



Volume 22, Issue 4

December, 2002

Want to see your name in print?  
Submissions welcomed and will  
be used eventually.

The Editor

"Any child can tell you that the sole purpose of a middle name is so  
he can tell when he's really in trouble." --- Dennis Fakes

"Though we travel the world over to find the beautiful, we must carry  
it with us or we find it not." --- Ralph Waldo Emerson

"A good library is a place, a palace, where the lofty spirits of all  
nations and generations meet." --- Samuel Niger, 1883-1956

## Genealogist's Dream

ROBERT E. LEE DAUGHTER'S LETTER-LADEN TRUNKS FOUND IN VA.

More than 80 years after the death of Mary Curtis Lee, the eldest and most headstrong daughter of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee, two steamer trunks full of her papers and travel souvenirs have been found in a bank vault in Alexander, Va.

The wooden trunks containing family letters, photographs, clippings of her father's obituary, strands of hair collected from royalty on European trips rarely taken by other single women of her era came to light after an inquiry from a descendant. Rob E.L. deButts Jr knew that Mary Lee used Burke and Herbert Bank & Trust Co. as her permanent address when she left on her travels abroad. While doing some family research, deButts whose great grandfather was Mary Lee's

brother sent an e-mail to and old classmate from high school bank vice chairman E. Hunt Burke, asking whether the bank had any records or artifacts associated with his ancestor.

"I was asking about things in general but did mention trunks," said deButts a New York Lawyer and genealogist. "I never dreamed there would actually be trunks."

The request sent Burke to the bank's "silver vault," where it stores items too bulky for safe deposit boxes. The Trunks "were dusty. They were in a corner," Burke said. "On the inventory, they were carried as two trunks. We didn't have a name." But he saw that one of them was stenciled on the side with "M.Lee." DeButts came right away to look at the find. Last month he returned

and delivered both trunks to the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond in hopes that it will catalog and preserve their contents.

"Everything in the trunks is Lee related. They were stuffed full. this is a very exciting find," said Charles F. Bryan Jr. Mary Curtis Lee was the second child of the four daughters and three sons born to Lee and his wife, Mary, granddaughter of George Washington.

Mary Price Coulling, the author of "The Lee Girls," said Lee was unusually bold for her time. Daughters were expected to live at home until they married. If they remained single as many Southern girls did after the Civil War because

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## GENEALOGISTS NOW HAVE OWN BED AND BREAKFAST

DALLAS: Traveling U.S. genealogists are following an example set by their European counterparts: They are staying in genealogist-owned bed and breakfast.

To help travelers locate these B&B's, Peggy Wilkey of Dallas has started a Genealogists B&B of USA directory. Family history researchers across the United States are invited to sign up for the directory. The listing is a nominal \$5. But you must be a gene-

alogist to register your bed and breakfast or to be a guest in one. The service works like this: Take an extra bedroom and convert it to a guest room. Then be prepared to serve breakfast. A proprietor of such a bed and breakfast can only charge \$50 per guest, regardless of location. These bed and breakfasts are nothing new in Europe, where genealogists have always opened their homes to fellow researchers.

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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

## Ancestry Tip

Don't overlook occupations! I recently decided to re-search just what it was that my ancestors in London, England did for a living. I not only found lovely pictures of the area in the 1800s to make my history more interesting for my posterity, but also two addresses for where records of workers had been indexed. I also received the names of children that had not been listed anywhere else. These were family members whose records were assumed "complete" years ago.

Carole Summersell

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 4<sup>th</sup> and Ute. The meetings are held in the conference room located in the Whitman School Building.

## January 2003

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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26	27	28	29	30	31	

## February 2003

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## March 2003

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# 1880 CENSUS RELEASED ONLINE BY FAMILYSEARCH.ORG

Folks interested in their roots received a huge boon when the 1880 U.S. census, the first searchable complete census, went online recently.

Volunteers from the church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day-Saints, which is renowned for its genealogical research facilities, spent 17 years inputting the 50 million entries into computers. The results can now be found at [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org). The Mormon Church had previously released the 1880 census on a set of 35 CD-ROM's.

The Mormon Church calls this database, the latest addition to the wealth of genealogical data already available via the net, the easiest way to date of finding ancestors born in the United States.

