



"The art of being happy lies in the power of extracting happiness from common things."

--- Henry Ward Beecher

"Most of the important things in the world have been accomplished by people who have kept on trying when there seemed to be no hope at all."

--Dale Carnegie

Volume 24, Issue 4

Dec/Jan., 2005

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

The Editor

Mt. Garfield DAR Completes Genealogy Records Project

The Mt. Garfield Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution has completed compiling an important new tool for genealogists and researchers of early Mesa County history. Because the U.S. Census of 1890 was severely damaged by a fire in Washington, D.C. a gap exists in the records of the citizens of Mesa County who lived here at that time.

One record from that period which does remain is the Mesa County Grantor/Grantee Book. These books are a record of a large variety patents which were recorded in the public records of Mesa County. The records for 1182 through 1899 were handwritten, and difficult to read and

use. The local DAR chapter transcribed those records and alphabetically indexed them for this early period to CD, so that researcher may search and access these entries by computer.

Members of the local DAR chapter volunteered more than 1,500 hours for the tedious task of transcribing these records, and completed the project this last summer. The work lists nearly 58,000 transactions, which can now be conveniently searched by name, date, record number, or type of instrument. Copies of the CD will be provided to the Mesa County Public Library, the Genealogical So-

ciety of Mesa County library, housed at the Lloyd Files Research Library at the Museum of Western Colorado, the local LDS Family History Center, the LDS Library in Salt Lake City, and the Mesa County Clerk and Recorder's office. A printed copy of the work will be given to the Lloyd Files Research Library. The public will have access to the information through these organizations.

Free Press Staff Report

Mesa County Public Library

Good news for all of you who have a Mesa County Public Library card and a great reason for those who do not have one to go and get one.

At the December pot luck I was informed that the local library now had access to the HeritageQuest web site.

For those of you have never used this site it is just an out-

standing information site for genealogy.

I have used this site to locate an out of print book that is vital in my ancestry research. The images from this book were in Adobe's PDF format and are better than anything I found in Salt Lake City.

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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.

CUSTOM FAMILY TREE CHART

My brother obtained a large chart, in nice parchment-look (blank). He then made clear labels on the computer for the people on the tree. He formatted the labels to fit the blanks on the chart and placed them on it. He gave this as a Christmas gift one year. It looks very professional, and we can easily add to it without messing up the original, as more ancestors are found. Meanwhile I have a very nice wall chart.

Debbie

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

February 2005

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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27	28					

March 2005

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27	28	29	30	31		

April 2005

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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meetings are held in the conference room located in the

Never Heard from Again?

— Paula Stuart Warren, CGRS

Have you found a connection to your branch of a family in a print or online family history with a note that says nothing further is known about the individual or branch of the family? It might have said your ancestor moved "West" and was never heard from again. Others have a story that great-grandpa abandoned his family, and they never heard from him again.

I have a city directory entry for a woman in the 1920s. She is listed as a widow, but her husband was still alive. He had taken off and eventually married again. He did not die until the 1960s. My next task is to search for a divorce record to see if it explains more of what happened. I do realize that this record may tell me things I already know. Sometimes the stories or explanations are there to save face. In another family, you may find several relatives who knew full well that Great-Uncle Herman spent more than a few years behind bars.

Let's discuss some other reasons for the lack of information, the sweeping it under the proverbial carpet, and some ways to possibly solve the dilemma.

Covering up the Truth

Maybe the husband ran off with the neighbor's wife, and two families were trying to save face. Perhaps a husband had his wife institutionalized (not necessarily for a good reason) and told the children their mother had died. A mother might tell her illegitimate child that the father died "in the war" to protect the child from the true story and the possible taunts of other children.

Some Other Reasons

An ancestor of mine was always described as having wanderlust, but it was not caused by amnesia. He just simply went away for extended periods of time.

- Could an individual have left home out fear of death or reprisal for some small wrongdoing? Might it have been due to avoiding the law for a serious offense?

- How about the family in which the daughters were largely ignored and the sons could do no wrong (or vice versa)? Might a teen or young adult have run away from this?

- Was there required military service that caused a young man to run away? Check the time period and read to find out what was going on in the world at that time. Was there

a gold rush or discovery of oil in that time period? There may be newspaper articles extolling a distant locality and its lush land and opportunity to become wealthy. Was land opened for settlement and purchase in another state or country? For example when some individuals disappear from Minnesota at certain time periods, I will look for them in California, the Dakotas, Washington state, Saskatchewan, or Alaska. - Might there have been a split in the family due to a feud, a marriage to someone of another ethnic group or of a different religion, or simply that there were horrible conditions at home that caused someone to vamoose.

