



"The world is round and the place which may seem like the end may also be the beginning."

--- Ivy Baker Priest

"In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity."

--- Albert Einstein

"A setback is the opportunity to begin again more intelligently."

--- Henry Ford

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

The Editor

USING PRIVATE PAPERS IN RESEARCH

— Patricia Law Hatcher, CG, FASG

Private papers--those documents created by individuals for their own use--are best explored not with a specific research objective in mind, but with the general intent to get a glimpse of our ancestors' world. They may provide specific genealogical information about an ancestor. They may provide information about the life of a specific ancestor. Or they may provide information about the place and time in which an ancestor resided, but without ever mentioning that ancestor.

Private papers include many types of records. There are diaries, letters, Bible records, business records, and professional records. Church papers are also private papers, but genealogists generally treat them as a research category of their own. Let's look at examples of what might be found in private papers.

Bible Records

Early in my genealogical research efforts, I was thrilled to find the Bible record of the Conwell family "from a Bible found in Dr. Hall's garret" in a 1908 issue of the "Pennsylvania Genealogical Magazine." The record began "Grandfather Yeates Conwell & Rebeekah his wife to North a Merecay April 15th 1699 ~~~ anker at Redy Island the same day they come," a reminder that private papers may provide information more precious than dates to be entered in a database.

Journals and Diaries

Journals and diaries have great variety in content. Some list daily events such as who visited whom or vital events. Others focus on

activities of daily life, as seen in the numerous references to weaving in Martha Ballard's diary (www.dohistory.org).

Some--more often those of the upper or educated classes--contain personal musings, political comments, and theological discourses. Clearly, some of these were penned with the clear knowledge that they would be read by others. John Winthrop's journal was intended to become a History of New England and has been published as such.

Correspondence

Finding correspondence can be tricky, since letters end up in the hands of the recipient. There are two categories in which we can get a more complete record from the writer's perspective. The first is published letters of a famous person, in which the editor has sought out surviving letters in collections of the recipients in a variety of institutions.

The second category is unfamiliar to researchers who have not worked in the colonial era. Many persons--particularly business, governmental, and professional men--kept what is called a "letter book" into which they or their clerk scribed a copy of each letter before it was sent. These were not confined to business matters, and often included purely personal correspondence and personal details in business letters.

It is from the published letter-book of merchant James Claypoole of London and Philadel-

phia, which is in the Huntington Library in California, that I learned about the not-so-nice personality of my ancestor Rachel, who was the wife of James's brother Norton. In a 1681 letter written in London to his brother Edward in Barbados, James says "My brother Norton's wife and her son James are gone away last week from Gravesend in a ship bound for New Jersey. We all wish her a good voyage, etc., for indeed both her relations and ours were weary of her, and my brother is to be pitied that has such a yoke-fellow, and if he has not the art of taming a shrew, he is like to live a miserable life with her."

Business and Professional Records

There are many types of busi-

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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.

July 2004

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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August 2004

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29	30	31				

September 2004

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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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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.

USGenWeb Mesa County Site

Mesa County USGenWeb site now has cemetery pages. If you have headstone shots or other photos that would enhance a cemetery in Mesa County OR Dolores County. Please Contact Terri Cleaveland at tc186698@ohiou.edu or 434-9344 for postal instructions. Terri would prefer that pictures be at least 150 dpi and no smaller than 4x5 inches.

The Mesa County USGenweb site is www.rootsweb.com/~comesa2/index.html

Private Papers

(Continued from page 1)

ness records. Funeral home records are a category for which we can immediately see value. Store records can give us much insight into the lives of residents. Most trade was on a credit basis, with the store keeping a detailed account of the purchases and then taking payment, usually after the harvest, in money or crops. Companies that bought, sold, and shipped crops and livestock may have useful records. In the manuscript collection at the University of Virginia Library, I found a small book headed *A List of Debts due Saml Calland for Dealing at his store on Tomahawk taken 15th Nov 1784*. My ancestor Killian Kreek lived on Tomahawk Creek in Pittsylvania County, near Calland's store. He visited the store half a dozen times in the nine months covered by the book and paid part of his bill by hauling tobacco. His purchases told me about the life of him and his family. He bought quite a bit of cloth, shoes and shoe buckles for himself, and items indicating he owned a gun and a horse, but his food purchases were limited to small amounts of salt, "flower," and rum. The individuals or companies who sold land usually left extensive business records. Some ended up in state archives, others in libraries of colleges and universities, even in other states. The papers for the Burlington Company, formed in New Jersey to sell land in upstate New York, are found in the Alinson Collection in the Haverford College Special Collections in Pennsylvania. From documents in the file, I learned how the earliest settlers of the Otego Patent made the trek through the wilderness and chose their land. The records of doctors, lawyers, and ministers are an important class of private papers. The medical notebook of John Winthrop Jr. (located at the Massachusetts Historical Society) has helped several genealogists persistent enough to decipher his notations solve knotty genealogical problems. I was thrilled to find one of Patrick Henry's account books (there are at two: one at the Valentine Museum in

Richmond, the other at the Library of Virginia) published in a Louisa County quarterly, because I learned that my ancestor Thomas Allman had paid him 15 shillings. Unfortunately, like many account books, it recorded financial transactions with no details and no case appears in the court minute book to answer the question, "Why?"

There is also a major category of what might be called semiprivate papers. Notaries public and justices of the peace (JPs) received official appointments, yet the functions they performed--scribing letters, business transactions, and documents such as wills and deeds--were for private individuals. Notaries and JPs had official status when documents such as acknowledgments were presented at court or recorded in, say, deed books.

Many notaries and JPs kept private records of their actions, ranging from one-line abstracts of the action to full transcripts of everything they did. In early New England, for example, we rely on the records of notaries Tho-

mas Lechford and William Aspinwall, both of which have been published, for information and clues about our ancestors. Aspinwall's notarial records reference Elizabeth Whitehead of Lemington Priors (in Warwickshire, England), mother of my ancestor John Whitehead. I followed up on this clue and found his baptism there, giving me the name of his father, which in turn led to the marriage of his parents in an adjoining parish.

Next Steps

Many private papers, which started out in private hands, are now accessible to us in private collections, public archives, and published form. In the next article, we will look at the often-complicated subject of how you can locate private papers.

Patricia Law Hatcher, CG, FASG, is a technical writer, instructor, and professional genealogist. Copyright 2004, MyFamily.com Ancestry Daily News

2004 Programs, Potlucks & Museum Sponsored Genealogy Events

8 July 2004: Share Session: 1st ½ hour Caley Gredig will share her cemetery visit kit.

12 Aug 2004: Annual Potluck Picnic @ Cemetery (orchard Mesa or Crown Point): Caley Gredig will demonstrate photographing, cleaning gravestones, and other techniques.

20-21 Aug 2004: Colorado Council of Gen. Societies Seminar at Teikyo Loretto Heights Univ. Denver Registration \$60, 7 speakers 16 presentations to chose from.

25 Aug 2004: Wednesday Sack Lunch: *Ancestors Season Two- Newspapers as Records* video.

7 Sept 2004: Museum Intermediate Genealogy Class - *Military Records*

9 Sept 2004: Zeb Miracle: *American War History & Access to Records*

14 Sept 2004: Museum Intermediate Genealogy Class *Court Records*

28 Sept 2004: Museum Intermediate Genealogy Class *Land Records*

6 Oct 2004: Museum Intermediate Genealogy Class *Emigration-Immigration Records*

13-17 Oct 2004: Museum Gall Research Trip To Salt Lake City

14 Oct 2004: Pat Gormley & Dale Reese; Real Estate Records

27 Oct 2004: Wednesday Sack Lunch: *Ancestors Season Two- Religious Records*

11 Nov 2004: Social Security Records (presented by Soc Sec employees or our members)

17 Nov 2004: Wednesday Sack Lunch: *Ancestors Season Two- Cemetery Records*

9 Dec 2004: Annual Christmas potluck and Entertainment

15 Dec 2004: Wednesday Sack Lunch: *Ancestors Season Two- Census Records*

Along Those Lines: "In-Laws Know Everything"

by George G. Morgan

When it comes to interviewing family members, I always recommend talking to absolutely everyone. No exceptions. People often come up to me and say, "I didn't ask the questions until too late, and now everyone who knew anything about the family is gone." This may be somewhat accurate for some researchers, but I seldom accept this statement as fact. If you have aunts and uncles, siblings, and especially cousins of the same generation as yourself or older, you have to make the effort to locate and talk to them. These relatives may know a lot more than you think and may have heard stories that you haven't heard. They may also have family letters, bibles, labeled photographs, and other materials that can significantly contribute to your research. And maybe, just maybe, you'll make a connection with a family historian in another branch of the family.