"Census are among the most significant of family records," said church spokesman Richard Turley. The 1880 census is particularly significant because it is the first online census to include former slaves, and the second census in history to record blacks as individuals rather than as property. That year's census also is highly regarded "because it's the first one that told us the names and birthplaces of the parents, which give genealogists more data to follow in their research."

Famous names in the census: Mark Twain and Herman Melville, West-

ern star "Buffalo Bill" Cody, tycoon John D. Rockefeller, inventors Thomas Edison and Alexander Graham Bell, Booker T. Washington and abolitionist Frederick Douglas.

Besides the year of birth and the birth state of

his or her parents, entries in the 1880 census include neighbors.

"That's a clue to connect to previous generations," said Turley.

"In the 1880's, relatives often lived together in a broad neighborhood."

Genealogy is among the most popular online pastimes, thanks to the Net's easy access to databases worldwide as well as to numerous other sources such as bulletin boards, for leads. And the information is increasing every year with the addition of genealogical databases and information plus the increasing amount of governmental data and public records information finding its way to the Internet.

While the pay site [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)

is the most popular with genealogical visitors, with 3 million plus visitors a month, such free sites as [www.ellisland.org](http://www.ellisland.org) and [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org) often are overwhelmed with traffic whenever

new databases are posted.

Even though other commercial sites such as [ancestry](http://ancestry.com), [www.heritagequest.com](http://www.heritagequest.com) and [www.genealogy.com](http://www.genealogy.com) have bits and pieces of the 1880 census not all of the 1880 census on those sites is searchable, which sets the [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org) site apart and more useable than the others.

[Editors notes] *Be careful, again this database was transcribed by volunteers, who had to read then decipher the handwritten entries from the census.*

*While I was more than pleasantly surprised by finding a father and mother in law living next door to an ancestor, the last name was misspelled as Sluth rather than Sleeth. It is easy to see how with this name that could happen, but if I was trying to find the Sleeth family I would have never thought of looking for Sluth, so checking the neighboring families is an excellent idea, just be aware of the possible misspellings.*

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## 2003 MCGS PROGRAMS



**9 JAN 2003**—Dennis Jenkins; Using timelines & Chronologies

**13 FEB 2003**—Election of Officers/ Share Program Bring Old Photographs

**Mar 7-8 2003**—Family History Fair at Family History Center

**13 MAR 2003**—1880 Census Revisited

**10 APRIL 2003**—Kay Oser: Mesa County Public Library Resources

**8 MAY 2003**—Donna Roberts; Skip Tracing-21st Century Research

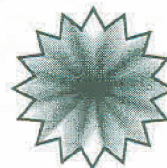
**12 JUNE 2003**—Pat Daub: us flag also SAR and DAR presentations

**10 JULY 2003**—Share—Family Heir-

looms, artifacts and Treasures.

**14 AUG 2003** - Annul Picnic

**11 SEP 2003**—Dave Fishell: The Influenza Epidemic & the Angles of Mercy





# Database Gives Quicker Response

In lieu of the Statue of liberty/ Ellis Island Foundation search sites at [www.ellisland.org](http://www.ellisland.org) the Ellis Island Database Search Engine at <http://home.pacbell.net/spmorse/index.html> is giving much faster and improved information. The search engine has several forms that can be used, a general (White) form that searches all passengers, has very restricted town search and somewhat restricted sounds-like search, a blue form for searches for Jewish passengers only -- has unrestricted town search and unrestricted sounds-like search, supports some additional search parameters and a gray form which searches all passengers -- has unrestricted town search and unrestricted sounds-like search, lacks some of the other search parameters.

Stephan Morse's search engine does have some benefits that are lacking in the Ellis Island Site. A search form is a form that allows you to enter values to be used as search parameters. After you do so, those values are submitted to a search engine. The search engine then obtains the results and creates a web page that displays the results for you.

Morse design a form that take the values you enter and submits them to the search engine on the Ellis Island website. From then on you are using their site and not Morse's. They obtain the results, and they create the web page that displays the results for you. Alternately you can bypass this site and use the search form presented on the Ellis Island site itself. However, many people have found that form to be hard to use and not very versatile.

The Ellis Island search form allows you to enter the leading characters of the last name, just like Morse's search page does. It also allows you to specify ethnicity, ports, and ships. However the only ethnicity, ports, or ships that the Ellis Island search page allows you to specify are those corresponding to passengers having the exact name corresponding to the leading characters that you entered. There is no such limitation on Morse's search form.