Some Relatively Quick Options to Check

What are ways around this? With today's ever-growing access to online databases, the Social Security Death Index, census indexes, and more, you may have a chance to track the missing relative. That is, if the person kept the same name! More and more state death indexes are coming online; many are found at Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com).

Use the Entire Family

In the cases of a missing ancestor, it is vitally important to do whole family

research. The obituary of a sibling or a parent might contain a note on a surviving son living in a distant city. Now, even if the relatives insist that no one knew about him, check anyway. How about a probate record for the parents or siblings? In order to settle the estate the court may have required that the whereabouts of this person be found. Land that passed down to the children presents another record when it is later sold and all the heirs must be found. Of course, that record might also say that he or she could not be found.

Talk to the relatives, no matter how distant. Someone may have a clue or a story. If you have some clues about the truth, you could have a conversation that includes "it must have been so difficult for Grandma Johanna when her son went to jail." If you acknowledge that you already know something you just might find someone willing to add a few details. Either that or they may pretend they know nothing about that problem!

Other Resources

Check online historical newspapers for the missing person. (You may actually find proof of "being killed in a gunfight in Abilene.") Check books and online sources to determine what railroad lines departed from the town where your family lived. Where do the lines go? The person may have left via train and ended up residing in a city where that railroad

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Creating a Legacy: Care, Handling and Storage of Historic Documents.

The Colorado-Wyoming Association of Museums, in collaboration with the Museum of Western Colorado, will host a workshop on preserving historic documents on Saturday, March 26 from 9-noon, and 1-3:00 p.m. Robert Inge, a professional paper conservator, will present the one-day course which will include a hands-on component and suggestions for appropriate storage containers and enclosures.

Registration for the workshop is \$10.00 for CWAM members and \$12.00 for non-members. For more information contact the Museum of Western Colorado, 970-242-0971. Registration is payable to the Museum at P. O. Box 20000, Grand Junction, CO 81502-5020. The class will be held in the Museum's Whitman Education Center which is located at 4th and Ute in Grand Junction.

Uncovering Urbanite Ancestors

— Juliana Smith

I got to chaperone a field trip with my daughter's Expanded Studies class to the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago. I love this city where I lived for eight years, and it's always a bit of a thrill for me to go back, even if most of what I'll see will be from the bus window. Of course, you can't get a real feel for the city from the bus window, but, hey, it's January in Chicago. If getting a feel for the city means wandering around in single-digit and below zero wind-chill temperatures, I'll settle for that view from the bus and plan my outdoor tours of the city for when temperatures are a little more moderate. (Yes, I'm a wimp.)

For the family historian, research in a big city is like that bus ride. You get a little peek through the window, but to get a real feel for the city and for what your ancestors' lives were like in that city, you need to get a little closer look. Research in large metropolitan areas can be a daunting task. I remember when my mother began researching our family history she spent years scrolling through microfilms of unindexed censuses. Now, these same enumerations are available with a click of the mouse, and most of those available at Ancestry.com are not only indexed, but have every-name indexes as well.

Still even with the great tools as close as your PC, research in large cities still has its own set of challenges. In this week's column, I thought we'd take a look at some strategies for researching urban ancestors.

Directories

Since most of my mother's family settled in the New York City area and stayed there for their entire lives, I've had more than my fair share of city research. As with any genealogical research, it's important to get your hands on as many records as you can. You'd think since people settled in one city, it would be easy to locate them

and that they'd stay in one place. Wrong! For many New York residents, moving was an annual tradition. May 1 was considered "Moving Day," and many of the inhabitants of the city uprooted themselves and moved on to new quarters. (For more on this see today's Clipping of the Day.)

Because of these transient inclinations, it's important to keep track of your ancestors from year to year. I've found city directories to be among the most helpful records in this aspect. Because directories were printed annually, they can help you track your ancestor's movements between censuses. Knowing where your ancestors lived when children were born, when they died, or when got married can help you to locate religious records. Directories can also be used to help locate ancestors in the census when indexes fail. Directories are also useful in sorting out multiple individuals with the same or similar names—one of the key challenges faced in urban research.

