co. in San Francisco says it sells 2,000 copies a week of its Broderbund Family Tree Maker software, a research tool introduced in 1997.

The Internet message boards, family news groups and genealogical services are it's second busiest destinations. Cont page 7

Trees

Searchers log onto ancestry.com, genealogy.com and the Mormon Church site Family-Search.org, which reports that its database is approaching 1 billion names. Family-Search.org says it counts more than 8 million hits a day.

Their research leads them to places like the public library in Ipswich, Mass on Boston's North Shore, where each summer the traffic grows. "it's unbelievable," said Paula Grillo, a librarian there.

Last month 83 people signed in to be escorted to the library's archives, where they searched birth, marriage and death records that dated to 1630.

In Womelsdorf Pa. Population 2559 things are no different. Visitors often spend \$30 for genealogical essays and maps, meeting half the society's annual budget of \$20,000.

Counties and towns in some colonial states like Massachusetts, Connecticut, Virginia and Pennsylvania have been more diligent than others in collecting and preserving records.

Few clerks and librarians complain about the visitors. For many of these offices, genealogical record-keeping pays for itself. For example, the County Court House in Berks County where Womelsdorf is located, collects \$1 a page for documents sought by mail and \$10 to conduct a limited search for a name.

Materials

provided, or placed the records on the Internet (or sent them to you via e-mail) and request details about the original source materials from which the data was derived. If source citations are included with the data you find on the Internet, you should always be prepared to search out and obtain copies of the originals so you can review them firsthand. If citations are not included, always feel free to contact the originator of the data to ask questions. The second set of materials includes those that have been digitally reproduced and placed on the Internet. These scanned images consist of things like photographs, maps, census records, marriage licenses, death certificates, muster rolls, and a variety of other original documents. (For example, Ancestry.com has digitized records in its collection of databases.) Since these materials are digital reproductions of the original documents, the chances are very good that they are true and accurate representations of the documents you might obtain if you requested copies from the repository in which they are housed. (Bear in mind, however, that many government entities are struggling with the issue of whether to digitize vital records and make them available on the Internet because of fears that the images may be altered and used for fraudulent purposes.)

Wills and Their Confusing Terms

By Myra Vanderpool Gormley, CG

Look for probate records for all your ancestors. These are more likely to provide you with proof of family relationships than any other record. Probate records refer to wills, inventories, letters of administration and guardianships. Not all of our ancestors left wills and if you search only for wills you are likely to overlook valuable records. In fact, the records generated when a man died intestate (without a will), are often richer in genealogical data than a will that says "I, John Doe, leave to my now wife her feather bed and one horse, with the rest of my estate to be divided among all my children (no names!)." Some wills will untangle pedigrees — others will confuse everything. There are three basic types of wills. One is known as the "attested" will, which was prepared for the testator. In Colonial days this was often done by local magistrates, and in recent times by lawyers. The second, called a holographic will was actually written by the testator himself. The third type is the "nuncupative" will where deathbed wishes were communicated to and recorded by a witness present at the bedside. All three types must be signed by witnesses. Attested wills are the most common ones. Witnesses could not be beneficiaries, but were often relatives. So, pay attention to the names of witnesses.

Widows were seldom given real estate outright by their husbands, although they were often given personal property, such as household items, and often the widow got the "use" of part of the estate during her lifetime or until she remarried.

Some confusing terms in wills may lead you to incorrect assumptions. Among these are "senior" and "junior." These terms now denote father and son, but in the 17th and 18th centuries they meant "elder" and "younger" and were often applied to cousins or unrelated people with the same name. The terms "in-law," "cousin," "brother" and "sister" are major problems also. In-law may have been used in the modern sense, but could just as easily refer to a stepchild.

The term cousin probably causes the most problems. It was applied loosely to almost any type of relationship outside the immediate family circle. Frequently it denoted a nephew or niece, but may have meant a first cousin or more distant cousin, or the marital spouse of any of these relatives — and sometimes to other indirect connections who were not even related by blood. If you are dealing with a will prior to 1750, be especially careful in assuming family connections when the term cousin is used.

When Thomas Endicott wrote in his will, "my brother, William Jones and my sister, Mary Jones" he might have been referring to his own sister and her husband, or to his wife's sister and her husband, or to his wife's brother and spouse.

When you run across the term "nephew" in old documents, don't assume anything. In addition to today's usage, this term could mean a niece, or a male or female grandchild, a grand-nephew, a cousin, or an illegitimate son of a clergyman.

Being aware that relationship terms can mean different things will save you from making false assumptions.

A couple drove down a country road for several miles, not saying a word. An earlier discussion had led to an argument and neither of them wanted to concede their position. As they passed a barnyard of nailes, goats, and pigs, the wife asked sarcastically,

"Relatives of yours?"