Morse's Search form has two different search buttons, one labeled old format and the other new format. These correspond to the format of the results that will be generated. The "old format" is the one that is generated directly by the Ellis Island website, and is the only one that displayed until

recently. But now, thanks to some remarkable work by Yves GoulNIK, the search engine is able to present the results in a much cleaner format consisting of links that will take you in one step to either the passenger record, the text or scanned manifest, or a picture of the ship. The new format also allows you to specify the number of names per page, rather than being restricted to only 25 per page

## Finding Missing Manifests in One Step

The links in the Ellis Island database to many of the scanned images of the original manifests are either broken or missing (see the 400-series questions on faq page). However Alex Calzareth has discovered that the images are in the Ellis Island database even though the links to them aren't, and he has figured out a way to access those images directly. Furthermore, Michael Tobias has done an outstanding job of cataloging the manifest locations to greatly simplify accessing the manifest images, and Yves GoulNIK has figured how to dynamically compute the start and end frame of each microfilm roll on which the manifest images are located. The manifest images presented here reside on the Ellis Island Foundation website at <http://www.ellislandrecords.org>. Archival copies of these images can be purchased through them.

## When would you use this

(Continued on page 5)

## Lee's Daughter

(Continued from page 1)

there were so few men left to marry their role was to care for heir parents. "She took off and did what she wanted to do," Couling said. "She left her sister Mildred to cope with everything."

From 1871 to 1914, Mary Lee was abroad so much, traveling in Europe and Asia, that very little is known about her life.

Burke and Herbert, founded in the early 1850's and still family owned originally required no written rental agreements for vault space. Burke also said it is likely that no fee was ever charge which would explain why the connection to Mary Lee was lost. The silver vault is frequented only by customers who pay for the space.



## ELLIS ISLAND SEARCH .....

### missing-manifests page?

Suppose you searched for a passenger, got to the passenger record, clicked on "view original manifest", and it brought you to a page that says "NO IMAGE AVAILABLE" in a big black box. This means one of two things have happened. Either the image did not get uploaded into the online Ellis Island database due to some error.. Or the image was uploaded but the link in the database is missing. In the latter case, you can access the image using my missing manifests page. Also, when you click on "view original manifest", you might get to an image of a manifest but for the wrong ship. In this case the link in the database is incorrect. My missing manifest page might be able to help in that case as well.

And, finally, you might not have found your passenger at all, but from other sources you know the exact date of arrival and possibly the ship as well. In that case you can use the missing manifests page to view all the ships that arrived on that date and go through them line by line looking for the name you want

### Why am I unable to view a copy of the enlarged manifest on the Ellis Island website?

The answer depends upon how you are trying to get the enlarged image. Most people are simply clicking on the thumbnail image and expecting the enlarged image to pop up because that is what used to happen. But due to a recent change on the Ellis Island website, you now need to left-click explicitly on the magnifying glass to the right of the thumbnail image instead of on the image itself. **If you tried the**

### advanced search but clicked "deny" when it asked for more privileges. How can I undo that?

To do this kind of search for you, the search engine needs to be able to store the results on a file on your hard disk. It will put them in the file that you specify. But It will need your permission in order to be able to write to your hard disk. Therefore, when you perform an advanced search, you will be asked if you want to grant certain privileges to it. If you don't trust the site, simply say NO at this point and the search will not be performed. To undo this see the FAQ page for the database site.

### Ellis Island records prior to 1892 or later than 1924.

Up to April 18, 1890, Castle Garden was used as the immigrant processing center. On that date the US Treasury took over immigration, and moved the processing center to the so-called Barge Office. That office operated until January 1, 1892 when Ellis Island was opened. So that is the start date of the records in the Ellis Island database. The Barge Office was also used from June 14, 1897 until December 16, 1900 because of a fire that had destroyed Ellis Island. The records from this second use of the Barge Office are in the Ellis Island database.

Quite a number of manifests particularly in the 1890s don't exist, haven't been microfilmed, or are illegible for a variety of reasons. However, manifests prior to 1892 do exist, although there are not accessible on-line. Many of those from the original use of the Barge Office (April 18, 1890 to January 1, 1892) are available at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) and from the Family History Centers (FHCs) of the Mor-

mon Church. The holder of old manifests back to 1846 is the Center for Immigration Studies (housed in the same building with the Balch Institute until the Institute recently merged with and moved to the Pennsylvania Historic Society) in Philadelphia but they are available only to advanced degree researchers and not genealogists. Of course, even if a manifest has been microfilmed and is available there are no indexes prior to 1892.