Another oversight made by many of us is in failing to talk to in-laws. There is an assumption that they couldn't possibly know anything in-depth about the family and this may be very far from the truth. In "Along Those Lines..." this week, I want to discuss in-laws and what they can contribute to your research.

"I WANT TO FIT IN!"

Those of you who are married may remember what it was like when you met your fiancé's family for the first time. You probably knew at some level that you wanted to—or had to—fit in. You wanted to find some common ground on which you

could connect. As time went by and you became more of a part of the family, you learned a little bit at a time. You met and got to know the family members and the relatives, close and not so close. Not only did you witness and participate in family events, but your "new" family also began sharing their stories and experiences with you. Let's face it: you learned a whole lot over time and gained a broader and broader perspective of this family with which you became involved.

CHIPPING AT THE BRICK WALLS

There is a certain amount of loyalty and privacy that we accord to our own family and to the one(s) into which we may marry or with which our brothers, sisters, children, and other relations become involved. The family secrets, personal information, and private matters are probably kept private, but that doesn't mean that they aren't discussed.

We all encounter those brick walls from time to time that stymie our research. Just because the blood relations of an older generation may have gone to join our ancestors doesn't mean that all the investigative leads are at an end. If a spouse survives, it is worth your effort to make contact and interview him or her. Don't overlook their parents, siblings, children, and other family members because they, too, have been in-

involved to a greater or lesser extent with your family's history. They often can shed light on important aspects of your blood relatives' stories that you might otherwise never uncover. You may also have a relative who is reluctant to share any information. These "family clams" need some help getting pried open.

However, in the event that you can't wrest information from that person, the next best source may be his or her spouse. You also may talk to the couple's children to see what, if anything, you can learn or to get suggestions for broaching questions and eliciting information.

IN-LAWS ARE AN ALTERNATIVE SOURCE

We're always looking for primary sources of information, but sometimes we have to locate and evaluate secondary sources. As you develop your list of people to interview, don't overlook the in-laws. They sometimes have a better "big picture" than some of our blood relatives, simply because they strived so hard to learn about the family and to fit in. They began their relationships with your family with few assumptions and may therefore have a better perspective. Make the time to make the connections and interview the in-laws and collateral family members. You may be surprised at the progress you can make.

Happy Hunting!

George

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"WHY I LOVE THE CENSUS,"

by Juliana Smith

I'm not a very patient person by nature, and the wait for the every-name index to the 1860 U.S. Census for New York is taking its toll. I think if I make any more phone calls to the Ancestry.com product managers to inquire about it, I may be at risk of violating several stalking and harassment laws.

After pacing my office for a while this morning, I threw caution to the wind and called anyway to see what was being posted this week. Those of you with ancestors in Nebraska, Oregon, and Kansas are probably already searching for your ancestors, but my heart sank once again. After I finished sobbing, I asked about New York and for those of you who are also waiting, I've been told that if all goes well, it should be posted in the next few weeks. Yeah!

Since then I've tried to distract myself. While I have been able to keep busy with the recent cemetery finds that were the subject of my last two columns, it's one of those times where everything seems to lead back to that 1860 enumeration where I have still been unable to locate my Kellys. So giving in to my obsession, today's column will focus on the census and all the cool things we can find in it.

Note: Because of the destruction of most of the 1890 enumeration, I'm not including details on its content. For those of you lucky enough to have ancestors in areas where it survived, see the description in the Ancestry.com Library for more information.

THE BASICS

When we first find an ancestor in an enumeration, we often focus on three basic things:

--- **FAMILY STRUCTURE.** Knowing who else was in the immediate family can help you pick the family out in subsequent enumerations and when

your ancestor's trail runs dry, often the records of siblings can get your research back on track. Early censuses can help us see a rough shape of the family, albeit without names. These early censuses are kind of shadowy, but because most give you the number of males and females in the household that fall within certain age brackets, they can still be useful. Beginning in 1850, enumerations give us individual names and most of the shadows are removed, giving us a clearer glimpse into the households. But be sure to use care when determining relationships because other family members, like cousins, grandchildren, and others, may be enumerated in the same household and can cause confusion. Fortunately, beginning in 1880, they clarify the information by including the relationship to the head-of-household.

Even more information can be found in the 1900 and 1910 enumerations where they reveal how many children were born to the mother and how many are still alive. (See **MOTHERHOOD STATISTICS IN THE CENSUS** on page 7.)

--- **LOCATION.** Where are they? Finding where your relatives were at a particular time is critical in family history research. From there we can branch out and gather other records from the area. Earlier enumerations may only provide us with a district, but often that can be enough to determine where to find civil, religious, and other records of the family. Beginning in 1880 we are given an address as well. That address can be used to help sort our ancestors' records from those of others bearing the same name.

--- **VITAL DATES.** We can estimate birth dates using ages given in the census. Even in the earliest of enumerations it is possible to narrow down a date of birth significantly when using the various enumerations in tandem. (For more help, see "Dates: When You Don't

Have a Record, Part 1," by Pat Hatcher <http://www.ancestry.com/rd/prodredir.asp?sourceid=831&key=A231401> .)

Beginning in 1850, the age is given, but as with all information found in the census, dates need to be taken with a grain of salt. Many of our ancestors did not feel it necessary to reveal their true ages to the enumerators, and, in fact, some may not even have been sure. In 1870 we are given the age of those under a year old in fractions, which can narrow the age to within a month or so. In 1880, for those born within the year, the month is also included and in 1900, those wonderful folks at the Census Bureau gave us a real treat with everyone listing the month and year of birth. But as the Census Bureau giveth, it also taketh away. Starting in 1910, we're back to only listing "age at last birthday."

Marriage dates can also be estimated in some cases. Obviously if a person was single in one enumeration and married in the next, we can determine that they were married within that time frame, and the ages of children may help narrow that timeframe further. Beginning in 1850 we can tell whether or not they were married within that year, and in 1870 enumerators include the month of marriage (again only for those married within the year). In 1880 we again regress to only whether or not they were married within the year, but in 1900 and 1910 we get the "Number of years of present marriage."

In 1920 we only see the current marital status, but our faith in the Census Bureau is restored in 1930 when they ask age at first marriage. When this points to the same year for both husband and wife, it could help to estimate the year of marriage, providing both weren't married previously to other people in the same year. If these dates differ between husband and wife, we

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Why I love the Census by Juliana Smith

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can assume there was a prior marriage for somebody, but the later date could be used to locate the marriage record (providing both parties weren't married more than once).

SOCIAL INFORMATION

The information found in what we may consider "those other columns" can also add interest and provide clues. Knowing an ancestor's occupation can help identify him or her in other records that also include such information.

Early enumerations are vague. The 1820 census asks the how many in the household were engaged in agriculture, commerce, or manufactures;

and in 1840 the tally columns became more specific. Beginning in 1850, occupations were listed for "each male person over 15 years of age" and in 1880 this was expanded to cover males and females.

Enumerations through 1840 also counted slaves. 1870 was the first census in which those with former slave ancestors will find them listed by name.