"Yep," the husband replied, "in-laws."

THE ZEN OF GENEALOGY

by Beth Maltbie Uyea BUYE@aol.com

I've been doing yoga now for about 10 years, and genealogy for six, and suddenly, both are trendy. It's the first time in my life I've ever been ahead of the curve. (You realize that when Madonna finally discovers genealogy, we'll be so inundated with hype that we'll all be sick of family research within weeks.)

Here are some simple yogealogy exercises (gen-kriyas) to get you started. All mantras are to be repeated for the duration of the exercise, except when noted otherwise.

Rock Pose

Posture: Sit in a silent, darkened room in front of a microfilm reader, peering intently at pale, blurry handwriting. (Your eyes may soon glaze over. Don't worry. This is normal.)

Mudra/Action: Lean forward tensely at an uncomfortable angle. Hold this position for eight hours.

Mudra/Action: While maintaining the posture, raise your right hand in front of you at a 45-degree angle from your body, and make slow, circular, cranking motions until you lose all feeling in your right arm.

Mantra: (Repeat silently) "Please, please, please, please, please."

Plow Pose

Posture: Position a tall stack of index books on a library table. Crouch in front of the stack.

Mudra/Action: Make a fist of your left hand, with the index finger extended. Slowly run the extended finger down page after page of the first book. Close book, set aside and repeat with next book. Plow through the whole stack, then drag the stack in front of you again and repeat. Continue plowing until library closes.

Mantra: (Repeat in an urgent whisper): "Where? Where? Where? Where? Where? Where?"

Crow Pose

Posture: Form two fists and thrust both arms upward. Throw back your head, grin maniacally, squeeze your eyes shut. This exercise can be performed either seated or standing; for maximum effect, begin in a seated position with the upward arm thrust, then leap suddenly to your feet, knocking over your chair behind you.

Mudra/Action: From time to time, drop your head to your chest, bend your right arm and pump your fist vigorously. Variation: Perform clog dance around fallen chair.

Mantra: (Shout exultantly) "Yesssss! Yesssss! Yesssss! Hahahahahahaha."

Continue until ejected from the premises.

Downward Dog

Posture: (Must be done in a cemetery.) Place yourself squarely in front of a weathered tombstone, facing the stone. With your feet flat on the ground, lean forward until your hands are also resting on the ground. Your body will form an isosceles triangle, with your rear end at the apex. Raise your head and squint at the tombstone.

Mudra/Action: Balancing carefully, raise your right

arm and run your fingertips very lightly over the surface of the stone, attempting to decipher it. Hold breath, and continue for one minute.

Mantra: (At end of the minute, exclaim once, explosively) Piffle!

Move to next tombstone. Repeat until sunset.

Tree Pose

Posture: (Best done in the back of a crowded research seminar.) Obtain an eight-pound syllabus; two bulky notebooks; and three grocery sacks full of newly purchased, very thick, very heavy, hardcover books. Clutch these items to your chest with both arms. Simultaneously, dangle a heavy purse from your left shoulder and a heavy tote bag from your right shoulder.

(Men: Instead of a purse, obtain a second tote bag and fill with rocks.) Stand erect, stretching neck as high as possible to see over people standing in front of you.

Mudra/Action: Move head back and forth (imitate the branches of a tree on a windy day), to see around the standees who are shuffling and shifting position in front of you. Continue to end of lecture.

Mantra: (Hiss through clenched teeth): "What'dhesay? What'dhesay?"

Corpse Pose

Posture: (Can be done anywhere, but is most frequently performed on a floor in the privacy of one's home.) To assume posture, collapse flat on your back, legs outstretched, arms at side, hands upturned helplessly. Roll your eyes up to focus on a point in the middle of your forehead.

Mudra/Action: Alternately twitch your left eyelid and right shoulder. Repeat for five minutes, then slowly and rhythmically begin banging the back of your head against the floor. Bang for five minutes. Alternate twitching and banging until someone throws a bucket of cold water in your face.

Mantra: (In a loud, plaintive wail during the banging phase) "Why didn't I ask Grandma when I had the chance?!? Why? WHY?!?"

Mastering these few, simple yogealogy gen-kriyas, will mean that you, too, will soon be on the cutting edge of cool, the envy of hip-hop hype-meisters everywhere.

