Twenty years from now, you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover. — Mark Twain

The difference between perseverance and obstinacy is that one comes from a strong will, and the other from a strong won't.
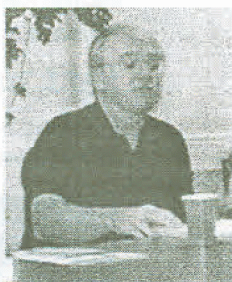
Henry Ward Beecher

MESA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

MESA DWELLERS

Searching The 1930 Federal Census

The June program presentation on the 1930 census by Dennis Jenkins covered some of the nuances of doing searches in the 1930 Census. With the lack of indexing or soundex's for the 1930 information researchers are having to find individuals the old fashion way.

Are there any Indexes?

Yes, the following States are indexed, Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia are soundexed in their entirety.. These Kentucky counties are indexed, Bell, Floyd, Harlan, Kenton, Muhlenberg, Perry and Pike. Along with the following West Virginia counties Fayette, Harrison, Kanawha, Logan, McDowell, Mercer, and Raleigh.

If you know where the person you are looking for lived, you may still be able to locate them on the census there are several different search strategies. The census Microfilm Locator is an online searchable database on the Internet at http://1930census.archives. gov. You can search by state, county, township, institution, or other place names. As long as the place or institution is included in the description of the enumeration districts, it can be found.

There are also four different help guides located at the National Archive sites. The National Archives has purchased some Microfilmed city directories for years around 1930. The microfilm publication T1224, descriptions of Enumeration Districts, 1830-1950 (156 rolls The geographic descriptions are arranged by State, then by county.

Microfilm publication M1930 Enumeration District Maps shows the boundaries and the number of each enumeration district. And microfilm publication M1931, Index to Selected City Streets and Enumeration Districts, 1930 Census (7 rolls) which covers about 50 major cities.

The online census Microfilm Locator is fairly easy to use, but it is not a family- or individual-name index or a digital version of the original records. It contains the microfilm lists for the 1930 population schedules and the Soundex indexes, searchable by over 120,000 geographic locations.

Your Family Coat of Arms? Be Sure It's Yours

COATS OF ARMS are so colorful, decorative, and dignified that thousands of people have adopted them without permission or a clear understanding of their significance. The practice of stealing or creating one's own coat of arms dates back to the 12th century and still riles heraldic organizations and others who govern their use. In some countries, such as Scotland, the bearing of false arms is equivalent to signing a fraudulent signature and is punishable by law!

The term "coat of arms" originates from the display of a knight's heraldic symbols on his surcoat. Just as the knights were allowed to adopt their own coats of arms without interference from heralds or rulers, in most countries today an individual can create and display his own arms (providing they don't infringe on trademarks). Only in Canada, England, Scotland, Ireland, Spain, and South Africa is registration of coats of arms required.

Most people, however, do not have any legal right to bear arms. Unscrupulous vendors who offer "family coats of arms" taken from computer databases cannot know a person's "family coat of arms" without an extensive knowledge of the individual's family tree. Coats of arms are granted to specific individuals and their direct descendants, not to all persons sharing a surname. Displaying arms purchased from such vendors is not only misleading but potentially insulting to one's ancestors. For

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
8 August 2002 Annual Potluck Picnic Pavilion at the FHL Center 534 Melody   6:00 pm

August 2002

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

I could not, at any age, be content to take my place in a corner by the fireside and simply look on. Life was meant to be lived. Curiosity must be kept alive. The fatal thing is the rejection. One must never, for whatever reason, turn his back on life.
— Eleanor Roosevelt

Try This Next Time

Don't Limit Yourself to Close-Up Shots of Graves
Most of us take photos of gravesites we are seeking, and the surroundings. Drive back down the road and take photos of gravestones along the roadway, so that if you ever get the opportunity to return, you can just glance out of the car window when driving, to see where you am. It enables you to locate the gravesite quickly, especially if it is quite a distance from the road.

Buried With a Different Name
This is something I had not ever thought of until the death of my mom. When my father passed away my mom had a tombstone with his name and hers on it. Later in life she remarried, but when she passed away she was buried beside my father. Now she is buried with my father's last name rather than my step-father's name. This could be confusing in generations to come when they look for Mom under the last name she used. I know of other instances where this has happened to folks looking for their ancestors.   Sherbet44

Searching The 1930 Census

It allows you to know before visiting NARA exactly which roll(s) of microfilm you need to view, rent, or buy to start your research.

Please Note: The locator is an online database listing every roll of microfilm in the 1930 census, searchable by over 120,000 geographic locations. It is not a family or individual name index or a digital version of the microfilm.