Censuses—Federal and State

Because censuses after 1850 list all the occupants of a household, they are particularly helpful in identifying relatives that lived together. Other family members are often found nearby as well, so always check surrounding pages.

Don't overlook state censuses as well. They can fill in the blanks between federal enumerations, and they may contain more information. I was working with the 1855 New York census on my last trip to the Family History Library, and while searching for ancestors using the addresses I had found in city directories, I also made note of some of the non-population information that can be found in these censuses.

Beyond the population segments, there was a section on industry

"other than agricultural," which included name of the business owner, capital, value, tools/machinery, raw materials and value, annual production and value, number of persons employed (adults and children under 18), and wages.

The next section tallied marriages and deaths. There were no names, but it was interesting to see the statistics and causes of death (by month), as well as nativity and trade.

Also included were lists of churches in the area (by religion), newspapers and periodicals (with editors' names), tallies of inns, stores, and groceries in the area, and a section for remarks. In one of the districts I was searching (New York, Kings County, Brooklyn, 3rd Ward, 1st District), I found the following remarks:

The Globe Hotel is closed--small candy stores not enumerated. Three dwelling houses vacant, two of which are being repaired. Four families absent from the city, and four or five small families (occupying tenements) that could not be found. Two persons deaf and dumb, one blind from birth, one insane from distress (nervous debility). There were in this district, in June, 218 horses, five (5) cows, and sixty six dollars (\$66) worth of poultry.

These non-population schedules give us a closer look at the neighborhood and what our ancestors' lives were like. It's easy to forget that farm animals were still found in the city, and I started to think about what animals my ancestors may have been keeping.

Maps

I'm a very "visual" kind of person. You really have to draw me a picture. If I'm going somewhere unfamiliar, I want a map. Even if someone gives me the "turn left at the light, turn right at the gas station..." type of directions, I want to see a picture—particularly if I'm traveling in an area where I haven't been be-

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Urbanite Ancestors

fore.

When I'm chasing my New York City and Brooklyn ancestors, I'm the same way. I need to be able to visualize where they were. This is helpful when trying to locate an ancestor in a census where the index has failed to locate them and also for locating where I might find other records, such as church records.

If you can get your hands on a historical map of the city in which your ancestors lived, by all means do so. The Shops @ Ancestry.com have some maps available, as do other online sellers like Jonathan Sheppard Books.

I have several maps of New York City and Brooklyn, from various time periods. Some include ward boundaries, which make them very helpful when it comes to locating elusive families in the census.

MapQuest (www.mapquest.com) and other map programs can help pin down streets as well, although it's important to remember that street names and numbering may have changed over the years. Still they may be able to give you a general area in which to concentrate your search. I use them to help pinpoint where to look on my historical maps for a particular street without going

blind from looking at those teeny-tiny letters. Knowing the "lay of the land" in your ancestor's

neighborhood is important when looking for nearby family members. Despite living across the street from your ancestor, other family members may be located many pages away or even in an entirely different ward or district, depending on the boundaries and the route the enumerator took. Even numbered dwellings on a street may appear in one part of a district, and depending on which direction the census taker turned at the corner, the odd numbered dwellings may be nearby, or further on after he covered other blocks and swung back.

Addresses are Key

Knowing your ancestor's address can be the key to locating other records. Pull address information from every record you have--birth, marriage, and death records, probates, naturalizations, census (beginning in 1880), directories, military records, licenses, voter registrations, and any other source you can get your hands on. Home sources could include letters, postcards, subscriptions, and even personal belongings. I found my grandfather's address inside the cover of his copy of *Julius Caesar*.

Assemble the addresses chronologically and then track the family's movements on a map. I make photocopies of the historical maps so that I can mark them up with names, dates, addresses, nearby churches, businesses,

etc. Chronologies of this sort can help you keep track of even the most transient of families.

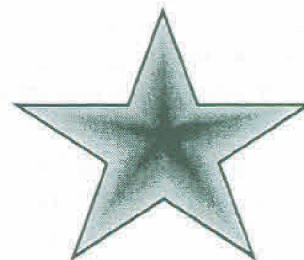
Then take the time to investigate the history of the city. Historic photographs, newspaper clippings, local histories, and other observations like the one I found in the 1855 census can help add depth to your family history and will help you to get off that hypothetical bus and take a tour of the time and place in which your ancestors lived.

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 ADNeditor@ancestry.com, but she regrets that she is unable to assist with personal research.