For the years 1880-1910, and again in 1930, there were also questions asked regarding whether our ancestors were unemployed during the enumeration year. A lack of work may have prompted them to relocate or change professions, something we should keep in mind as we seek out other records in subsequent years.

Home ownership, real estate, and personal property values, which began to be included in 1850, can give us more insight into the economic status of the family.

Other fields can give us a look at the health of family members, asking whether "deaf, dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict." In 1880 they also ask, "Is the person (on the day of the enumerator's visit) sick, or temporarily disabled, so as to be unable to attend to ordinary business or duties? If so, what is the sickness or disability?" The level of schooling, languages spoken, and literacy found in many enumerations also allow us to better understand our ancestors.

MILITARY

The 1930 census asks "whether a veteran of the U.S. military or naval forces mobilized for any war or expedition." This one always makes me want to beat my head on a wall. I happened to notice that my great-grandfather was listed in the 1930 census as having served in the Spanish American War. Assuming this was a mistake, I mentioned it to several family members. They al-

ready knew it! Some had heard the story but didn't really put much stock in it, but in finding that notation in the census, I now may be able to learn much more about my great-grandfather.

In addition, the 1840 census lists the names of "Pensioners for Revolutionary or military services," and in 1910 respondents were asked, "Whether a survivor of the Union or Confederate Army or Navy."

IMMIGRATION

Most enumerations also include varying levels of information for those searching for immigrant ancestors. In 1820 and 1830, there is a tally column for "foreigners not naturalized," and in 1850, a field for place of birth is added and remains there through future enumerations. In 1870, two fields are added to indicate whether the parents of the respondent were foreign-born and this is expanded in 1880 to include the parents' nativity with the name of the state, territory, or country of origin. This continues through subsequent enumerations and the 1900 census additionally asks for year of immigration, number of years in the U.S., and naturalization status (noting "Al" for aliens, "Pa" for those who have declared their intention to become a citizen and filed "first" papers, and "Na" for those who have been naturalized). In 1910 one field for the language spoken by the respondent was added, and in 1920 this was expanded to include the "mother tongue" of the respondent and both parents, although it is reduced to a single field for the respondent in 1930.

PHEW! Well, this sure made it easier for me to rationalize my obsession with and every census record available for my ancestors.

Census records are a potential goldmine, and missing even one makes me feel like I am missing out on a large chunk of my ancestors' lives, so you can bet I will be out there looking for any missing enumerations to fill out my files. While I'm waiting for the 1860 index, I'm also prompted to go back and review those copies that I do have a little more closely and glean every clue

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"PRODUCING A QUALITY FAMILY HISTORY"

by Patricia Law Hatcher, CG, FASG

Whether you're an amateur or a professional genealogist, the ultimate goal of your research is most likely to produce a quality family history. Patricia Hatcher's highly acclaimed book "Producing a Quality Family History" guides researchers through all of the necessary steps in creating an attractive--and functional--family history report. Learn how to organize your work, write the narrative, and even successfully incorporate photos and illustrations. Create a family history that will be cherished by your family for generations to come.

"Producing a Quality Family History" retails for \$19.95

Why the June Bride?

— George G. Morgan

Here it is June, and there is a flurry of activity in the retail stores in anticipation of summer-time weddings. Marriages are important to genealogists, one of the "big three" vital dates. It occurred to me not long ago that I've always heard about the aspiration of some women to be a "June bride," and I wondered where that arose. Therefore, in "Along Those Lines..." this week, let's explore the times of year when couples were married.

Marriage Dates

During the past couple of months, I've been reading about marriage traditions. While studying the marriage dates of the several thousand women in my own genealogical database, I became curious about the times of year that they were wed. I generated a custom report and then sorted it a couple of different ways, and then

sat down for a hard look.

What first caught my attention was how few of the women in my database were married in June. Here I was, assuming that most women wanted to be married in June, and a mere 6% of my female subjects had been married in that month. What I discovered was that more than half of the women, in my database at least, had been married in the months of September, October, November, and December. A small percentage had been married in February and March, and perhaps 12.5% had been married in the months of May,

July, and August. Surprisingly I found only fifteen women in my entire database who had been married in April! I wondered why.

Old Traditions

In the course of my reading, I discovered that the early church dictated a great many restraints on marriage. Certainly the procedure of issuing the marriage banns has long been in use. The term "banns" refers to the custom of announcing on three successive occasions the intention of a couple to be wed. Indeed, the use of such marriage banns continues to this day. An acquaintance from Brazil recently told me that banns must be published in the newspaper there before the

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Love The Census

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I can from them. As I put together this article, one thing that I am reminded of is the importance of understanding the census enumerator's questions. My friend George Morgan recently shared a website with me that includes the instructions that were given to enumerators (and that they hopefully followed!). This website is available at <http://www.ipums.umn.edu/usa/voliii/tEnumInstr.html>. Well, all of that reviewing should keep me out of trouble for a while. (Shhh, I think I just heard a sigh of relief coming out of the home offices in Utah.)

Juliana Smith is the editor of the "Ancestry Daily News" and author of "The Ancestry Family Historian's Address Book." She has written for "Ancestry" Magazine and "Genealogical Computing." Juliana can be reached by e-mail at <mailto:ADNeditor@ancestry.com>, but she regrets that she is unable to assist with personal research.

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Ancestry Daily News

MOTHERHOOD STATISTICS IN THE CENSUS

MOTHERHOOD STATISTICS IN THE CENSUS

I suppose everyone must find certain features of the U.S. censuses more intriguing than others. But my favorite statistics are found in the 1900 and 1910 censuses, and they are the statistics recorded regarding how many children a woman has given birth to, and how many were still living at the time of her enumeration.

Sometimes large portions of whole families can be lost or harder to find due to the great void between the 1880 and 1900 U.S. censuses caused by the destruction of most of the 1890 enumeration schedules. If a couple married in the 1870s and had children, those children can virtually disappear by the time they can be counted as adults of the 1900 U.S. census, and that is assuming they stayed in the same county or region. If a couple moved and if the couple's earliest children were daughters, it can be even more difficult to find out if they died or were married before 1900. And so the statistics regarding how many children were born to a woman and how many were still living can be a great "heads-up" in telling you to be on the lookout in other genealogical records for children who don't appear with or near their parents in 1900 or who were born after 1880 and who died or were married before 1900. The 1910 U.S. census schedules contain the same information, only ten years later, and these statistics can be used in the same way, only for a smaller time span, and they can help corroborate the 1900 enumeration's "motherhood statistics."

They have helped me many a time, but there can be problems with these numbers, as with all other information recorded in the U.S. Federal Census. If a woman married several times, the number recorded may refer to children by all her marriages, or just those of her latest. And like all enumerations, the numbers are only as good as the knowledge of the person who answered the door on "Census Day."

Philip Naff
Indianapolis, Indiana

June Brides

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marriage license will even be issued by the civil authorities.

The church dictated when a couple couldn't (or shouldn't) marry. Centuries ago, the Catholic Church forbade weddings during Advent and Lent. These are holy times during which a member's focus should be on the coming events in the Christian calendar: Christmas and Easter. The strictures have been relaxed somewhat over the past century, but weddings during these times are usually not encouraged. Yes there are sometimes exceptions made but, if permissions are granted to wed in the church during these times, there can be no changes in the church's decoration for Advent or Lent. Weddings in an Agrarian Economy People who were involved in farming, cattle ranching, and other activities that required heavy work and involvement during

the summer certainly did not have time for weddings at this time of the year. The entire family's focus was on working their land and generating the produce and income that would allow them to survive for the rest of the year. Therefore, there seem to be fewer weddings in the summer months, especially in the eighteenth century and before.

Middle to Upper Class Weddings

The middle and upper classes living in towns and cities may have had less concern for the agricultural activities. Instead, they may have aspired to having weddings in the summertime. June is an ideal time in many ways. The weather is more comfortable than other months and there are many species for flowers and trees that bloom at that time. Therefore, a June wedding was considered desirable. As the standard of living rose among the middle classes through the 1800s and into the 1900s, it became fashionable to plan a June wedding. Indeed, the ladies fashion

plates, magazines, and dressmakers promoted the idea through publications and advertisements. June therefore came to be considered the ideal month for the perfect wedding. When Were Your Ancestors Married?

