

"We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop."
--Mother Teresa

"The farther back you can look, the farther forward you are likely to see."
---Winston Churchill

Volume 25, Issue 1

March., 2005

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

And the Truth Shall Make You Free

— George G. Morgan

I had a call from a friend at the beginning of the week. We had not talked since the FGS Conference in Austin, Texas, last September, and it was great to reconnect. In the course of our phone visit, he told me that his genealogical research world had recently suffered a severe setback.

It seems that he was born near the end of World War II, and his research had recently taken him into researching his father's military service records. He had always been told that he was a "seven-month baby"--a premature arrival, but suddenly the U. S. military records revealed that his father was serving abroad until three months before the birth. Obviously, something wasn't quite right here. When my

friend confronted his mother with his findings and the documents he'd received from the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri, he told me that "she turned four shades of red and then a shade of green," at which point she began to cry. Yes, it turned out that while her husband was away at war, she had had an affair and she became pregnant. Her parents, while shocked, acted responsibly and arranged for her to visit and stay with a relative in another state until the baby was born. When her husband was discharged, he returned home to his wife and learned the awful truth that she had been unfaithful to him. To make a long story short, the husband ultimately forgave

the wife he loved, the couple did stay together, and the child was raised as "their own."

We all encounter circumstances and events in our family history research that surprise us. Some of them are good surprises while others may be shocking, even in today's more relaxed society. In "Along Those Lines . . ." this week, I want to discuss how we should view these surprises and how they can explain a lot of mysteries, ultimately opening up other research avenues.

Criminals and Other Black Sheep

I often tell people that I wish all my ancestors had been criminals. "At least they

(Continued on page 4)

New Resource for New England

(excerpted from an announcement in New England Historic Genealogical Society's Winter 2005 issue of New England Ancestors)

"...An exciting new service [is now available] to both NEHGS members and potential members - the **online genealogist**. The online genealogist will offer advice on research methods, provide orientation to online and library-based sources, and facilitate referrals to specific NEHGS staff experts.

Each month the online genealogist will answer your questions on a specific topic, to be announced in advance in our email newsletter,

NEHGS eNews and on the NewEnglandAncestors.org website. You are invited to submit research questions to David Allen Lambert at onlinegenealogist@nehgs.org or by phone at 617-226-1222.

[They] sincerely hope members and non-members are encouraged and re-energized in the research by this new means of support!"

(Reprinted by permission of the New England Historic Genealogical Society. New England Ancestors 5 (winter 2005): 3.

(Continued on page 2)

Inside this issue:

Emigrant Savings Bank	3
Where to Find It	5
Save Your Research	6
Family History Fair	8
Missouri Websites	10

Mesa Dwellers

SOCIETY OFFICERS

President	Karen Sturgill	
Vice-President	Don Fifield	
Secretary	Jo Culberson	
Treasurer	Terri Cleaveland	
Corr. Sec'y		

BOARD MEMBERS

Dennis Jenkins
Rick Sheldon
Jill Berthod

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Heritage Quest	
Librarian	Betty Grosskopf
Historian	Jeanne O'Brien
MCGS Librarian	Gloria Heitsman
Membership	Ron Knapp
Programs	Dennis Jenkins
Computer Editor	Rick Sheldon
Web Page Editor	Rick Sheldon
Newsletter Editor	Rick Sheldon

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.

(Continued from page 1)

For more information about New England Ancestors magazine and the New England Historic Genealogical Society, please visit www.NewEnglandAncestors.org.)

Please note that this service is available to researchers who are NOT members of NEHGS. The current topic for questions is "Cemeteries and Gravestones."

The NEHGS weekly electronic newsletter is also available to non-members. Go to their website, NewEnglandAncestors.org, click on 'Articles and Publications' then find the link to 'eNews' and that will guide you through the steps to subscribe.

Jo Culberson

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.

April 2005

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

May 2005

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

June 2005

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Rich Information from the Emigrant Savings Bank

— Juliana Smith

They were the shouts heard 'round the world--or at least around my neighborhood. The first shout rang out when I found out that Ancestry.com had posted a database of images of the New York Emigrant Savings Bank records online as part of its immigration collection. That shout was followed by a series of frenetic clicks as I began plugging in family names.