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"Ancestry Daily News"

(<http://www.ancestry.com/dailynews>)



KEYWORDS AREN'T JUST FOR CATALOGS

As Sherry Irvine states in her article "As the Records Show" in the January 20, 2005 edition of the ADN, "Keyword Searches Aren't Just for Catalogs."

I found that I was, using the keyword field only, searching for the quoted date of the wedding ("01 Feb 1896") and the county, quite often, and finding all records, irregardless of the spelling of the names. Since then, Ancestry.com has added the Date and County as options to the search (at least in the Indiana Marriages Database--

<http://www.ancestry.com/rd/prodredir.asp?sourceid=4717&key=D5059>),

but occasionally, it is still helpful to narrow the search for couples, using one of the last names (normally the groom's) in the Last Name field, and the other's (usually the bride's) first name in the keyword field. While my experience is mostly in the Indiana Marriages database, I have used the same technique in other states' marriage records.

I have also found that a "keyword only search" also works in many of the other databases, sometimes better than the selected field search.

Bill Sanders

RootsWorks:Genealogy Music

— Beau Sharbrough

Music and genealogy are two subjects that you don't hear together very often. Surprisingly, music can help you in interviews with relatives. It can express your own feelings, and it can give you a perspective on your ancestors' lives that you'll never get from reading a roll of microfilm.

"There stands the glass." That's what my father remembered, just the one line. It was from a song he had heard when he was young. Ten years ago, before the World Wide Web, Google, and the Apple Music Store, that would likely have been the end of the discussion.

"Young" is a relative thing, but I wanted to know more about the songs he remembered. Today, it's a bit easier. Type the phrase into Google, and you'll know in no time that "There Stands the Glass" is the title and first line to a song recorded by Webb Pierce that was a hit in 1953. Type the title and artist name into a power search at the Apple Music Store, and you'll have a choice between paying 99 cents for the song, or \$9.99 for the album, entitled, *Twentieth Century Masters--The Millennium Collection: The Best of Webb Pierce*.

If your experience is similar to mine, a few minutes after that you'll be a dollar lighter and immeasurably richer. Watch your father's face. Memories of the past literally pour into his head--in the form of airwaves striking his ears in microscopic patterns that his brain recognizes from many years before. This song was popular fifty

years ago, and finding the song led him to recall several stories for which no other records existed. My father's parents and siblings are gone, and his living memory of his childhood is one of the few remaining sources of information about that time and place. (Your mileage may vary. You can substitute a mother, aunt, grandmother, or any person whose living memory can help you learn about the past.)

People remember music, and musical experiences, for a very long time. Playing songs that older relatives remember from their youth is a helpful way to jog their memories.

Music and genealogy go together another way. Some songs remind us of genealogy, families, or the past. They put us in the mood for family history. Some time ago, I started to collect a list of songs that people say remind them of genealogy. That list can be found on the RootsWorks Genealogy Music Page (<http://www.rootsworks.com/genealogymusic.htm>). The page is not updated very often, so if you send suggestions to me, be patient about seeing them on the site.

Finding Songs Your Father Heard

Some of you might not remember life before MTV. Others might not remember anything before FM radio. But you have to be very senior to remember life before radio. The first commercial radio stations were heard in 1920. Well before FDR's famous "Fireside Chats"

were Woodrow Wilson's broadcasts. When the Great War ended in 1918, many Americans were probably familiar with George M Cohan's "Over There." Before the advent of television, families gathered around the radio, or lounged on the porch in the evening, and listened to big bands, bluegrass,

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CREATING A FAMILY MEDICAL HISTORY

Recently, my sister asked me to write down our family's medical history. I found a ready-made chart in Microsoft Works for medical history. I revised it to include birth dates and eliminated the columns that didn't apply. I included everyone back to great-great-great grandparents. If I had their children's names, I included them.

I have contacted all family members for help, and the chart is growing. I plan on mailing the list to all family members and extended family members. It's a great way for the family to know the medical records and names of our ancestors. It is also a great way to take a break from research. I was getting tired of research since I wasn't making a lot of progress. Creating the chart made me realize how much I have accomplished in my research, and it gave me the incentive to continue.

Barbara Clowson

Genealogy Music

and St. Louis Cardinals baseball.