If the Census did not prepare a Soundex index for the state or territory you are looking for, you will see the state search page that includes:

at the top, a geographic search graphic
a search window for county name
a search window for city name
a search window for places or institutions a search window for enumeration district numbers
search tips for each window

Search by County Name

This search method allows for the display of all records in a county and to search for specific geographic places and features, such as streets, towns, villages, rivers, or institutions, such as hospitals, schools, jails, etc., by name. Choose a county name from the dropdown list and press continue.

The next page, "City/County Search Results" will display the name of the state and county you have selected. It will show how many microfilm rolls cover that county and how many enumeration districts it had.

Displayed below will be links to each page of results for enumeration districts and institutions for the county. The results are paged to allow viewing the data in manageable lengths. Click on a page number to see the results in ED order.

When viewing a results table, click on the roll number for information about viewing the microfilm at a NARA facility and about buying or renting it. To refine your search within the county, enter a search term in the lower window and press "Search Geographic Places."

Search Geographic Places

This search method allows you to look for specific geographic places and features, such as streets, towns, villages, or rivers, or institutions such as hospitals, schools, or jails,

"First in the Path of the Firemen"
The Fate of the 1890 Population Census *By Kellee Blake*

O f the decennial population census schedules, perhaps none might have been more critical to studies of immigration, industrialization, westward migration, and characteristics of the general population than the Eleventh Census of the United States, taken in June 1890. United States residents completed millions of detailed questionnaires, yet only a fragment of the general population schedules and an incomplete set of special schedules enumerating Union veterans and widows are available today. Reference sources routinely dismiss the 1890 census records as "destroyed by fire" in 1921. Examination of the records of the Bureau of Census and other federal agencies, however, reveals a far more complex tale. This is a genuine tragedy of records—played out before Congress fully established a National Archives—and eternally anguishing to researchers.

June 1, 1890, was the official census

date, and all responses were to reflect the status of the household on that date. The 1890 census schedules differed from previous ones in several ways. For the first time, enumerators prepared a separate schedule for each family. The schedule contained expanded inquiries relating to race (white, black, mulatto, quadroon, octoroon, Chinese, Japanese, or Indian), home ownership, ability to speak English, immigration, and naturalization. Enumerators asked married women for the number of children born and the number living at the time of the census to determine fecundity. The 1890 schedules also included a question relating to Civil War service.. In March 1896, before final publication of all general statistics volumes, the original 1890 special schedules for mortality, crime, pauperism and benevolence, special classes (e.g., deaf, dumb, blind, insane), and portions of the transportation and insurance schedules were badly damaged by fire and destroyed by

> The 1890 census schedules differed from previous ones in several ways. For the first time, enumerators prepared a separate schedule for each family.

Department of the Interior order. No damage to the general population schedules was reported at that time. Despite repeated ongoing requests by the secretary of commerce and others for an archives building where all census schedules could be safely stored, by January 10, 1921, the schedules could be found piled in an orderly manner on closely placed pine shelves in an unlocked file room in the basement of the Commerce Building.

The fire of January 10, 1921, spurred renewed cries and support for a National Archives, notably from congressmen, census officials, and longtime archives advocate J. Franklin Jameson. It also gave rise to proposals for better records protection in current storage spaces. The Washington Post expressed outrage that the Declaration of Independence and Constitution were in danger even at the moment, being stored at the Department of State in wooden cabinets. At the end of January, the records damaged in the fire were

Evaluating All The Evidence

– Patricia Law Hatcher, CG, FASG

Early on New Year's morning 2001, I was catching up on my genealogical e-mail. There were several messages from my second cousin, with whom I share one-fourth of my ancestry. Our genealogical efforts dovetail nicely. I focus on solving the problems in our colonial ancestry, and she focuses on collecting information on more recent generations and on communicating with the numerous descendants of our ancestors, often on the Internet. Our research meets in Meigs County, Ohio, the birthplace of our great-grandmother.

My cousin had copied me on a clump of messages to and from various more-distant genealogical cousins. I distinctly remember sitting Indian style on the bed, coffee mug in hand (it was, as I said, early in the morning), as the scanned image of a document slowly revealed itself on the screen of my laptop computer. It was the "Application for Probate of Will" of Ezekiel Harper, brother of our third-great-grandfather. I scrolled down the image. Ezekiel was a resident of Salisbury Township and had died on 19 July 1888.

The bottom of the page included something I wish we could always find in probates, "That the said Ezekiel Harper died leaving the following named persons his only next of kin resident of the State of Ohio."