There is nothing certain about our ancestors' reasons for wedding dates. Certainly there are hundreds of reasons for their choice of a date for their nuptials. However, the choice of date may be an indicator of their social class or financial situation. Until you do more research and learn more about the bride and groom and their families, you can't be sure if their wedding date was dependent on one or more factors. In the meantime, though, it certainly is another idea to consider in your hypotheses. Happy Hunting!
George

Member Research Inquiry

We will be publishing in the newsletter the states and counties that our members are currently researching. We hope that this will aid in research exchanges and tips on which resources are available and more relevant and beneficial. Please return this form by mail at the address below or bring to one of the meeting for Rick Sheldon. You can include an email address if you want to be contacted by email. We will not publish your address in the newsletter unless specified

State

County

Comments:

Name

Address

Phone

MESA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Mesa County Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 1506
Grand Junction, Colorado
81502-1502

James Jeffrey Receives Filby Award for 2004 by Bobbi King

Congratulations to James Jeffrey, Genealogy Specialist at the Denver Public Library, for being named the recipient of the annual **Filby Prize**.

James received this award on May 20th, 2004 during the banquet ceremonies at the national conference of the National Genealogical Society, held in Sacramento, California.

The Filby Prize is an annual award for outstanding genealogical librarianship, and is sponsored by Godfrey Memorial Library, Middletown Connecticut.



It is awarded to a noteworthy librarian with at least five years experience, whose primary focus is genealogy and local history, and is employed in a public, academic, or special library.

Selection criteria include:

Significant contributions to patron access to information, or to the preservation of historical records.

Development of an imaginative reference tool or similar outstanding contribution of enduring consequence that fills the gaps in existing information, accuracy, scope or usefulness of genealogical and local history materials.

"CELEBRATING THE FAMILY,"

If you have the desire to make a real connection with your family--present, past, or future--this book is your guide to finding the perfect portal for your entry into the rewarding world of family history. With nine chapters covering nine different aspects of family history, you are sure to find several possible starting points. Once you've begun, it also gives you the information necessary to continue building your research, and to record and preserve your family history for future generations.

Normally "Celebrating the Family" retails for \$19.95,

Publication of a book or a body of articles that have contributed significantly to the field of genealogy or local history and that are of an interpretative nature.

Other activities that have significantly advanced genealogy and local history.

Work that has encouraged others to be innovative in the field.

We salute James for this wonderful award which recognizes, nationally, what we all know locally: he is a terrific helper, an excellent researcher, an delightful speaker, and a genealogical friend.

MISSOURI BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY

This database contains a biographical record, published in 1878, of the prominent and representative men of Missouri. These biographical sketches are interspersed with numerous portraits, making this database valuable for researchers with ancestors from Missouri. Even though your ancestors may not be listed in this biographical record (since it only covers the most prominent citizens of the area), much can be learned by reading about the lives of others who lived during the time of your ancestors.

Source Information: Ancestry.com. "Missouri Biographical Dictionary" [database online]. Provo, Utah: MyFamily.com, Inc., 2004. Original data: "United States Biographical Dictionary and Portrait Gallery of Eminent and Self-Made Men. Missouri Volume." New York: United States Biographical Publishing, 1878.

Ancestry.com subscribers can search this database at:
<http://www.ancestry.com/rd/prodredir.asp?sourceid=4717&key=D7980>

COUNT THE "G'S

There are many charts and diagrams available for genealogists to use to determine the degree of relationship between two cousins, but I never seem to have one on hand just when I need one. So, instead, I simply count the "g"s, that is, I count the number of letter "g"s that there are in the word defining the ancestor, such as "grandfather," "great-grandfather," "great-great-grandfather," and so on (Of course, this formula will work with female ancestors, too!). So if you find someone who shares a descent from your great-great-great-grandfather Abraham Langley, and that there are just as many generations between him and Abraham Langley as between you and "Ol' Abe," just count the number of Gs there are in "great-great-great-grandfather." In this case, there are four, and that means that you and your relation are fourth cousins to each other.

If your cousin's descent is determined by more or less "g"s, i.e. generations of descent, than you, then take the lesser number to define the term "cousin" and the difference between the two numbers to define "removed." So if Abraham Langley is your "great-great-great-grandfather" (4 Gs), and your cousin's "great-great-grandfather" (3 Gs), the lesser number is 3, meaning you are third cousins. The difference between 4 and 3 (4 - 3 = 1) is one, meaning you are third cousins, once removed. Gee Whiz!

Philip Naff
Indianapolis, Indiana

Genealogical Standards

Standards For Sharing Information With Others

Recommended by the National Genealogical Society

Conscious of the fact that sharing information or data with others, whether through speech, documents or electronic media, is essential to family history research and that it needs continuing support and encouragement, responsible family historians consistently—

- respect the restrictions on sharing information that arise from the rights of another as an author, originator or compiler; as a living private person; or as a party to a mutual agreement.
- observe meticulously the legal rights of copyright owners, copying or distributing any part of their works only with their permission, or to the limited extent specifically allowed under the law's "fair use" exceptions.
- identify the sources for all ideas, information and data from others, and the form in which they were received, recognizing that the unattributed use of another's intellectual work is plagiarism.
- respect the authorship rights of senders of letters, electronic mail and data files, forwarding or disseminating them further only with the sender's permission.
- inform people who provide information about their families as to the ways it may be used, observing any conditions they impose and respecting any reservations they may express regarding the use of particular items.
- require some evidence of consent before assuming that living people are agreeable to further sharing of information about themselves.
- convey personal identifying information about living people—like age, home address, occupation or activities—only in ways that those concerned have expressly agreed to.
- recognize that legal rights of privacy may limit the extent to which information from publicly available sources may be further used, disseminated or published.
- communicate no information to others that is known to be false, or without making reasonable efforts to determine its truth, particularly information that may be derogatory.
- are sensitive to the hurt that revelations of criminal, immoral, bizarre or irresponsible behavior may bring to family members.

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"FINDING ANSWERS IN U.S. CENSUS RECORDS"

by Loretto Dennis Szucs and Matthew Wright

This book is a guide to help researchers effectively locate and use abundant and valuable U.S. census records, whether it is population schedules, state and local census schedules, or special census schedules. The book pri-

marily discusses each type of census and explores what specific points a researcher needs to keep in mind when working with them.

"Finding Answers in U.S. Census Records" retails for \$16.95,

SOUTH CAROLINA: RECORDS AND REFERENCE CD-ROM (Win)

Now the search for your 19th and early

20th Century ancestors is easier than ever. "South Carolina: Records and Reference" on CD-ROM will take you there quickly and easily with powerful computer searching of thousands of genealogical records and periodicals from the comfort of home.