After 1924 Ellis Island was no longer used as a major processing center. Some immigrants were still processed there, but only in rare cases. The Ellis Island online database does not include such records either.

However there are microfilms of these manifests available at NARA and the FHCs, as well as a Soundex index to December 31, 1943. Also available are "book indexes" which require a person to know the approximate date of arrival and the ship or the exact date of arrival if the ship isn't known.

This is an excellent replacement to the Ellis Island search engine, be sure that you visit the FAQ page regarding the search engine and it's operation.

Article idea from Jo Culberson

**At** Thanksgiving our family had a discussion of when and why this holiday is on the last Thursday of November, here's part of the answer...

"I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise..." -- Abraham Lincoln, 1863 Thanksgiving Proclamation



# "HAVE YOU EVER?"

by Michael John Neill

Today we're asking questions of ourselves that we should also ask of our ancestors. If any of your ancestors are still living ask them the questions yourself (as politely as possible though, as some are somewhat sensitive). Most of us will not be able to get direct answers to these questions from our ancestors. However, thinking about how we might have responded ourselves might get us thinking differently about some of our own family history problems. Sometimes we tend to forget our ancestors were human and susceptible to the same frailties as we are. Putting yourself in your ancestor's boots, shoes, moccasins, or clogs might help you get over that brick wall.

There are no easy solutions. General advice on the problems we'll be discussing is to learn about the time period, the geographic area, the cultural and political climate, and the records themselves. Asking questions and being willing to learn is an excellent starting point.

## HAVE YOU EVER ANSWERED A QUESTION WRONG ON AN APPLICATION OR A FORM?

Is it possible your ancestor gave a wrong answer on a document or record? Perhaps he lied about his age in order to get in the service. Perhaps she lied about her age in order to get married. Perhaps he thought

the value of his far in 1860 was no one's business or wanted to deflate the value in case the taxman was within earshot of the census taker. There are many reasons why one might "fudge" an answer on some form (although I'm not encouraging fraud and deceit). An ancestor might have done it as well.

Obtaining all records on your ancestor may allow you to establish an approximate date of a specific event. Just keep in mind that not all these documents will be consistent. Record the information exactly as you find it. Analyzing the information is necessary to potentially reach a consensus--correcting the information as you copy it is not.

Your ancestor might have intentionally lied or given quick answers to just placate the questioner. He might also have been confused about his actual age. It is also possible that he was just wanting to confuse his descendants and keep his past buried.

## HAVE YOU EVER

### "APPROXIMATED" YOUR PLACE OF BIRTH OR RESIDENCE?

Some of us who live in the "boonies" find it easier to not give our exact residence as no one ever knows where it is anyway. Many times it takes more time to explain the exact location than it is worth.

Consequently I frequently tell people I live 45 minutes from Davenport, Iowa, or several hours west of Chicago. It is easier. While my ancestors did not live where I did, some of them estimated their original residence or place of birth. Some of my German-born forebears listed on some American records the county seat as their place of birth, instead of the little village where they were actually born. They were not concerned with the discrepancy or the possibility of someone researching the records one hundred years later. Inconsistencies in locations may be due to approximations and listing the nearest "big city" instead of the actual location of the event. This problem is not always easily solved. Researchers should locate as many records as possible, focusing on any source that

might list the place of birth for the focus person. These searches should include the children of the focus person and concentrate on those records that might include the place of birth for the parents. Those unfamiliar with the area being researched should obtain detailed maps and learn something about the political jurisdictions that have covered the area being researched.

## HAVE YOU EVER MADE A MISTAKE AND DID NOT WANT ANYONE TO KNOW ABOUT IT? DID YOU INTENTIONALLY HIDE YOUR PAST FROM SOMEONE?

Is it possible your ancestor had an embarrassing secret he wanted to leave buried in the past? Was he vague about his origins in an attempt to keep the secret hidden? Did your ancestor leave Europe to avoid compulsory military service? Did your ancestor want to "turn over a new leaf in a new location?" Did your ancestor leave a painful past or childhood and never want to talk about it or think about it again? All of these are reasons to be vague about their past on official records.