The next shout was as I called to tell my mother that this new database had taken our research halfway 'round the world! (The doctors expect the ringing in her ears to stop soon.)

Lest you think I'm being overly dramatic, let me share with you what I found. Here is one of the records I found for my fourth great-grandfather James Kelly:

- Nov. 19, 1857
- Account #15751
- James Kelly
- Occupation: none, infirm
- Address: 34 John St.
- Remarks:
Native of Glackmore, Coy. Donegal & arrived at Halifax 30 yrs ago
Wife dead Bridget McLoughlin & ch. James, Mary, Jane & Elizth.

With the exception of the names of his children and the first name of his wife, this was all new information!

A Closer Look

So now you know what all the shouting was about. Let's go back and take a closer look at these records.

Opened in 1850, the Emigrant Savings Bank was established by members of the Irish Emigrant Society following the huge wave of Irish immigration that resulted from the Irish Potato Famine. While most of the depositors were of Irish descent, the Savings Bank was not restricted to those from Ireland. I also noted several English and German entries in my browsing, and I'm sure there are other nationalities included as well.

Four kinds of records are currently available in this database:

Index Book: The bank kept an index of all individuals recorded in their volumes,

and the index books include the name and account number.

Test Books: These books cover the years 1850-68 and information that may be found in this set of records includes the date of the record, the name of the depositor, his account number, occupation, residence, and other remarks, which could include names of other family members, immigration information, or birth or residence information in Ireland.

Transfer, Signature, and Test Books: These books existed from 1850-83 and were used primarily for recording changes made to an individual's account information. Examples of such a change could be a new signature, a change in address, or a change in the account holder. Information that may be found in this set of records includes the signature of the account holder, the date of the record, the account number, the individual's residence, occupation, year born, birthplace, and family relations.

Deposit-Account Ledger: These records are arranged by account number and contain an account history for each individual, recording typical transactions such as depos-

its and withdrawals.

Tips for Searching

This database includes fields for first and last name, account number, record type (as described above), birth year, birth country, other birth location and transaction date. Of these fields, first and last name (with Soundex searches available), account number, birth year, and record type can be specified in your search. Despite James Kelly's common name, I went with just the first and last name. The above entry was the ninth of 155 hits (all of which I have now checked!). Looking at the first page of hits, it was important to note that only 16 of the 40 hits included a birth year, so unless you're looking at a really huge number of hits, you might want to leave the birth year search option blank. Here are some other tips for searching this database:

When you click on the name of the individual in your search results, you'll be taken to a page with that individual's index details. On that page is a link that says, "View other records associated with this account number."

This is something you definitely want to do. Displaying the results by account number can turn up entries that were indexed with

(Continued on page 6)

From "The Ohio Repository" (Canton, Ohio), 28 March 1849, page 2:

MINNESOTA TERRITORY.--The bill for the organization of this territory has become a law. Its provisions are liberal and the appropriations ample. As soon as we can find time to collect and arrange the geographical, topographical and statistical items within our command, we design to notice somewhat in detail this El Dorado of the north. For notwithstanding its northern position, Minnesota is destined to be a great State. It will embrace by far the most romantic portion of the Upper Mississippi, (all above the latitude 43.30.) And a glance at the map is sufficient to convince any citizen of Iowa, that it has many advantages over this State. There is another thing which should not be lost sight of--Minnesota will commence her career as a Whig Territory, and a liberal State Constitution may be expected. This being secured, capital will flow there, and the inexhaustible water power, the extensive pine forests, and the lead and iron which abound there, will soon attract an emigration which will make Minnesota worth a dozen Californias, in all the elements which combine to make a State--civilization, morality, intelligence--patriotism, intrinsic wealth.---Iowa City Reporter.

The Truth and Freedom

(Continued from page 1)

would be well documented," I say, "and I'd know where to find them." This may be true, especially if you are searching records of transportation from overseas for criminal acts, polygamy, severe indebtedness, political dissidence, or some other court sentence. A search of sheriffs' records or an inquiry into county, state, or federal prison records may lead you back to the locale where a criminal act may have occurred, and those pointers may reveal other records in the area.