South Carolina: Records and Reference CD retails for \$39.95,

Genealogical Standards

Guidelines For Publishing Web Pages On The Internet

Recommended by the National Genealogical Society, May 2000

Appreciating that publishing information through Internet web sites and web pages shares many similarities with print publishing, considerate family historians—

- apply a title identifying both the entire web site and the particular group of related pages, similar to a book-and-chapter designation, placing it both at the top of each web browser window using the <TITLE> HTML tag, and in the body of the document, on the opening home or title page and on any index pages.
- explain the purposes and objectives of their web sites, placing the explanation near the top of the title page or including a link from that page to a special page about the reason for the site.
- display a footer at the bottom of each web page which contains the web site title, page title, author's name, author's contact information, date of last revision and a copyright statement.
- provide complete contact information, including at a minimum a name and e-mail address, and preferably some means for long-term contact, like a postal address.
- assist visitors by providing on each page navigational links that lead visitors to other important pages on the web site, or return them to the home page.
- adhere to the NGS "Standards for Sharing Information with Others" regarding copyright, attribution, privacy, and the sharing of sensitive information.
- include unambiguous source citations for the research data provided on the site, and if not complete descriptions, offering full citations upon request.
- label photographic and scanned images within the graphic itself, with fuller explanation if required in text adjacent to the graphic.
- identify transcribed, extracted or abstracted data as such, and provide appropriate source citations.
- include identifying dates and locations when providing information about specific surnames or individuals.
- respect the rights of others who do not wish information about themselves to be published, referenced or linked on a web site.
- provide web site access to all potential visitors by avoiding enhanced technical capabilities that may not be available to all users, remembering that not all computers are created equal.
- avoid using features that distract from the productive use of the web site, like ones that reduce legibility, strain the eyes, dazzle the vision, or otherwise detract from the visitor's ability to easily read, study, comprehend or print the online publication.
- maintain their online publications at frequent intervals, changing the content to keep the information current, the links valid, and the web site in good working order.
- preserve and archive for future researchers their online publications and communications that have lasting value, using both electronic and paper duplication.

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Family History Compass: "Using the 1910 Index to Locate Families in Census Images," by Juliana Smith

Ancestry.com recently announced the posting of the 1910 index for the entire U.S., and it wasn't long before I dove in. (I believe nanoseconds would be the correct form of time measurement in this case.) Although the 1910 census images are not yet linked to this index, it is still possible to use the index to locate individuals in the images. While some might be tempted to wait it out until the index is linked to the images, those of you who have read my columns will have guessed, I am not one of them. There's a new toy in town, so let the games begin!

I began going over my files to see who I was still seeking in that enumeration. I've been pretty thorough with that era, and I had already located quite a few of my ancestors manually, using addresses, but there were still some holes and, surprisingly, my great-grandparents were among those. With this new index and using a combination of strategies, I was able to locate my missing family members. In today's "Family History Compass," I thought I'd share some tips for locating your ancestors in the 1910 U.S. Federal Census.

FROM INDEX TO IMAGE: STEP-BY-STEP

I was actually able to find my great-grandfather listed twice in this enumeration—once in Idaho and once in Brooklyn. Since I like things spelled out in simple terms, I'm going to do this step-by-step using the simpler task of locating him in Idaho as an example, and then we'll go into some techniques for locating those more challenging entries.

1. SEARCH FOR THE NAME AND LOCATION.

I searched for George Dennis in Idaho. Why Idaho? My great-grandmother, Emma Dennis, died in 1910 and we have her Kings County, New York, probate, which lists George Dennis with a Boise, Idaho, address. Since he was a jeweler, he may have been there on business, since there was a lot of mining activity in the area. Or there may have been "trouble in paradise" and George may have decided to put a few

states (like nine, for instance) between him and his wife. We're not sure of the reason, but I began my search entering George Dennis and Ada County, Idaho, in the appropriate fields.

(<http://www.ancestry.com/rd/prodredir.asp?sourceid=4717&key=D7884>)

2. ONCE THE PERSON IS FOUND, CLICK THROUGH TO THE ENTRY AND PRINT IT.

There was only one hit, and I zeroed in on it. His home in 1910 was listed as "BOISE 15-PCT, ADA, Idaho" and the page number was listed as "247B." I clicked on the printer-friendly link and printed a copy of the index page.

3. CLICK THROUGH TO THE COUNTY LEVEL OF IMAGES.

A link in the lower right-hand corner reading "Browse the 1910 U.S. Federal Census images for ADA County, Idaho" took me to the Ada County page and I clicked on "Boise."

4. LOOK FOR THE STAMPED PAGE NUMBER AND BROWSE TO THE CORRECT PAGE AS LISTED IN THE INDEX.

I scrolled down the page to "District 15" and the first image had a stamped number just to the left of the enumeration district field in the upper right corner of the page. That number was 247 and the written page number was 1A. Paging forward to B, I located George at the bottom of the page.

5. PRINT THE IMAGE ON THE REVERSE SIDE OF THE INDEX ENTRY (OPTIONAL, BUT HANDY).

I inserted the page I had printed the index entry on back in my printer so that it would print on the other side, and printed the census image on the reverse. Now I had my image and citation all printed, complete with source information and date, and ready to be inserted into an archival plastic sleeve and filed in my notebook.

I wish all my census searches were that easy! Unfortunately my search for the rest of his family wasn't as easy. I'll talk about that one a little more later when we talk

about manual searches. But first, some other stuff...

AS PROMISED, SOME OTHER STUFF

I thought I'd try a rural area to see how the process differed. I looked for my husband's great-great-grandfather, Thomas T. Ziegenfus, in Carbon County, Pennsylvania. I only found one Thomas Ziegenfus and his age was off by about twenty years. I checked and sure enough, I had the wrong guy.

Since I figured there probably weren't a lot of Soundex equivalents for Ziegenfus, I turned on that option for my next search. (To enable Soundex, click on the drop down menu labeled Spelling" following the name fields and select "Soundex.") I found him listed as "Thomas T. Zesgenfus."

Once I got to the image, I was able to understand the indexing trouble as the writing was difficult to make out, but clicking through to the image was a little more difficult in this case.

Thomas' location was given as "TOWAMENSING TWP, CARBON, Pennsylvania," but when I clicked through to "Browse the 1910 U.S. Federal Census images for CARBON County, Pennsylvania," there was no Towamensing Township to click on. I tried the link to "Other Townships," and although Lower Towamensing was included there, Towamensing Township was not.

Fortunately with the MrSID census images, there is another clue in the URL in that it lists the NARA microfilm roll number. This number is also found on the index listing for each individual, so going back to the print I had taken of Thomas' complete index entry, I noted "Series: T624," and "Roll: 1327."

I clicked on the districts that included Lower Towamensing and looked at the URL. Included in the URL, following the state, county, and township, there is a section that references the series and roll number. For this district it read:

... &roll=T624_1326

(Continued on page 13)

Using the 1910 Index

(Continued from page 12)

Knowing from the index that I was looking for a later roll (T624_1327), I backtracked to the Carbon County menu and selected the next district listed, Summit Hill. There were three districts listed with the last one being "Summit Hill borough; Towamensing township." Using the stamped page numbers, which were positioned in the same place as in the Idaho enumerations, I was able to quickly locate Thomas and his family.

A NOT-SO-TOUGH MANUAL SEARCH

Unfortunately, a wide variety of searches for Emma Dennis and George Dennis turned up nothing.

Going through the information I had on Emma in the family binder, I stumbled across her death certificate. The place of death was listed as St. Mary's Hospital. Just as I was about to begin searching for information on the hospital in an effort to narrow down my search to a particular area of Brooklyn, my eye caught a box at the very bottom of the page that was titled "Special Information." The fine print went on to read, "required in deaths in hospitals and institutions and in deaths of non-residents and recent residents." The first field was for "Former or usual residence" and gave the address of 670 57 St. This was indeed "special information!"

After I finished writing "I will always transcribe important documents so that I don't miss important information" 100 times, I looked for a map of Brooklyn from close to that time period. I found one for 1913 on the Brooklyn Information site at <http://www.bklyn-genealogy-info.com/Map/Bklyn.1913.1.html>.

Since street addresses are included in the 1910 census, with this excellent map, things looked much more promising.

The map told me that the address listed was most likely in the 8th Ward and browsing through Kings County to the 8th Ward, I located several districts where the description indicated that the north and south boundaries were 56th and 58th Streets. I looked at the first one, District 152, checking for the house numbers on 56th Street, which was on the first page. Since in this,

the most westernmost of the possible districts, the house numbers were way too low, I opted for the district furthest east, District 157.

Rather than searching page by page, I bounced around looking at house numbers and street names and was able to locate the Dennis family (including George in his second appearance!) on image 37 of 51. Mission accomplished.