I know one researcher whose ancestor left the coal mines of Pennsylvania as a child and had absolutely no intention of returning.

He rarely talked of his past, and consequently, his family knows little of his origins. This ancestor did not live during a time when providing a copy of a birth certificate was necessary for employment.

Mentioning specifics about the past is not conducive to establishing a new identity.

## DID YOU CONTEMPLATE NAMING A CHILD SOMETHING THAT HAD ABSOLUTELY NO CONNECTION TO YOU OR YOUR FAMILY?

Many family names are passed down through the generations and some families name all their children for other family members. Some do not. Does your child's name have a family connection? Or, did your ancestor simply pick a name for their child out of the air?

Your ancestor might have picked a

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## News Clippings

From the "Statesville Landmark (Statesville, NC), 5 December 1874, page 3:

**A WIDOWER WITH NINE CHILDREN WANTED.**---A particular and highly esteemed lady friend of ours is willing to marry, if she can find a good looking widower with nine children---just one number less than John Rodgers of sainted memory. We hope that she will not have to wait much longer to enjoy the glorious privilege of conducting those youthful nine through all the interesting phases of mumps, measles, and scarlet fever. For further particulars address M., Box 108, Statesville, N.C., or if very curious, call at Wallace Bros. & Stephenson's where you can buy Dry Goods cheaper than in Charlotte or New York.



## GEORGE G. MORGAN:

"ALONG THOSE LINES . . ."

### "My Lips Are Sealed!" Tips for Dealing with Reluctant Family Members

*Many of us are stymied in our collection of information from living relatives by their reluctance, or down-right unwillingness, to talk. With the holiday season upon us, there may be opportunities to gather that often critical information from other family members, perhaps for the last time.*

#### "I'M NOT TALKING! PERIOD!"

There are many, many reasons why family members may not want to talk about the past or about other relatives. Some people just aren't talkers, and others are just shy. Some feel that what they have to say is of little or no importance.

Others, however, may have other motives for maintaining a stony silence. There may have been some scandal in the family: something that just "wasn't talked about." Criminal activities, illegitimate children, an unsavory past, a family disagreement or feud, or some personal slight. Some family members are ashamed of interracial, inter-ethnic, or inter-religious marriages. Others may be ashamed of their heritage. Your challenge is in trying to determine what the underlying motive is

for maintaining silence.

#### SUGAR-COATED HISTORY

Another problem we have is with those relatives who may alter or embellish the truth in order to paint a rosier picture of the family heritage. Some of my personal favorites that I've heard from other genealogists over the years include the following gems.

--- "Great-grandpa was a chemical engineer." Translation: Great-grandpa ran a still and made bootleg whiskey.

--- "Cousin Walter has been in transportation for over thirty years." Translation: Cousin Walter is a truck driver.

--- "Uncle Al served his country proudly." Translation: Uncle Al served time in a Federal penitentiary for mail fraud and tax evasion.

--- "My great-grandmother was an successful businesswoman in the early 1900s in Chicago. She made the family fortune." Translation: Great-grandmother worked for the Everleigh sisters, Minna and her older sister, Ada, at their high-class bordello on Dearborn Street, and was one of the better courtesans there.

While your own family members' sto-

ries may not be as spicy as these, there still may be some reasons to sugar-coat the family history. Again, your challenge is in trying to determine the real story. Remember that there usually is some grain of truth, even in the simplest fiction.

#### "MEMORY FAILS ME!"

Time and distance certainly do dim the memory of people, places, and events, and certainly people altogether forget information. However, some of our family members suffer from 'convenient' memory loss when it suits their purposes. This is another frequently used ploy to avoid discussing details. Perhaps a little prompting of some sort will help spark some remembrance.

#### FOUR APPROACHES

In my experience, there are multiple ways of approaching these reluctant witnesses to talk. The least effective method, and the one that is almost guaranteed to close the door for all time, is the hard push. Your creativity--and sometimes deviousness--can yield some real gold. Here are four approaches that may work.

## Quick Tips

A few years ago, I was in an antique shop and purchased four pictures that had names on the back that I recognized. After checking all my databases at home, I realized this family was not connected. I posted a notice about the pictures on a message board. Approximately six months later, I was contacted by someone who believed they were connected to that line. I sent the pictures to reunite them with the family.