Theodorus Harper, Son, Pomeroy Ohio
Alma J. Ralph, Daughter, Ironton O
Theophilus G. Harper, Son, Pomeroy O
Lydia S. Ralph, Daughter, Eno
Melissa A. Harper, ", "
Lavina L. Bennett, ", "
Lewis A. Harper, Son, Pitmon WV
Granville W. Harper, Son, Pendleton Oregon

I frowned, put my coffee safely out of harm's way, and leaned more closely toward the screen (I didn't have my computer glasses on). Nope, it said what I thought it did. I was going from memory, of course, but I thought the list didn't agree with the one I'd entered in my Harper file a few months earlier. I had not included Lewis. Had I been wrong? I remembered Lewis Alfred. Many years ago I had corresponded with a descendant of his who

thought Lewis might be part of Ezekiel's family because he had named a son Granville, but we found no supporting evidence.

A few keystrokes and I was reading my sketch of Ezekiel. I had documents on his birth in Maine in 1809, his earlier life in Meigs, his marriages in 1835 and 1846, and his seven children. My memory was correct - I had not listed Lewis A. as his son. Admittedly, though, I had nothing on Ezekiel's death except his tombstone.

I looked for my information on Lewis, including digging out the old correspondence. Lewis Alfred Harper was born in 1834 and married twice (the first ended in divorce). As Alfred Harper, he was on the 1850 and 1860 censuses in Letart Township and on the 1870 in Lebanon Township. I had information on all ten of his children.

Was I wrong to omit him? I don't mind admitting I'm wrong. I do it often in public in articles and lectures. But something bugged me about this. I reviewed the material on hand, retracing my logic. Letart and Lebanon were not traditional residences for my Harper family, nor especially close to their home townships of Orange, Chester, and Salisbury. Since my early correspondence with Alfred's descendant, I have learned that Granville was a popular name of the time, however unfamiliar it might be to us. Alfred was born before Ezekiel's first marriage, but such things do happen. It was also possible there was an even earlier marriage for which we have found no record. (I had even theorized that he might be Ezekiel's nephew, son of his older brother Daniel Amos.)

But for me, the clincher was the 1840 census. It shows two boys <5 (Theodorus, who was 14 in 1850, and Theophilus, who was 11 in 1850). There are no other young boys. I also observed that the six children on the 1850 were listed in the same order as the application for probate (Granville seems to have been a late addition in 1859), except, of course, that Lewis isn't there, being enumerated as a laborer on a farm in Letart.

The order of names on the probate would suggest, instead, that Lewis A. was born in the 1850s.

I decided it was time to reexamine the scanned image (this time with my computer glasses on). It still said the same thing, of course, but I thought I could see something different about Lewis's line. The handwriting looked old-fashioned. It was a bit smaller than the other names, occupying less vertical space. It looked a bit lighter and fainter, and some of the letters appeared slightly different.

Was Lewis's name added later? And if so, when and by whom? Could this be fraud? I had never encountered a case of fraud.

The rest of the day was spent packing for my departure for Salt Lake City, so I packed the Harper material. In fact, I made transparencies to use in the class on evidence I would be teaching there. I would check the Meigs probate files at the Family History Library.

Unfortunately, I discovered that LDS microfilming did not go as late as 1888 in Meigs. I did, however, use the example in class. I was quite perturbed that several of the students seemed to want to believe that Lewis's name belonged there, rationalizing a number of reasons, several of which were unlikely. When I explained why they were unlikely, the students still clung to their belief that Lewis was a son of Ezekiel.

In genealogy we must deal with evidence. Up until I saw the scanned image of the application for probate, I had found no reason to believe that Lewis belonged in Ezekiel's family. Careful examination of the application showed reasons to suspect that it had been altered. That is evidence. Subsequently, my cousin was able to share Ezekiel's obituary with me. It states he had two wives - naming them - and seven children - naming them, with no Lewis. The release of

Using The Illinois State Death Certificate Index
– Michael John Neill

Death certificates are an excellent genealogical source and those with Illinois connections have even easier access to some of these records. This wonderful online database contains an index to deaths in Illinois from 1916 until 1950. (**www.cyberdriveillinois.com/ departments/archives/ idphdeathindex.html**).

The Illinois Statewide Death Index is hosted at the Illinois State Archives website. While Illinois counties frequently have records before 1916, this index only includes those records that were created after state-mandated registration of deaths began in 1916. Even though it covers only thirty-four years, the index is an excellent finding aid. Certificates for Illinois deaths from 1916-47 can be ordered (at no charge) from the Illinois State Archives through the website (which also includes a regular mailing address for those who do not wish to submit requests online). Requests are limited to two certificates at a time and online requests are not given priority to mail or telephone requests. The Illinois State Archives currently has certificates from 1916 through 1947. Certificates after that time can either be ordered through the Illinois Department of Vital Records or the Recorder's Office in the county in which the event took place.