SUMMING UP

Although it's nice to have instant click-through access that we enjoy with many of our other census indexes, in looking for these families, I've gotten to know my way around the enumeration and the geographic areas in which the families lived. It made

STATE AND COUNTY FACTS WEBSITE

We all have those moments when we are researching on the computer and need to see if a county we are looking at is near a county we have information on our ancestors in (or various other reasons, such as, what is the proximity of county a to county b?). Don't forget about the U.S. Census Bureau's State and County Quick Facts website. You can select a state to view a map of its counties as well as obtain various facts to enhance research. <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/>

LaKesha Kimbrough
Seattle, Washington

From the "Adams Centinel"
(Gettysburg, Pa.), 23 June 1824, page 3:

The prime cost of Leghorn hats and bonnets imported into the United States the last year, (chiefly from Italy) exceeded 700,000 dollars. It is said the importation of Leghorns has thrown 25,000 industrious females out of employment, in the state of Massachusetts, who used to earn a good living by manufacturing straw bonnets.

me go back and review facts and documents that I had, and look at them in a new light--which is always good for research.

Hopefully these cases have given you some ideas on how to fill some of your 1910 gaps. If you're like me, you're in for an afternoon of fun looking for your ancestors. Good luck!

LINKS

1910 U.S. Census Index
<http://www.ancestry.com/rd/prodredir.asp?sourceid=831&key=D7884>

1910 U.S. Census Images
<http://www.ancestry.com/rd/redir.asp?sourceid=831&targetid=4593>

Juliana Smith

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"Ancestry Daily News"

CREATE A CD-ROM SLIDE SHOW

As a follow-up to my family reunion newsletter tip last summer, I wanted to share with everyone what I am doing with all of the family photos I've been collecting. I have started a slide show presentation on CD-ROM to be shown at the next reunion.

I have a collection of over 150 family pictures dating from the 1850s to the present. The CD will show the pictures in chronological order with music that was popular during each time period. I let each of the songs play for about 1 minute and time it with the change of each generation being featured. I have a portable CD/DVD player that runs on a battery so that everyone can see it, no matter where they are.

Sheryll Marshall
Brighton, Mich.

"Tis the Season for Reunions"

— George G. Morgan

Spring has sprung in most places across the northern hemisphere and most of us are weary of the cabin fever. I hope that you've accomplished a great deal over the winter months with your genealogical research. It's time, though, to turn our attention to getting outside, cleaning up the yard and perhaps visiting the family cemeteries, making research trips, and ... planning those wonderful family reunions.

If you haven't started working on the reunion that's scheduled to be held over Memorial Day weekend, I have news for you: it's **ONLY** three weeks away! Even if your reunion isn't planned until later in the summer or early in the fall, time's a-wasting! The April 28 *Ancestry Daily News* included an excerpt from my book, *Your Family Reunion: How to Plan It, Organize It, and Enjoy It*, that discussed gathering family history at your reunion. In "Along Those Lines..." this week, I'd like to offer some fast-track advice for getting your family reunion together and focus more on the planning phases. Don't Try to Do It All Alone!

While you want your family reunion to be a successful, memorable occasion, there's absolutely no way you can do everything yourself. Your first order of business is to ask for help from other family members. Everyone has special talents and preferences. Try to enlist the people with matching skills to the tasks that need to be done. Let everyone know that you really need their help, that you appreciate their commitment, and that it is important that every task be completed on schedule.

Define the Scope of the Reunion

Decide what form you want the reunion to take before you do anything else. Will it be an afternoon cookout/picnic, a gathering in a park, a dinner at a restaurant, a group outing to a theme park, a weekend get-together at a hotel or resort, or what? How many people will you expect to attend? Will people stay at a hotel or at the homes of other relatives? How will food be handled? Will family members cook meals, or will the meals be dine-out affairs? If you eat in restaurants, will there

be special prices arranged for children's and seniors' meals?

Select the Site

The location of the family reunion is important. It can determine the success or failure of the event. It should be convenient for most of the people to get to, and it should be someplace that people of all ages can find something enjoyable. It's probably too late to book a really terrific hotel for a weekend event, but you certainly can get some room rate deals for a group, even at this late date. Summer is a popular time for hotels to book weddings, receptions, and similar events, but call around and see what you can arrange.

Issue Invitations

Written invitations are wonderful if you have enough lead time to design and mail them. E-mail helps get the information out, but some people still do not use e-mail. If you're really in a time crunch, you can put together a fact sheet (where, when, cost, etc.) and give it to family members, along with a telephone contact list, and start making calls to invite people. People may need to check their family members' schedules and get back to you, and your "telephone team" may also have to make follow-up phone calls to determine the number of attendees.

Make Arrangements for Food

Hungry relatives can be grumpy animals. Trust me on this one! Make sure that you have made plans for all types of food arrangements. Remember that some people are on restricted medical diets for heart conditions, diabetes, and other ailments. In addition, some people are vegetarians. Many others also are adhering to special diets. Make sure that there are foods and beverages that everyone can enjoy while they adhere to their dietary regimens. Family-prepared meals are the most flexible, as long as the menus are preplanned. Asking people to "bring something" can be risky, especially if nine people show up with potato salad, six arrive bringing chips and dip and salsa, and three people show up with green bean casseroles. The solution is to prepare a menu for each food event and ask people to sign up or commit to bringing a specific item or dish. Kids have different tastes than adults.

While you certainly want them to eat healthy foods, you should be prepared to accommodate their tastes too. Hamburgers can be made healthier by replacing the buns with pita wraps; low-sugar desserts can also be delicious.

If you're planning a banquet or family-style meal at a hotel or restaurant, work with the catering manager or chef in advance to let the facility know exactly what you want. They can accommodate most dietary requirements. However, make sure to reconfirm the meal requirements again a day or two before the event and visit the kitchen the day of the event to make sure everything is as promised.

Facilitating Communication

It's important to get people talking. Most people will find something in common to discuss. There will, however, be people who are shy, who don't know other people well, or who don't quite know how to get started. A successful reunion planner will try to facilitate communication with any of a number of techniques. Nametags are a great start, and so are mixer activities and games.

These all should be activities that persons of any age can do. Storytelling is a great way to put children and adults in contact with each other and to share family stories. A show-and-tell session using photos, old family clothing, and family keepsakes can spark an interest for people of all ages and stimulate reminiscences and discussions.

The point is to provide the opportunities for interaction and communications without going overboard with organizing every minute. Get things started and then step back. These things will begin to flow on their own.

Onsite Management of the Reunion

Your family members can become de facto members of your planning team during the reunion. Ask for volunteers to greet new arrivals, hand out nametags, set up the meal table, clear dinner plates, supervise the softball or badminton games, run last-minute errands, and help play with and watch the little ones.

Share the Genealogy

Family reunions are great places to learn more about the family. Help family members understand that the reunion itself is one more event that contributes to

(Continued on page 15)

Website: The David Rumsey Map Collection

From: NEHGS eNews, Vol. 6, No. 19 Whole #165, May 7, 2004

Edited by Rod D. Moody and Valerie Beaudrault

The David Rumsey Map Collection website (www.davidrumsey.com) brings over ten thousand maps to your desktop at no charge. The collection's focus is on rare eighteenth- and nineteenth-century maps of North and South America. David Rumsey started his map collection about twenty years ago. The collection includes antique atlases, globes, maritime charts, state, county, city, pocket, wall, children's, and manuscript maps. Digitization began in 1997 and the website was launched in March 2000.

Digitization has increased the accessi-

Family Reunions

(Continued from page 14)

family history. Feel free to ask questions about names, vital events, dates, and personal recollections. In addition, take a stack of those unlabelled family pictures and ask for help identifying the people, the places, and the dates of those "mystery" photos.

Feel free to take a printed family tree, pedigree charts, family group sheets, and perhaps some photocopies (not originals) of important documents that people might find interesting. (My great-grandparents' marriage license is always an attention-getter.)

Ask for help filling in blanks and inquire about those missing documents, family bibles, and other items you've been searching for over the years. You just might make an important leap forward in your research!