Now, more than a year later, I have received a message from another descendant. I have no record of where I sent the photos, nor the first person's e-mail address.

The lesson--scan these photos you are trying to reunite before sending off the originals. That way, many more people can enjoy them.

Carol McBurney Bokas

### SHARE "FAVORITE CHRISTMAS" STORIES

Whether it be for a holiday tip or even at a family reunion, ask everyone who would be attending the reunion to write a short story about their favorite Christmas as a child. Young children of today don't know anything about how Christmas was celebrated during the depression or even during WWII. They probably have never heard of a string of lights that if one went out--all go out and how, after finding the one that doesn't work, putting a little bit of tin-foil (from a stick of gum) into the socket then screwing the bulb back in will make the string work again without the broken one lit.

Hazel Rawls Carr

**GROUP REMINISCENCES** - You may want to prime another family member in advance to help you get this one started. While sitting around in an intimate, non-threatening family group environment, raise the question for which you want details. Sometimes this means an oblique approach. For example, I wanted to know more about my grandmother's relationships with her sisters. She didn't like to talk about one of them for some reason. However, I enlisted her daughter, my aunt, to ask the question following Christmas dinner one year, "Mother, what was Christmas like when you were young? How did you and your family celebrate?" This brought a short account of how the house was decorated, how the family attended

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## The Reluctant Family Members

church, and the food they ate. My follow-up questions were, "And what kinds of gifts did you and your sisters exchange. What was your favorite gift of all time?" A little while later, someone asked, "Did you have a favorite sister or a least favorite sister?" Then came the "Why was that?" question, and a little information emerged. Later, I had a one-on-one conversation weeks later, starting with, "It was nice that you were close to some of your sisters, but really too bad that you weren't with your other sister. How did that happen?"

**PRIVATE DISCUSSION:** Your family member may be reluctant to speak about others in a group setting, and may only do so on your sworn oath not to make the information public. That is a promise you should not make lightly. Although you are committed to recording and preserving family history, there may be highly personal reasons to maintain a confidence and to protect someone's privacy or reputation. Be prepared to get the story but also to maintain the privacy.

**STORY TIME:** Many older people open up to children. The oldsters may enjoy telling stories, and the children certainly adore them. I learned more about my

family history when I was a child by asking my grandmother, "Grand-grand, tell me about when you were a little girl." The stories were many and varied, and what seemed like innocuous details shared in tiny doses to a child ultimately formed a broad picture of the family unit and its dynamics. From these, I gathered clues to take me further in the family research.

**GET THE STORY STRAIGHT:** If you're particularly devious, you may try this little plot. From the information you know (or think that you know), construct one or more scenarios, which tell a less than pretty story. You might open a private conversation with, "Well, I get the distinct impression from everywhere and everyone else that Grandfather Ed was a mean and unfriendly person. I don't think I'm very proud to have him as my grandfather." You may be surprised at the response you receive to try to set the story straight.

### RECORDING THE INFORMATION

Few of the 'reluctant recounters' will tolerate being recorded in any way. What you will need to do is col-

lect the information mentally and then dash to the nearest notebook to make notes for yourself while the information is fresh. Sometimes you can get away with taking notes of the really important information, such as names, dates and locations, but not always. Work on your own abilities to absorb and recall details gathered in these conversations and then to record and transcribe them.

This holiday season may not yield all the information you'd like in order to knock down some of those brick walls, but these methods may advance your cause a little further. Be gentle and be kind, and most of all respect other people's feelings and wishes.

Happy hunting!

George

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All rights reserved. "Ancestry Daily News" (<http://www.ancestry.com/dailynews>)

## Add Some Meat to the Bones

Want to add to the history of your Ancestors? It came to me the other night when I was watching the new remake of the PBS Series by Ken Burns on the Civil War.

What a wonderful way to add detail to those ancestors who fought in the civil war. The Civil War by PBS adds so much information from photographs, from the experts like Shelby Foote that give insight to the battles and movements of the troops. The weather at the time of the battles and the encampments, you can watch the specifics that you are interested in and take notes to add to the story lines of those ancestor. The History channel also has great programs that can do the same. I had relatives in Clay County, Kentucky and the History Channel does a program on the feuds that took place in Clay County at the same time my relatives were there, what an addition to their daily lives to be able to add this to their story line. The Editor

## Bed and Breakfast for Genealogist's

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But the concept is new in the United States. As Wilkey discovered in England, a big advantage of staying with local genealogists is they are helpful in locating area records. Since her British B&B hosts also did family research, they often pointed her to resources she didn't know existed. Now she wants genealogists in the United States to have these same opportunities.