If you find your family in the 1930 census, and if the census page indicates that they had a radio, it's easy to imagine them listening to Duke Ellington, Rudy Vallee, Al Jolson, and others. If you listen to Ruth Etting sing "Ten Cents a Dance" or Ben Selvin and His Orchestra play "Happy Days Are Here Again," you will probably be hearing the same sounds that your family heard, back in the year that the census enumerator came around. And yes, those songs are in the Apple Music Store.

(Note: You may prefer other free or pay music services. It is not my intent to send you to the Apple Music Store, especially if you are already fond of Wal-Mart.com or Napster or some other Internet music service. The Apple Music Store is used in this article only as an example--a place where you are one dollar and two minutes away from hearing what you're looking for.)

There was popular music before radio--long before. Jenny Lind toured the United States in 1850-52. Known as "The Swedish Nightingale," she is still the best musical act that ever came from Sweden. If you thought it was Abba, subtract five points from your score. Queen Victoria of England wrote wondrously of Ms. Lind's singing voice in her journal. Lind's American tour opened in New York City on 11 September 1850. Most girls tried to sing like her, and they learned "Jenny Lind Polkas" and "Jenny Lind Waltz Quadrilles," which is a fancy name for square dances. You can find names, and sheet music, for many songs that Jenny Lind made famous. For those who thought she was famous for making a

kind of bed (and you know who you are), subtract five points from your score.

Lind's tour was promoted by P.T. Barnum, of circus fame. The girl was the first rock star. People named everything after her--trains, ships, gold rush towns, and even beds similar to the type she supposedly slept in. To this day, beds with turned posts, or spindles, are often called "Jenny Lind Beds."

Music reflects popular culture, and learning more about the music that your ancestors listened to will help you understand more about their times--and have fun in the process. Here are a couple of links that will help you find names of songs that were popular in the past.

FAVORITE WEBSITES

I have accumulated a long list of favorite websites that I have obtained from the "Ancestry Daily News" and from other sources. Instead of just including the website as a favorite on my Internet browser, I have saved them as a Microsoft Word document.

I created separate tables for different categories such as general sites, search engines, link sites, state records, country records, immigration/naturalization, etc. Each table is labeled and has three columns:

- 1) Number. I number the websites listed within that category.
- 2) Description. What is and isn't on the site, the charge (if any), information I have already found there, etc.
- 3) URL (Uniform Resource Locator). I list the website address. To

Pop Culture Madness

Includes lists of popular songs by year back to about 1890.

The Library of Congress

Lists of sheet music by period in the nineteenth century.

More Information

If you want to discuss genealogy music issues, please drop by the RootsWorks Forums (<http://www.rootsworks.com/forums>). Registration is free, and I'd be interested to know what you think.

Beau Sharbrough is a product manager at Ancestry.com "Ancestry Daily News" (<http://www.ancestry.com/dailynews>)

add the URL to the table, just click and drag the mouse over the entire URL on the browser, select Edit/Copy, move to the MS Word document, click on the table cell where you want to add the URL, select Edit/Paste, and click the Enter button.

Whenever you want to access the website, you just have to hold down the Control button and click on the URL.

The websites could also be grouped this way in your browser's Favorites file, but having them in a Word document gives the added ability to make notes about each website, print out a hard copy of the list, and send the list to someone else.

Mary Jo Look

Finding Aunt Gertrude

— Michael John Neill

This week we look at a twentieth-century problem and as such, have changed the names and places of the players. She evaporated like so many people do. The last reference I had to Aunt Gertrude Hendricks was a 1920 census listing in Adams County, Illinois. She was enumerated as a twenty-seven-year-old housewife, and her family also included husband Charles, daughter Sandra (aged 14), daughter Petunia (aged 12), and son Eldon (aged 7). William and son Eldon were still in Adams County in the 1930 census enumeration, but Gertrude and the girls were not listed. While the girls could easily have been married and living under different last names, locating Gertrude was more problematic. Charles's 1930 marital status was married, not widowed and not divorced.

Where Was She?

Gertrude was on the back burner, figuratively speaking, for a few years. While searching court records for an entirely separate family two counties away, I happened upon an index reference on the bottom line of one page that nearly caused me to shout.

Gertrude Hendricks versus Charles Hendricks--divorce. I nearly did the happy dance right there in the courthouse. I quickly located the file. Gertrude and Charles had been married in Clark County, Missouri, in 1905. They had three children living at the time of the 1925 divorce: a daughter Petunia Noble living near Tioga, Illinois; another daughter (apparently Sandra) living near Wapello, Iowa; and a son (apparently Eldon) living with his father (address unknown). At the time of her divorce Gertrude was living in Keithsburg, Illinois. I now knew more about the family, but I had additional questions.