Summary

Well, that's the "condensed" version of the list of to-do items for your reunion. If you want to know more and to get even more ideas, pick up a copy of my book, *Your Family Reunion: How to Plan It, Organize It, and Enjoy It*.

If you haven't started planning your family's next reunion, now is a great time to start. If you've never planned a reunion, you can have a great time and create a new chapter in your family's history--starting this year.

Happy Hunting!

George

bility of the collection as the maps differ greatly in size, format, and medium. The online catalog allows the viewer to search the map collection in a variety of ways. Complete cataloging data exists for each image in the collection, which allows for in-depth searching.

There are links to a number of resources from the David Rumsey Historical Map Collection home page. Clicking on the News link on the left menu will bring you to an in-depth article on the development of the collection and its transformation into the website. Titled "Tales from the Vault: Historical Maps Online," the article was originally published in *Common-place* magazine. Another link takes you to 360-degree panoramic images of the physical map collection, which is housed in San Francisco, California.

The collection is available in a variety of formats. You can choose the viewer best suited to your needs by clicking on the "view the collection" link. There you will find a description of each viewer and its system requirements. You may access a viewer by clicking on the link. The viewers range from a simplified browser-based viewer to feature rich viewers. You will find a link to "viewer help" on the collection search page to assist you with using the viewer you have selected.

Clicking on your viewer choice will bring you to the collection's search page. You can search the images by county, state/province, publication author, data field,

and keyword. Clicking on "data field" will bring up a complete list of thirty-four search categories, which include those mentioned above plus items such as publication date, engraver or printer, world area, subject, even object height and width in centimeters. Clicking on the data tab in the menu on the left side of the page and then selecting an image will bring up the image's file data in the smaller window. If you scroll to the end, you will find a link that will enable you to download the map using the MrSid Image Viewer.

New England is well represented in the collection. A search by "state/province" for New Hampshire brought up forty images dating from 1795 to 1879. There are also ninety-seven images of Vermont, about forty images of Maine, nearly fifty of Massachusetts, twenty of Rhode Island, and over thirty of Connecticut. Not all of these images are maps; sketches of buildings and landmarks, as well as other images originally included in the atlases were scanned for the collection.

To enlarge a map, click on the thumbnail image. Using the tools that appear in the new window, you can not only navigate the map but also print it. If you want to make a comparison between two maps, just double click on the second map and a new window will open next to the first. It is easy to lose track of time when exploring the David Rumsey Map Collection website. It has so much to offer.

View the collection at www.davidrumsey.com.

Submitted by Jo Culberson

Museum Genealogy Seminar

The Museum Of Western Colorado

November 13, 2004 Speaker James L. Hansen Genealogical Specialist With the Wisconsin Historical Society. Preliminary cost for tickets are \$40 members/ \$45 non members which will include a lunch.

Topics will be: Genealogy in alphabetical Order (Indexes) Tribunes and Gazetteers Medieval Genealogy, and Frontier Genealogy

Electronic Versions of Periodicals

— Patricia Law Hatcher, CG, FASG

Electronic Versions of Periodicals

— Patricia Law Hatcher, CG, FASG

A few weeks ago, we discussed the types of periodicals that are available and their value to researchers. (See "In Praise of Periodicals.")

One of the problems for those of us doing research today is that periodicals were mailed only to those who subscribed at the time of publication (usually members of the society), possibly even before we were born. How do we "subscribe" at this late date?

Fortunately for us, several of the most valuable periodicals are now available in electronic versions. Some are online, while others are on CD-ROM. Even those of us lucky enough to have access to libraries with good periodical collections often find it a practical financial decision to subscribe to or purchase the electronic version of a periodical. There are two reasons for this. You can usually search all volumes at once for a name, which is a LOT faster than pulling dozens and dozens of volumes from the shelf to check individual indexes. As a by-product of this, it is much more likely that you will check for collateral names as well, which may lead to a breakthrough or prevent an erroneous conclusion. If your library does not have the full run of a periodical, the subscription or purchase lets it offer the material to its patrons at a reasonable cost.

Most of these electronic versions are accessible for both PC and Mac and come in one or more of the following presentation formats:

- PDF text
- Folio(R) Infobase text
- Plain text
- PDF images
- Other images

The way in which you find and access the desired page may vary. Each method has its advantages and disadvantages (often whether it is an advantage or a disadvantage depends on the specific information you seek). The access tools are either included or easily downloaded and are relatively easy to use. I suggest, however, that you plan on devoting a few minutes at the beginning to exploring the

menus and options, which may save you time and missed data in the future.

It is also wise to consider--before you begin--the search options you should use.

The text versions were converted from original pages that were scanned and then converted to text using OCR (Optical Character Recognition) software. When using a search option, therefore, you need to consider both how a name might have been given in the original and potential conversion errors. Often we already have a list of alternate spellings for surnames, but haven't had a need to do the same for given names (Samuell, Saml, and Samll for Samuel, for example). Also explore the options for proximity searches and wildcards.

I recommend printing out the imaged version of the journal pages to keep in your files. That assures that your own notes don't end up with, for example, an incorrect year of marriage when 1748 was OCR'd as 1746.

Most of the periodicals available in electronic versions are either recent publications of societies with active websites and CD programs or one of those "venerable seniors" discussed in the previous article. (See the link in the first paragraph.)

We might begin by pointing out that this article will become part of the collection of hundreds of *Ancestry Daily News* articles available (no subscription required!) in the Learning Center at Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com/dailynews). If you are a new subscriber to the ADN, check these out. *Ancestry Magazine* articles from 1994 through 1999 were reproduced on a CD. This might be an excellent way to get an introduction to an ethnic group or record type.

Members of the New England Historic Genealogical Society can access many articles from recent issues of *New England Ancestors* magazine and its predecessor, *NEXUS*, at www.NewEnglandAncestors.org. HeritageQuest Magazine, 1985–1999 is available on CD-ROM.

Avotaynu [Jewish genealogy]. All back issues through 2002 available on CD-ROM. (www.avotaynu.com)

The CD-ROM publications of the following journals will be especially valuable to those researching in early time periods.

From north to south:

New England Historical and Genealogical Register, New England Historic Genealogical Society. Available online to members. (www.NewEnglandAncestors.org)

Mayflower Descendant, Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants. Available through volume 34 on CD-ROM from Search and Research. (www.SearchResearchPub.com)

New York Genealogical and Biographical Record, New York Genealogical and Biographical Society. A CD-ROM of Jean D. Worden's every-name index to the *Record* is available. Images, beginning with the earliest issues, are currently being released on CD-ROM. (www.nygbs.org)

The Pennsylvania Genealogical Magazine, Pennsylvania Genealogical Society. Available through volume 39 on CD-ROM. (www.libertynet.org/~gspa)

Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society Quarterly, Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society. Available on CD-ROM through volume 24. (www.wpgs.org)

Maryland Genealogical Society Bulletin, Maryland Genealogical Society. Available through volume 38 on CD-ROM.

The Virginia Genealogist, privately published. Available through volume 27 on CD-ROM. (www.WillowBendBooks.com)

Magazine of Virginia Genealogy, Virginia Genealogical Society. Available through volume 35 to Ancestry.com subscribers as *Virginia Genealogical Society Quarterly*.

William and Mary Quarterly, Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture (College of William and Mary and Colonial Williamsburg Foundation). Available online through many universities. (www.JSTOR.org)

North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal, North Carolina Genealogical Society. Available through volume 25 on CD-ROM. (www.NCGenealogy.org)

Additionally, back issues of some local publications are becoming available on CD-ROM, such as *Mercer County [New Jersey] Genealogical Quarterly*, through volume 6; *Prince George's County, Maryland, Genealogical Society Bulletin*, through volume 30; *The Notebook*, Balti-

(Continued on page 17)

New Life For Old Tombstones

by Jim Sheeler

The knees of the 61 year old's jeans are crusted with dirt. It's stained her hands but she doesn't seem to notice. "T-I-M-M-O-N-S" she says, her fingers tracing each letter. "An what is this?" "M-R-S. "MRS ANNIE TIMMONS!"