Before You Search

While it may be tempting to go directly to a database and look only for the search box -- ignoring those other things called words that are also on the page -- this can be a big mistake. It is important to read the sections that explain more about the index and the original records from which it was created. The index is only a finding aid. And like any finding aid, it might not be perfect and the site might explain known limitations of the index. Those who type names into boxes without reading and learning more about the actual database they are searching may make incorrect assumptions about the site and the data it contains.

It Is A String-Based Search

The site will return as "hits" any name that starts with the letters entered in the search box. A search for the last name "Neil" and the first name "Sam" brought the following results:

NEILER SAMUEL
NEILL SAMANTHA
NEILL SAMUEL
NEILSBERG SAMUEL
NEILSON SAMUEL

This is an effective way to perform multiple searches simultaneously. **It is necessary to enter at least two characters in the last name box.** The string-based search affords the researcher some flexibility when looking for oddball variant spellings. It may be necessary, however, to conduct multiple searches to effectively search for the desired entry.

While searching for my Trautvetter family, I could enter "Tr" in the last name box. I may get too many hits. On a more practical level, I can choose to perform these separate searches:

Traut
Trout
Trant
Trot

If I were to choose the county from the drop down list then the results of all surnames beginning with "tr" may not be so onerous.

Additionally for this last name, I also searched:

Fraut
Frout
Frant
Frot

(Capital "T" and a capital "F" are sometimes misread.)

Spellings Can Be Incorrect

"How people use the various facilities of the Internet."

There is no doubt that genealogists are making massive use of the Internet. In a recent survey forty percent use the Internet at least daily for conducting genealogical research and a staggering 86 percent use it at least weekly! What is more, 78 percent claim that they are online for at least an hour a day; only three percent use it less than an hour a week.

One of the major criticisms of conducting research on the Internet is that the information is virtually all from compiled sources (i.e. the records are not original). Some census records and the Ellis Island records do allow you to examine images of the originals but the vast majority of information is really indexes of records.

It appears people are well aware of the need to confirm data and 91 percent claim that they do try to confirm the information they have discovered.

People are certainly trading a lot of information. Forty-nine percent have sent GEDCOMS, 68 percent have sent photographs, and 21 percent have sent PDF files, while 74 percent have sent text documents. Overall, 92 percent have sent genealogical data over the Internet.

In the survey, several respondents expressed concern over errors in the data. Some were particularly expressive about careless information:

"The biggest concern is all the mistakes. Someone else has put some of my personal information on (not authorized) and I cannot remove it, only the

person that put it on to remove it! I can't contact them because the e-mail address is no longer valid. This is not right and something needs to be done to address it."
"Those Family Tree Maker type CDs are the worst as there is no way to remove the incorrect data and they continue to spew out the wrong data around the world, along with the horrific advertising "Complete your family data fast - buy these CDs." Of course the people selling the CDs do nothing to verify the data. To me this is the biggest fraud being perpetrated on the genealogy world. People are buying them hand over fist because they are too lazy to do the research!"

Other comments tried to put Internet research into perspective:
"The Internet really has to be used in its appropriate place in research. It is great for

What Gravestones Can Tell You Karen Frisch

No matter what secrets our ancestors took to their graves, they often leave others behind in unlikely places. The cemeteries where your ancestors were laid to rest are often filled with clues to their lives, long after their deaths.

If you're visiting the cemetery early in your research, you can learn a great deal of value. Gravestones can confirm relationships of family members whose names are listed together in granite. You'll know relatives' names before you spend unnecessary time searching in public records offices.

Not only can a headstone tell you who is buried in a plot, but it can contain the dates of birth and death for those interred there. The cemetery records office has more extensive details regarding the deceased. Information varies by cemetery, but you might learn the cause of death and other facts for which vital statistics offices generally charge a fee.

It's common to find stillborn babies or infants who died just hours after birth buried in family plots. The cemetery office will know for certain who, if anyone, has paid for perpetual care for a gravesite, indicating a close relationship. It might surprise you if the person turns out to be someone other than a family member.

The office can also tell you who is not buried in a certain plot. Occasionally families will inscribe relatives' names on a tombstone with the assumption that those family members will be buried there in time. If the office has no record of someone whose name is engraved on a stone, it might be an indication that the deceased died in another state or, in the case of a widow, remarried.