More 1930 Census Work

Armed with a last name, I located Petunia in the 1930 census, living in Hancock County, Illinois, with her husband Burton and three children. Extensive and creative searches in the 1930 census index for Gertrude did not reveal any potential matches. The real concern was that Gertrude had remarried by 1930. Without her second husband's last name, locating her would be nearly impossible. If fate had not intervened, my next steps would have been to focus on the daughter Petunia Noble and her family.

Open Eyes Open a Door

A posting on a completely unrelated message list indicated the sender lived in Wapello, Iowa. On a whim I emailed the person and briefly explained my problem and asked if she had any suggestions for searching family in the area. My message was brief and to the point. After an exchange of e-mails we discovered that the Hendricks daughters, Petunia and Sandra had married brothers. The marriages had both ended in divorce. Better yet, their husbands were both brothers of my e-mail correspon-

dent's mother! She did not know what had happened to many of the family members but was able to provide me with some additional clues:

- Gertrude had married a Mr. Brownson after her divorce from Charles Hendricks.
- Gertrude had gone to live with a granddaughter Jennifer Cook in Connecticut and died there.
- Jennifer's husband, Mr. Cooke died in 1972.
- Jennifer had also been married to a Mr. Greenes who died in Hampton, Connecticut in 1979.
- Gertrude was still alive in September of 1979.

I now had more clues from which to work. Searches of the Connecticut Death Index at Ancestry.com revealed two matches that appeared to be connected to the granddaughter Jennifer.

According to the Connecticut Death Index, Willi A Greenes died June 1979 in Bartonville, Connecticut. His surviving spouse was listed as Jennifer. Edward A. Cook died in 1985 in New London, Connecticut. His surviving spouse was also listed as Jennifer. His address is listed as 32 Club Street, Bartonville, Connecticut. It appeared I had located two deceased husbands of granddaughter Jennifer. I was excited.

A reverse phone directory search for the address located a Jennifer and Russell DeMoss currently living there. Perhaps Jennifer had married Russell after Mr. Greene's death. I am contacting her to see if she is the same Jennifer who was the granddaughter of Gertrude.

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SPOTTING CENSUS INDEX OMISSIONS

While researching a family line in a county of New York, I found it very useful to search for all entries for that surname in each year of the census (using Ancestry.com). I printed the results of each search. I was using these to be sure I collected copies of all the census entries that pertained to my family, and rule out others. It was also an easy way to see family patterns. While comparing three decades of indexes, I noticed that one year the number of names dropped considerably, and then popped up again the next census year. I started to browse the images for Auburn, New York, to verify these people were no longer there (or listed under an incorrect name). On the very first page, which is shared with another town, there were all my missing relatives. They appear to have been left off the index altogether. If I had been approaching this task by looking up people one-by-one, I may have wasted a great deal of time looking for these individuals!

Sue Clark

Aunt Gertrude

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SSDI

A search of the Social Security Death Index located a reference for Gertrude Brownson, born 1890 and died in March 1981, with a last residence of Hampton, Connecticut. Obtaining a copy of her SS-5 form (application for a social security number) is also on my to-do list. This form should provide her place of birth and the names of her parents. These forms are available from the Social Security Administration for any deceased person under the Freedom of Information Act. More information on obtaining these cards can be located at <http://helpdesk.rootsweb.com/ssdi/contact.html>.

Getting an Obituary

A message was posted to the New London County, Connecticut, message board requesting an obituary lookup for Gertrude. Approximately a month later, a respondent posted her death notice from a local paper. While the short obituary contained some errors it was a significant breakthrough. In brief:

Gertrude was born 1890 in Hancock County, Illinois, the daughter of Ira and Martha Butler Brownson. She lived in Illinois most of her life except the past five years spent with her granddaughter. She is survived by one son Eldon Hendricks of Beardstown, Illinois. Funeral services will be at the funeral home in Harris City, Illinois.

The obituary lists the last names of Gertrude's parents incorrectly, giving Gertrude's second married name as her maiden name. It is easy to see how such an error could happen, however Gertrude's maiden name was actually Butler.