It's likely been decades since that name was spoken aloud. She pulls out her only tools, a notebook and a digital camera and captures the images of the faded gravestone. When she returns home, she'll load the photo and name into her computer. There, Mrs. Annie Timmons will join million of other names, where once forgotten pioneers are kept alive.

Thousands of these century old inscriptions from Colorado graveyards haunt the Internet, accessible by people who may never visit them. Some entries include epitaphs, some just a single photo, but the names are always there.

Each day, more tombstones are uploaded onto Web pages, sent by preservationists who scour graveyards around the world, transcribing the stones of strangers.

Some are genealogists searching for lost relatives and helping friends find their ancestors.

Electronic Papers

(Continued from page 16)

more County [Maryland] Genealogical Society, through volume 18. (www.WillowBendBooks.com)

We will surely see additional periodicals becoming available electronically in the future, giving us access to valuable source records and advice.

Patricia Law Hatcher, CG, FASG, is a technical writer, instructor, and professional genealogist. Her oft-migrating ancestors lived in all of the original colonies prior to 1800 and in seventeen other states, presenting her with highly varied research problems and forcing her to acquire techniques and tools that help solve tough problems. She is the author of *Producing a Quality Family History*. Copyright 2004, MyFamily.com.

Some simply enjoy the peaceful exercise that comes with quiet walks on hallowed ground.

Some volunteers specialize in photos of famous figures, focusing on the largest mausoleums or artistic statues. A few are more interested in the ones that nobody's heard of, the ones that have no caretaker. The wave of digital tombstone transcriptions began in the mid 1990s and has since gone worldwide.

Gail Meyer Kilgore oversees all Colorado and Arizona cemeteries for the Tombstone Transcription Project. A sister Web site, the Tombstone Photo project, enlists a cadre of cemetery shutterbugs who take photos of graves and upload them for anyone to see.

Each Kilgore visits Evergreen Cemetery she also responds to requests over the Internet from people asking Kilgore to send a picture of a particular grave from a certain cemetery. Like many other headstone hunters, she takes the photos for free, as "random acts of genealogical kindness".

As she continues to the back of the graveyard, she carefully steps around a few of the sunken spots, past a wooden marker that's split and separated. She walks to another stone that teeters on the edge of a grave, nearly lost in the thick of the forest.

She rubs her hand over the stone, sweeping away the dirt, feeling for a name, a date—anything.

Her face falls, the stone is smooth. "There's nothing left," she says, "it's gone."

GRAVEYARD WEB SITES

rootsweb.com/~usgenwen/co/costones

Features photos of tombstones from hundreds of Colorado cemeteries

rootsweb.com/~cemetery/colorado.html

Has transcriptions from tombstones from hundreds of Colorado tombstones

Findagrave.com was started in 1995 in Denver by Jim Tipton, a 31-year-old who calls cemeteries "parks for introverts."

The site offers free searches of 4.8 million gravesites of the famous and not so fa-

mous for people who enjoy prowling cemeteries. The site which boasts more than 120,000 registered users.

Savinggraves.org is an elaborate site with frequent updated on cemetery preservation news and information on how to transcribe and preserve graveyards and tombstones.

Interment.net regularly updates new cemetery transcriptions throughout the nation. Along with preservation news and features such as "The Cemetery Column" and "Voices from the Grave."

Cemeteryjunction.com keeps track of preservation efforts in several counties and offers help on finding and transcribing tombstones.

Rocky Mountain News, October 25 2003

ARKANSAS VALLEY, COLORADO HISTORY

(Images online)

This database contains a history of the Arkansas Valley area in Colorado. This area includes Lake County and the Ten Mile Region, El Paso County, Chaffee County, Fremont County, Custer County, Pueblo County, and Bent County. Topics covered in this work include such things as agriculture, politics, churches, physical features, and settlements, as well as other aspects of general history.

Historical works contain valuable information that can be a great addition to your genealogical research. Although historical works will generally not mention your ancestors specifically, they do provide information on the time and place in which your ancestors lived, which will help you place your ancestors in a historical context.

Source Information: Ancestry.com.

"Arkansas Valley, Colorado History" [database online]. Provo, Utah: MyFamily.com, Inc., 2004. Original data: "History of the Arkansas Valley, Colorado." Chicago: O. L. Baskin, 1881.

Ancestry.com subscribers can search this database at: [http://www.ancestry.com/rd/prodredir.asp?](http://www.ancestry.com/rd/prodredir.asp?sourceid=4717&key=D7986)

[sourceid=4717&key=D7986](http://www.ancestry.com/rd/prodredir.asp?sourceid=4717&key=D7986)

Planning a Reunion?

There is a 16-page article in "Reunions" magazine on planning a get-together. It includes timetables of what to do when, forms to use, and suggestions on events. The magazine is available in the Loyd Files Research Library

Narrowing Down Event Dates

Sometimes, no matter how hard you try, you can't come up with a date of death for a person that gives a month and day that will allow you to find an obituary for them, at least not without a lot of time scrolling through a lot of microfilmed newspapers. Many tombstones only have the years of birth and death, and for some communities or counties there are no vital records indexes of any kind, whether they be indexes of death certificates, funeral home records, or local newspapers.

So if you are still stuck with just the year of death, one possible solution to finding an obituary without looking through an entire year's worth of newspapers is to examine the first couple of issues of your research subject's local newspaper for the year immediately following the death of the person you are researching. Often a paper will publish a calendar of local events for the preceding year, which includes the dates of the marriages, births, and deaths that occurred in the local community or county. See if you can find the exact date of death using these local calendars of events, and if you do, finding the obituary should be a lot easier than before you tried this "quick tip."

Philip Naff

Indianapolis, Indiana

Organizing Census Data

I use a spreadsheet to keep track of the census data that I find on Ancestry.com or elsewhere. The columns are: name, years (b.-d.), year of census, age at census, town, county, state, relationship to others in the file, comments. This way I can easily filter the information to see where I need to fill in. Census image hard copies are filed by year and location (couldn't handle it any other way), and the spreadsheet allows me to index each file folder.

Census images saved to my computer are filed by main family names (and states) with subfolders of "related" families.

Other spreadsheets index my families, source materials, and places already searched (and for whom), and indicate breakdowns of the census enumerations at Ancestry.com that are not currently separated out by townships. Even where there is now an "every-name search feature," it sometimes pays to go through the entire enumeration district--you might find those "peripherally related" siblings of Great Aunt Nellie who married Uncle George.

The greatest thing about this "genealogy stuff" is learning to appreciate our past, share it in the present, and pass it along for future generations! Gen [Sherwood] Bullock

A Lesson in Persistence and Lateral Thinking

This is a lesson in persistence and lateral thinking! Since Ancestry.com has indexes of various

U.K. censuses, I have been using it to great effect to verify information and find missing ancestors.

One of my wife's families has been exceptionally elusive since I began my genealogical quest in 1983, and it was critical that I found them in the 1891 census. Their surname is Driver, head of house Thomas William, but they did not appear. I had also tried to find Thomas's father, another Thomas. I tried using wildcards but this always brought up too many results, so I persisted in trying Draver, Drever, Drover, Druver, Diver, Duver, even Priver--all to no avail.

In desperation (and at about 1 A.M. when my bed was calling out for me), I decided to have a "Thomas blitz" and list all Thomases in the area who were born in the county of Essex. Incredibly, we found BOTH families living at the same address, thus confirming the link. To my astonishment, one family was listed as Dower, the other as Drwer. Looking at the image I can understand someone not being certain of the spelling, but who'd have expected it to be interpreted as Drwer?

This really does show that you have to keep an open mind and remember that the computerized indexes are (modern day) transcriptions of Victorian transcriptions of the original householder's handwriting. When you think of it like that, we should be amazed that any of it ties up!

Nick Planas Brackley, U.K.