The reverse is also true. Sometimes graves contain individuals whose names do not appear on the stone. One family was surprised to discover that a complete stranger had been buried in a family grave, and they were sure the cemetery record keeper had made an error. An elderly uncle remembered the great-great-aunt buried there and was able to tell younger family members that the woman had never divorced her wayward husband because of a fear of scandal. In her later years she had developed a close attachment to another man. Although they were never able to marry, they found a way to spend eternity together.

Don't assume simply because a name is carved in stone that the person is buried beneath it. Always ask either at the records office or by telephone the names of all people buried in a plot. Inaccuracies can still occur even on headstones. In one instance a family found that the year of birth for the deceased was incorrect by a year. The mistake had never been corrected, presumably due to the family's grief at the time of death.

Other carvings can reveal insights into the family. Witticisms on a headstone might indicate a sense of humor while sentimental verses hint at great affection. In some cases a large monument might indicate wealth while the absence of any headstone can be a sign of poverty.

A family who learned that eleven ancestors were buried in a family plot expected to find names and dates carved on a sizable headstone. Instead, they were disappointed to find a bare plot of land with no stone at all. The deceased father had been an unskilled French-Canadian immigrant laborer with twelve children. While he had lived to be one hundred and four years old, ten of his children died before him, either from disease or accident. With so many funerals in so short a period of time, headstones were simply too costly.

Other searchers have better luck. A grave marker at a site can tell you the presence of an ancestor who fought in the Civil War or Revolutionary War. Whatever you uncover, it's inspiring to know that even the grave doesn't silence our ancestors.

Ancestry Daily News
4/2/2002 - **Archive**

Survey Says........

obtaining information about where and how to find records. Some index information is valuable. But the emphasis on the Internet is way too heavy in most genealogy publications these. Family trees on the Internet are as often wishful thinking. Genealogy done solely on the Internet lacks many pieces of data, which flesh out a good family history."

Publications need to continue to offer in-depth information about good resources - land records, wills, military records, etc., with the understanding that some guidance may be found on the net, but that real genealogy is still a paper-microfilm-microfiche-read everything about the person, their times, their friends, relatives, neighbors-kind of project.

Another Survey Respondent added:

I think the Internet is helpful for some things. However, there is so much erroneous material posted that I really don't use it very much anymore. I've gone back to the more conventional [methods] of research. I always document everything from original sources if I possibly can. I have a great concern about all the beginning researchers that think all they need to do is find it on the Internet

Despite the limitations, people are finding the Internet a great help.

I've been researching for over 18 years so approach the web/Internet as a tool, not the gospel truth. It has provided excellent networking for me, with folks I'd not have otherwise met because many on the net are not serious researchers, but those who've created web pages or submitted historical data for a local web page and provided clues I can use and then verify. In one year I've found nine new distant cousins this way. Some do genealogy; some just collect and are interested. But I've been able to put bits and pieces of info together that in the past eluded me because those with the info were not in the world of genealogy magazines, placing ads or joining local societies and placing queries.

(This article originally appeared in the Family Chronicle magazine November/ December 2001 issue.)

The Fate of the 1890 Population Census

moved for temporary storage. Over the next few months, rumors spread that salvage attempts would not be made and that Census Director Sam Rogers had recommended that Congress authorize destruction of the 1890 census. Prominent historians, attorneys, and genealogical organizations wrote to new Secretary of Commerce Herbert Hoover, the Librarian of Congress, and other government officials in protest. The National Genealogical Society (NGS) and Daughters of the American Revolution formally petitioned Hoover and Congress, and the editor of the NGS Quarterly warned that a nationwide movement would begin among state societies and the press if Congress seriously considered destruction. The content of replies to the groups was invariably the same; denial of any planned destruction and calls for Congress to provide for an archives building.

> Ironically, just one day before Congress authorized destruction of the 1890 census papers, President Hoover laid the cornerstone for the National Archives Building.

By May of 1921 the records were still piled in a large warehouse where, complained new census director William Steuart, they could not be consulted and would probably gradually deteriorate. Steuart arranged for their transfer back to the census building, to be bound where possible, but at least put in some order for reference. The extant record is scanty on storage and possible use of the 1890 schedules between 1922 and 1932 and seemingly silent on what precipitated the following chain of events. In December 1932, in accordance with federal records procedures at the time, the Chief Clerk of the Bureau of Census sent the Librarian of Congress a list of papers no longer necessary for current business and scheduled for destruction. He asked the Librarian to report back to him any documents that should be retained for their historical interest.

Item 22 on the list for Bureau of the Census read "Schedules, Population ... 1890, Original." The Librarian identified no records as permanent, the list was sent forward, and Congress authorized destruction on February 21, 1933. At least one report states the 1890 census papers were finally destroyed in 1935, and a small scribbled note found in a Census Bureau file states "remaining schedules destroyed by Department of Commerce in 1934 (not approved by the Geographer)." Ironically, just one day before Congress authorized destruc- tion of the 1890 census papers, President Hoover laid the cornerstone for the National Archives Building.