Her own bed and breakfast for genealogists opened Oct. 1. For those doing research in Dallas, Texas, her home is only minutes from the light rail line to Downtown Dallas, where the nationally recognized genealogy department is located in the city's central public library.

In her home, guests have a choice of a bedroom with private bath or one of two bedrooms that share a bath. Guests choose

whether they want a full or light breakfast.

Wilkey, a genealogy researcher for 30 years and active in local genealogy societies, is also a family history consultant for Everton Publishers. She is a retired private investigator. When not researching her family lines, she enjoys cooking, writing and painting. Her husband, Wallace, is partially retired. Every time I take a research trip in the United States, I always wish I could stay at a genealogist run bed and breakfast like I did in England, she said. Now I can.

For more information about registering with the directory or to make reservations, contact Wilkey by telephone at 972.490.5515 or by email Peggy Wilkey ([pswilkey@yahoo.com](mailto:pswilkey@yahoo.com))



## Have You????

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name out of their contemporary culture as well. There were many individuals named for Lorenzo Dow, once a popular American figure (<http://www.curbstone.org/index.cfm?webpage=56>). Of course, not everyone who had "Lorenzo Dow" as a part of their name was related to him, and making such a conclusion is not wise. But

Did your ancestor leave a painful past or childhood and never want to talk about it or think about it again? All of these are reasons to be vague about their past on official records.

learning that there was a famous person for whom your ancestor was named can help you from going down the wrong path.

Determining if your ancestor was named for a once famous person may be as easy as typing the name into a search engine such as Google. If my ancestor was named

Abraham Lincoln Smithshire, for example, I would type "Abraham Lincoln" into the search engine, not my ancestor's surname of Smithshire. If I find a match, there is a good chance it is not a coincidence that the particular name combination was chosen. Of course, for this particular example, if I have many American ancestors and I'm unaware of whom Abraham Lincoln is then it is time to brush up on my American history.

It also may be necessary to visit the reference section of your local library to determine what biographical dictionaries they have in their collection. Larger university libraries are more likely to have specialized and or foreign collections.

**GENERAL ONLINE BIOGRAPHY SITES**  
Biographical Dictionary <http://www.s9.com/biography/>

A Million Lives <http://amillionlives.com/OnlineReferenceShelf-BiographicalReferences> <http://www.chabotcollege.edu/Library/online/Biography.html>

Reference Shelf--Finding Biographical Information <http://library.hampshire.edu/reference/biography.html>

### LISTS OF BIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The library sites listed here are representative and are intended as a starting point to locating

biographical information. These institutions do not loan out the references listed on their sites, but are intended as finding aids to indicate what printed biographical references may be available.

Biographical References in the Western Connecticut University Library [http://www.wcsu.edu/library/biog\\_ref\\_books.html](http://www.wcsu.edu/library/biog_ref_books.html)

Biographical Resources at the University of Illinois <http://gateway.library.uiuc.edu/rex/instruction/guides/biog.htm>

Biographical References at the Newberry Library <http://www.newberry.org/nl/genealogy/biography.html>

Biographical References at the University of Tennessee at Martin [http://www.utm.edu/departments/acadpro/library/information\\_pages/docs/biography.htm](http://www.utm.edu/departments/acadpro/library/information_pages/docs/biography.htm)  
Ancestry.com also has several important reference tools for locating biographical materials available to subscribers. They include:

American Genealogical-Biographical Index (AGBI) <http://www.ancestry.com/search/rectype/inddb/3599a.htm>

Biography & Genealogy Master Index (BGMI) <http://www.ancestry.com/search/rectype/biohist/bgmi/main.htm>

### ANOTHER APPROACH

If your ancestor gave a child a first and a middle name that appears to be someone else's first and last name, search for that first and last name combination in online databases and indexes, particularly census indexes. This is a more effective approach when the person who originally had the name is relatively obscure.