Previously published by Julia M. Case and Myra Vanderpool Gormley, CG, Missing Links, Vol. 6, No. 30, 25 July 2001. RootsWeb: <http://www.rootsweb.com/>

THE CARLETON PLACE HERALD,

27 February 1935.

"Traces Family to Adam, Columbus, Ohio, Feb 24. - Mrs. Christian Sell Jaeger announced today that she had succeeded in tracing her genealogy back through 159 generations to Adam and Eve. Mrs. Jaeger, who is historian of the Columbia Genealogical Society, went back through the American Revolution, through all recorded history and through the Bible to reach her first ancestor. Among her forebears as she traced them by the aid of records in libraries here, in New York, Washington and Chicago, were: Williams, Edward III and Henry I, of England, 21 generations of Scottish Kings, Irish Kings who ruled 19 centuries ago, the Pharaoh Nectonidus; Zedekiah, last of the Kings of Judah; David, King of Israel; Enos, Seth, and finally Adam (4000 B. C.)."

Calm, Cool and Collected
Retain your sanity with the Zen of Genealogy.

Surname Helps and Hints

Tracing Surname Distribution

The first time you research online, try to start with a person whose name is semi-unique -- that is, a person with a last name that doesn't take up ten pages of your local phone book, but is common enough that you can find some information on a first try.

If you aren't sure how popular a name is, try visiting a site like Hamrick Software U.S. Surname Distribution[<http://www.hamrick.com/names>]. Enter a surname, and then choose for which year you want to see the distribution of that name across the U.S. Click the Display button, and behold: A rainbow color map appears showing degrees of saturation of that surname in all 50 states (red means it's very common; dark blue means it's very rare). Repeating the search for different year scan show you how that family name migrated over time.

Common Surname Variations & Surname Misspellings

Genealogists learn very quickly that there is no such thing as a certain spelling for a surname!

Many of our ancestors, particularly in the 19th century, were illiterate. This meant that the spelling of their names on a ship's manifest depended on the ship purser's interpretation. Often, when confronted with a name he had not heard before, the purser had no choice but to attempt to spell it out phonetically; this led to creative variations such as *Aliff* for *Auliffe*, *Bobut* for *Babbitt*, *Doxta-tor* for *Dockstader* and *Cryton* for *Creighton*.

In other documents, for instance census records, the census takers were primarily Anglo-Saxon in origin. When confronted with a name of another origin, they, too, had to go the phonetic route. This is how numerous *Schmidts* were recorded as *Smiths* and *Thibeaults* recorded as *Tebo*.

There was also significant pressure for immigrants who came from countries outside the British Empire to anglicize their names. One researcher, in her own family tree, has noted the anglicizations that follow: *Jacques L'Archevesque* and his wife *Archange* became *Jacob* and *Jane Larsh*; in another family, the children were born in Quebec and named *Eliana*, *Elisa*, *Marie* and *Jean-Baptiste* but when they moved to Ontario they were known as *Leona*, *Leaso/Elizabeth*,

Mary and *Joseph*.

Given all of this, along with human error, writers with very poor handwriting and even poorer writing implements (which can transform a *Babbitt* into a *Rabbit*), old documents in precarious condition and microfilms of questionable quality, a particular surname can appear in many forms during an ancestor's lifetime. In attempts to make your quest a bit easier, *inGeneas* offers a surname table. It contains more than 10,500 surname variations and misspellings that we have encountered. In the surname variation tables, we have not endeavored to include all variations such as *Collin/Collins*, *Barb/Barbe* or *Bissonet/Bissonett* where the only difference is an additional final letter -- such variations can be easily handled during a search of any of our databases by searching on the shorter version of the name.

To find various spellings of the surname, you can look into the Table of Common Surname Variations & Surname Misspellings online.

[<http://www.ingeneas.com/alternate.html>]

Gravestones Tend to "Move" Jot Down Detailed Directions

When visiting cemeteries, make a point of jotting down the permanent structures around them. It's so easy to get lost looking for relatives, particularly with the somewhat confusing numbering systems some cemeteries have. My husband and I found out the hard way after returning to our home city ten years later, that things can change drastically even in cemeteries—particularly when they start to run out of room.

My husband remembered a tree that should help him find his mother's grave and was confused until he found the stump where it had been and successfully regained his bearings.

Another problem I ran into was that an old map I had for my aunt's grave was out of date. Since my last visit, the cemetery had removed roads and changed the landscape to make more room. Who would have ever thought of that? My husband now makes a point of having me record the distance from the road, permanent neighbors (large statues, etc.) for the next relative coming along to visit.

In other documents, for instance census records, the census takers were primarily Anglo-Saxon in origin.

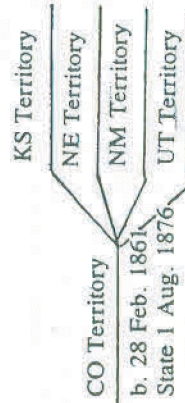


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Lake Co.
b. Sept. 1861

Gunnison Co.
b. 1877

Mesa Co.
b. 1883