So even after the outcry in 1921, thirteen years later the Census Bureau destroyed the remaining 1890 schedules. In 1942 the National Archives accessioned a damaged bundle of surviving Illinois schedules as part of a shipment of records found during a Census Bureau move. At the time, they were believed to be the only surviving fragments. In 1953, however, the Archives accessioned an additional set of fragments. These sets of extant fragments are from Alabama, Georgia, Illinois, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, South Dakota, Texas, and the District of Columbia and have been microfilmed as National Archives Microfilm Publication M407 (3 rolls). A corresponding index is available as National Archives Microfilm Publication M496 (2 rolls). Both microfilm series can be viewed at the National Archives, the regional archives, and several other repositories. Before disregarding this census, researchers should always verify that the schedules they seek did not survive. There are no fewer than 6,160 names indexed on the surviving 1890 population schedules. These are someone's ancestors

**From NARA Prologue
Spring 1996, Vol. 28, No. 1.**

Evaluating Evidence

the LDS 1880 census abstract on CD helped me locate Alfred in West Virginia. He reports that his father was born in Ohio. Ezekiel and his brothers were all born in Maine. Recently I was refiling lecture material and came across the transparencies. This prompted me to order a copy of Ezekiel's probate file - and of the suspicious application for probate - from Meigs County. The copies arrived today.

In his will Ezekiel named his seven children (no Lewis Alfred). On the application there is a nice blank space between Lavina and Granville. Lewis's name was added to a photocopy, but we don't know by whom, when, or why.

When investigating ancestry, it is necessary to collect and evaluate as much evidence as possible. We must draw our conclusions based solely on the evidence. Wishful thinking and rationalization can play no part in evaluating evidence.

When the evidence doesn't match, we should first consider the possibility of errors and recheck all information. If that doesn't resolve the issue, we should consider the possibility of altered documents. Fraud doesn't occur often, but it does exist.

Ancestry Daily News
6/13/2002 - **Archive**

Patricia Law Hatcher, CG, FASG, is a technical writer, instructor, and professional genealogist.

Split Names

We couldn't find my great-great grandfather's marriage date and we didn't have my great-great grandmother's maiden name. My cousin had hired a researcher and suggested looking up the names of sponsors on the baptisms we had, and checking indexes for the various names. He did so and found them with his name listed with the surname split and therefore listed under the initial of the second half. Rutenshroer was the name, but written as Ruden Schroer.

Ellyn Kern

The Illinois State Death Certificate Index

This index is like any other . . . there are spelling variants and errors. Like other indexes, this one was created by humans from hand- written records. Some original certificates are difficult to read. Few early certificates were typed and few of those who completed the certificates by hand used block printing (which is usually easier to read). The script rendition of the name may be easily interpreted in several different (and reasonable) ways. Handwriting problems are compounded by spelling variants based upon phonics, and in some cases, the inability of the deceased's family to speak English. Consider all reasonable variants.

Readers with Mc or Mac surnames may also wish to consider possible data entry variations:

McSurname
Mc Surname (with a space)
MacSurname
Mac Surname (with a space)

Copy/Paste Results To Another Program

The data from the results page can be copied and pasted into other Windows applications and used in more sophisticated

> Handwriting problems are compounded by spelling variants based upon phonics, and in some cases, the inability of the deceased's family to speak English.

ways. I copied the data into an Excel spreadsheet and used the sorting and searching features of that program to perform additional analyses not possible with the website. Other database programs will allow for more sophisticated types of analysis. This technique was particularly helpful in "removing" the Cook County entries from some searches.

This approach was also helpful to integrate all my Demar (and variants) into one spreadsheet and then sort all the results in a variety of ways based upon my specific needs. Sorting all the results by first name instead of by last name was especially helpful in this case (since I was looking for a specific first name). One could also sort the results by county or any other field. The results, when given directly from the site, are sorted by surname and then by first name. In some cases this is sufficient for the researcher's needs. In other cases, it is not. In a future column, we'll discuss copying and pasting results in more detail.

What Do These Certificates Contain?

Typically these records include:
--- Name of deceased
--- Date and place of death
--- Place of residence of deceased
--- Age
--- Date and place of birth
--- Parents' names (mother's maiden) and places of birth
--- Informant
--- Date and place of burial
--- Case of death
--- Undertaker

Just because the certificate has the space for a piece of information does not mean the information will be on the certificate. Unknown is a VERY popular word on some of these records! Information on the deceased's date and place of birth and parents may be incorrect as well. The chance of this type of error is increased if the informant was not really acquainted with the deceased. Information on places of birth, names of parents, and places of birth should be cross- referenced with other sources and used as a clue to additional records. A death certificate is usually not a primary source for information on the birth and the names of parents.