**HAVE YOU MOVED SOMEWHERE BECAUSE YOU HAD FAMILY OR CLOSE RELATIVES IN THE AREA THAT WOULD HELP OUT UNTIL YOU ESTABLISHED YOURSELF?**

Is it possible your ancestor had acquaintances in a new city to which he moved?

While some move to a completely new area to establish a new identity or a new life, many move to areas where they have some type of connection. This connection may be a family member, a former neighbor, a job, etc. The connections to family or friends may be easier to make than the connection to employment. Analyze your ancestor's neighbors for the

first few years he lives in a new locality. If he became naturalized, determine if anyone vouched for him during the naturalization process. If the ancestor moved to a rural area, determine if any neighbors are from the same state or country. If research on your ancestor does not reveal a specific place of origin, research neighbors or associates from the same area to determine if their records are more specific in regards to their place of origin.

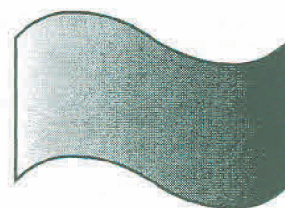
### DID YOU CONTEMPLATE ELOPING WHEN YOU GOT MARRIED?

Is it possible your ancestors did the same thing? Did they "run off" to get married where no one would know their ages or no one would know that their parents objected to the marriage? Did they run across the state line to get married where there was no obligatory waiting period after the license was issued? These are factors that should be considered when looking for marriage records.

### SOME THINGS DO NOT CHANGE.

Some things about how our ancestors and we acted are the same; certain aspects of human nature have changed little. For example, our culture, society, and the expectations we place on individuals have changed. Remember that the obligations of family and social status may have played more of a role in your ancestor's decisions than you realize.

While you probably can't wear your ancestor's shoes, put yourself in his position as much as possible. Given the likely distance of time, geography, and culture, it is not always possible to imagine our ancestor's motivations completely. However, making the attempt is always worth the effort.





## Our Ancestors on the Move - Karen Frisch

If grandparents seem separated from their grandchildren more than ever before, it's because they are. It was only within the past hundred and fifty years or so that our ancestors gained any real mobility. The nineteenth century occasionally provided our ancestors with good reason to move. But such mobility was not the norm until the development of the railroads. The hardships of travel in the nineteenth century made the idea of settling permanently too appealing to refuse.

After reaching America, many immigrants chose to preserve their cultural heritage by residing in areas populated by those from the same country, resulting in an enormous Irish population in Boston and a Chinese population on the West Coast.

Immigrants coming from abroad often found their destination in America determined by family members who had emigrated before them. Family members who found a better life in America were a major reason other family came later. Success bred immigration.

Ties made in the new country were strong and not easily broken. Immigrants from Krakow who settled in the Polish section of town usually spent their lives there, as did the second generation and often the third.

Immigrants tended to marry within their own nationality, especially if English was not their native language. When I look at my grandfather's generation, for instance, the two brothers and two sisters were all born in Germany but immigrated to America with their parents in the early 1880s. Three of the four married Germans, while the youngest married a Frenchman in what turned out to be a failed marriage. We can only imagine what the stern older generation had to say about her choice.

With the expansion of the railroads people were more able to expand their horizons. The first section of the Baltimore and Ohio opened in 1830. By 1848, nearly 6,000 miles of track made it possible to travel along the Atlantic seaboard. New tracks headed west, and the Mississippi Valley towns were within reach.

When the rails of the Union Pacific and the Central Pacific met at Ogden, Utah in 1869, the first coast-to-coast connection gave families new options. A brief slowdown followed the Civil War, but steady growth in the West and Midwest came right after.

After a couple of generations had passed and their American roots began to take hold, people's cultural ties to the old country were not as strong, and identity was no longer defined by nationality. Early in the twentieth century the German grandchildren were marrying Irish, Swedish, and English spouses.

While many American families have a half dozen or more nationalities in their background, our ancestral melting pot was very strongly influenced by our ancestors' mobility. Before the development of the automobile it was uncommon for people to travel more than a few towns away from home. One branch of my family resided in three neighboring towns on the Rhode Island/ Massachusetts border for nearly three hundred years!

The invention of the automobile changed people's habits irrevocably. Cars made it possible to cover long distances in a short amount of time and to travel at one's convenience. People were able to vacation in places they had only heard about.

This new mobility was responsible in part for the mixing of our ancestral bloodlines. With increased mobility came more exposure to other cultures, new perspectives, and new families

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