Funeral Home Records

A little searching indicated the funeral home records had been published in book form by a local genealogical society. The society had no Web page that I could locate. However, I was not to be deterred. I posted a message to the appropriate county genealogy mailing list (via <http://lists.rootsweb.com>), asking if anyone had an e-mail contact for the society. A few days later I was in communication with the society and asked if I could purchase one of their books. The correspondent gra-

ciously offered to copy me the reference if one was all I needed. The funeral home book provided the following information:

Gertrude died 1981 in Westerly, Rhode Island, and was buried on the Stephen Schulmeyer lot in the Harris Cemetery near Harris City, Illinois. Gertrude's second husband had been Harry Brownson and her two daughters Sandra Noble and Petunia Schulmeyer predeceased her. It also provided her former residence in Illinois.

I had even more clues from which to work.

A Google Search

On a whim I went to Google.com and tried a search. My search terms were "eldon hendricks beardstown illinois." On the first page of hits, I located a reference to burials in the Beardstown, Illinois, cemetery. The citation indicated Eldon Hendricks was born in 1912 and died in 1987. This year of birth was consistent with the census enumerations, and the year of death was consistent with him having survived his mother. There was an apparent reference to this same Eldon in the Social Security Death Index, indicating the same years of birth and death and a final residence of Auburn, Illinois.

Another Obituary

Auburn did not have a newspaper, but the town was located very near the state capitol of Springfield, which was the logical place to search. Since Eldon was buried in Beardstown and apparently lived there for some time, papers in that area were searched as well. One obituary was located in each paper. The Beardstown obituary indicated that Eldon was the son of Charles and Gertrude Brownson Hendricks. Gertrude's maiden name is incorrectly listed as Brownson, but the use of the Brownson name is understandable and all the other details match. The obituaries also provided the name of Eldon's children and their residences at the time of his death. Now I have even more searches to conduct.

For Eldon, it was imperative that I search for obituaries in the place where he died and in the place where he had lived. The second obituary contained details not listed in the first.

In future columns, we'll see just how I was (and was not) able to follow up on some of the leads obtained in my search for Gertrude.

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Missing Persons

(Continued from page 3)

line passed through.

It Does Happen

Be sure to check civil and criminal court records for records of some legal trouble or a divorce that was kept quiet. You just might find a clue to the last known residence of the sought after person. It might have been the state penitentiary but at least your question will be answered.

The Obvious

Don't forget to check the census, obituaries, city directories, church, and other records in the city, town, or county where the person was previously living. Then widen your search area to surrounding communities. Some missing individuals actually do not go very far. If the person was at all religious there may be a church record book notation that the person moved to Sacramento, California.

I know that for every possible reason for disappearing that I listed above, you can probably supply an additional reason for someone in your family being among the missing. No matter the reason, the methods to attempt to locate them should be thorough. Some sought-after persons may never be found; they designed it that way for whatever the reason. But you can take satisfaction in the fact that you were diligent in your research. Don't forget to return to online resources again and again to see if new indexes and databases might yield new information on the missing person.

HeritageQuest

(Continued from page 1)

It's very easy to use, just access the Library site at www.mcpld.org and choose HeritageQuest at Home. Then enter you name from the library card and the number on it. Once you are on the site, you have four choices search Census, search Books, search Persi or search Revolutionary War. I chose Book then from the other choices I selected people, put in the last name and had several books that had been indexed and had hits in that book with the surname I was looking for. You have a choice here of either viewing the hits or viewing the image of the book. From there you can chose either to view page by page or view hits.

This is the important part Clicking on the section title will take you to the first page in that section. Clicking on the hit number will take you to the first hit in that section. The site loads rather quickly considering the quality of the image. The Census portion of HeritageQuest allows you to search the Federal Census Records from 1790 to 1930 Now this portion worked great for the 1920 census in Nebraska using both the basic and the advanced modes, but I could get no result for the 1930 census in Nebraska using either search mode. They do note the 1930 census is just a partial record. These records also are a great image and can be printed or downloaded as a PDF or TIFF image for disk. I prefer the PDF's because with Adobe's free reader they can be

read by any computer. In fact because of the way they list the search results I was able to find my grandfather in the 1900, 1910 and 1920 census.

Make sure you also check out the revolutionary war records very easy to search and the documents again for the most were of good quality, and also down load available.

So if you don't have a Mesa County Public Library card now is the time to get one and if you already have one make sure you visit the HeritageQuest Site it is well worth the time to access this wonderful tool.