Michael John Neill, is the Course I Coordinator at the Genealogical Institute of Mid America (GIMA) held annually in Springfield, Illinois, and is also on the faculty of Carl Sandburg College in Galesburg, Illinois. Michael is the Web columnist for the FGS FORUM and is on the editorial board of the Illinois State Genealogical Society Quarterly. He conducts seminars and lectures on a wide variety of genealogical and computer topics and contributes to several genealogical publications, including Ancestry *and* Genealogical Computing.

How to Search the 1930 Federal Census

by name across an entire state, or within county and city searches.

This method is helpful if you know that the person you are searching for lived in smaller town, village, or township, or in an institution as defined by the Bureau of the Census. If you are searching for Spooner, Wisconsin but do not know the name of the county, enter the term "Spooner" into this window to yield the following results.

The more specific information you have about where a person lived in 1930, especially in densely populated areas, the quicker you will be able to identify specific microfilm rolls. Since most urban EDs were described by the streets bounding them, it will help to know the exact street address. Finding the location on a contemporary map and then comparing it to the ED descriptions will allow you to identify which roll of
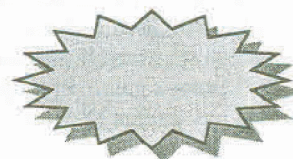
schedule microfilm to consult.

The Bureau of the Census also used contemporary maps upon which it overlaid, often just with grease pencil notations, the boundaries and numbers of enumeration districts. The quality and visual clarity of the maps varied considerably. The complete set of these maps is available as National Archives Microfilm Publication M1930, *Enumeration District Maps for the Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930.* This microfilm publication is available at all NARA facilities nationwide.

What is your next step?

Note the microfilm publication number and microfilm roll number of the roll(s) you wish to view. Then bring this microfilm information to a facility that has the census microfilm.

Knights Of Old

permission to utilize what he believes to be his family coat of arms, a person must prove he is descended from a recognized holder of the arms. Obtaining official recognition is usually costly and time consuming. People are often eager to know the significance of their coats of arms and others are equally eager to tell them the meanings of each feature.

This analysis, though, can be no more precise than a psychoanalyst's interpretation of a dream. There is simply no way to know what meaning the symbols on a shield had to the person who designed the coat of arms. They may be strictly decorative with no significance at all.

> For permission to utilize what he believes to be his family coat of arms, a person must prove he is descended from a recognized holder of the arms.

Still, it is often challenging to try to decipher the meaning of one's arms, which may even hold a few clues for those constructing family histories. One can learn something simply by studying the overall design of the shield and its divisions. A shield is said to be marshalled when multiple arms are combined to show matrimonial and other alliances.

Marriage is usually shown by impalement, in which the shield is divided vertically, with the husband's arms in the dexter (our left) half and the wife's in the sinister (our right). Their children might use both sets of arms on a quartered shield, with the arms repeated diagonally. Further clues are found in the charges pictured on the shield. Some symbols are easily decipherable: for example, a lion represents courage and a sword represents martial skill. Some symbols are more complex, such as the bee, which symbolizes industriousness; the baton, which indicates illegitimate birth; or the cockle-shell, which often symbolized pilgrimages, as it was the symbol of James, patron saint of pilgrims. Some symbols are used as marks of cadency, which symbolize birth order. For example a martlet may represent a fourth son, a ring a fifth son, and so on. Often a coat's charges allude to the original bearer's trade, such as fish for fishermen or a bugle for a bugler. Other symbols may be taken from one's city or country of origin, or adopted from one's

feudal overlord. Canting Arms Canting arms are more directly symbolic, being essentially rebus puzzles of the bearer's surname. Such arms vary in complexity. The Tremain shield features three hands; the arms of the Borough of Congleton display a golden lion on a tun between two silver conger eels, which decodes to Conger-Leo-Tun. In some cases, this process has worked in reverse, causing people to be named after their heraldic emblems. This process is shown, for example, in the Danish names Rosencrantz (named for a wreath of roses surmounting the helmet) and Gyldenstjerne (named for a gold star featured in its arms). Blazon Trails One of the most complex aspects of heraldry is the textual rendering of a coat of arms. An unusual heraldic jargon, called blazon, evolved over the centuries and is rooted in the period following the Norman conquest of England, when Norman French was widely spoken among the English aristocracy. The purpose of this highly technical language is to help heralds describe even the most complex coats of arms concisely and unambiguously. Blazon is the sheet music of heraldry - expert blazoners can speak to one another in blazon and have a clear picture of what they're discussing without ever resorting to pen and paper. Blazon should not be regarded as a mere technical branch of heraldry, for blazon constitutes half a herald's practice. The pictorial rendering of a coat of arms is properly called emblazon, and is merely the more decorative and popular counterpart to blazon.; It is simple enough to understand basic blazoning. One describes the background color of the shield followed by any basic patterns and their colors; a description of all groups of charges (plants, creatures or other items) in the pattern number, type, color, adjectives; followed by their locations and descriptions of the achievement's helmet, mantling, supporters, crests, and so on, each in their own section. For example, to describe a fairly basic shield in English, one would say, "On a blue background, a silver slash running from the top left hand corner to the lower right hand corner, in the middle of the silver slash two standing red lions looking to the right." To describe the same shield in blazon, one would say, "Azure, a

Turner

"To be, rather than to seem"

bend argent charged with two lions gules rampant reguardent." To describe a more complex arrangement, we might say, "Shield divided into four quarters. In both the upper left quarter and the lower right quarter, on a yellow background, a centered blue fleur-de-lis; in both the upper right quarter and the lower left quarter, on a red background a white chevron with black symbols running through it surrounded by ten white Prussian crosses." The same mouthful rendered in blazon: "Quarterly, 1 and 4, Or, a fleur-de-lis azure; 2 and 3, Gules, a chevron ermine between ten crosses paty argent." As the coats described become increasingly complex, the usefulness of blazon among heralds becomes increasingly apparent. Follow the Rules Heralds in dozens of countries have been working for hundreds of years to ensure that the rules of heraldry are too complex and varied for people to ever do away with their services. There are hundreds of rules of heraldry, and at least as many exceptions. The rules begin by defining the tools of the trade. The colors used in heraldry are called tinctures. There are seven basic tinctures, five of which are known as colors and two of which are known as metals. The colors traditionally consist of gules (red), azure (blue), vert (green), purpure (purple) and sable (black). The metals are always or (gold) and argent (silver), though it is acceptable to substitute yellow for or and white for argent. Another category of tincture is fur, which are patterns based on animal fur. The furs consist of: ermine (argent with tails sable), ermines (sable with tails argent), erminois (or with tails sable), pean (sable with tails or), vair (interlocking bells alternately argent and azure) and potent (interlocking T's alternately argent and azure). These furs, together with the colors and metals, represent only the standard, traditional tinctures.

The Rule of Tincture The first, basic, inviolable rule of heraldry is known as the rule of tincture. It states that a color must not be placed atop a color and that a metal cannot be placed atop a metal. There are exceptions, of course - the best known being the or and argent arms of Jerusalem. In fact this rule is totally disregarded in some countries.; Within the shield, one can design as he pleases as long as he obeys the rule of tincture. Certain symbols, such as the papacy's keys and the cross of the Knights of Malta, have special meanings and may only be used by permission. In some countries, multiple individuals cannot share an identical shield, even if they belong to the same family. In such a case, marks of cadence must be added to make each shield unique. A special set of rules must be obeyed with regards to the quartering (dividing into four sections) of shields. There are a few dozen special rules for the design and shape of a woman's shield, which vary based upon her social and marital status. Whatever design is created must be able to be blazoned; that is, one cannot draw a detailed landscape but rather something simple such as a castle on a blue background, resting atop a green bar.; The rules regarding the articles placed outside the shield vary drastically from country to country. Some countries allow relative freedom in the placement of the helmet; others have specific rules as to how many helmets each person may use, of what type the helmets must be, the direction in which they must face, where they must be in relation to the shield and even the number of bars in the visors of the helmets. An entirely different set of rules exists for crowns and coronets. A further set of rules exists for the mantling, another for supporters, and so on. In fact, if your country has a solid set of heraldic laws and traditions, it's quite difficult to design a coat of arms without breaking some of the rules.

Acquiring Arms To learn about acquiring an official set of arms, the English King of Heralds' jurisdiction covers all countries where the English queen is sovereign, except Scotland and Canada where Lord Lyon King of Arms and Canada Herald, respectively, have jurisdiction. The English King of Heralds also handles applications from citizens of the United States. The College of Heralds, with its vast resources and experience, can assist persons with any necessary genealogical research. If consent for a coat of arms is granted, the heralds will help to create a unique design, which will be rendered on vellum by artists using colors and gold. What attracts some people to the idea of adopting arms is the sense of their tradition and significance. They are souvenirs of medieval European chivalry, and, like a good name, are a permanent asset to a family.

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