One of my collateral relatives, a great-great-great uncle, arrived home from town in west-central Georgia in the early afternoon of 06 April 1865 to find his father shot dead in front of their home and his mother prostrate with grief on the ground beside him. The father had been shot by three Confederate deserters who stole money and his mother's jewelry and rode away westward toward Alabama. The son took time to bury his father that afternoon, and then set out to catch the murderers.

On the way, he stopped in town and sent his sister to the family home to care for their mother. He rode for several months, stopping to ask questions and following leads until he finally caught up with the three men in Texas. He confronted them at gunpoint, and they confessed to the murder, whereupon he shot all three men dead. He was never arrested for his crimes of vengeance. Instead, he rode home to Georgia and lived out the remainder of his life until he died on 05 November 1910 at the age of seventy. A newspaper article dating from 1907 details the story of that portion of his life.

Is this shocking or repulsive? Or does it make you want to learn more about this man, his parents, his siblings, and more details about the murder of the father? In my

case, it spurred me on to learn more about that branch of the family and, in the process, I learned that our vengeance-seeking relative's son married my great-grandmother's sister. The study also led me to my great-great-grandmother's grave.

What Kind of "Lady" Was That?

Another friend in Pennsylvania brags about her grandmother. It seems that the grandmother had often been described as an "early female entrepreneur" and had founded the family's financial fortune. It was not until my friend began researching her mother's birth records that she found encountered a quandary. Her grandmother's name was listed as the mother but there was no father's name listed.

Some digging into city directories and other family documents, and somewhat reluctant interviews with surviving aunts and uncles revealed the real story. It seems that "Granny" had been a "hostess" in a high-class men's club (brothel), and was otherwise known as a "lady of the evening." Yes, she was a real beauty in her day and had made a good deal of money, which she saved and invested and parlayed into a small fortune. She always kept some liquid assets at home, in case she would have to leave town in a hurry. It turned out that those funds saved her and her two small children from poverty when the stock market crash came in October of 1929. She even invested in a speakeasy until Congress abolished the Prohibition Commission in 1931 and the 21st Amendment was passed by Congress and ratified, repealing the 18th Amendment which imposed Prohibition.

My friend certainly remembers her mother well and remembers living comparatively well during the Great Depression. However, the fact that she doesn't know who her natural grandfather was (nor did her mother or grandmother, for that matter), hasn't fazed her at all. She considers this part of her family history an exception-

ally interesting sociological study and says she is proud of "Granny's shrewd business acumen."

Don't Be Judgmental

Modern times and morals are certainly different than they were a mere generation ago. Perhaps you've already admitted, at least to yourself, that you've become much like your parents in terms of judging young people, music, and many of the occurrences we read about, hear, or see in the media.

Looking back into the period when our ancestors lived requires a study of history, customs, morality, and many other influences. You simply cannot impose your personal mores of this era on people who lived 50, 100, 200, or 500 years ago. Life was very different in those times. If you encounter an ancestor or collateral relative whose lifestyle, habits, occupation, or demeanor was less than ideal, remember to try to place them into historical context. Understand that there were any number of influences that affected the decisions and choices they made for themselves and their families.

In the meantime, the stories about these "black sheep" can be among the more interesting family tales you can relate. Don't be ashamed of these people; take heart in their daring and fortitude. After all, they were survivors and this means that you, too, come from a hearty background.

Happy Hunting!

George

(Copyright 1998-2005, MyFamily.com, Inc. and its subsidiaries.), "Ancestry Daily News" (<http://www.ancestry.com/dailynews>)

"A true friend is someone who thinks that you are a good egg even though he knows that you are slightly cracked."

--Bernard Meltzer

Where Do I Find It?

— Michael John Neill

The key to locating many genealogical records is location. The location where an event took place, the location where any events were recorded, and the current location of those records are all key factors in proving that an event took place. This week we discuss some ways to determine where records of vital events might have created.

Marriage Records

Civil records of marriages are usually a local responsibility, either at the county, town, or city level. The laws governing marriage are typically determined by the state. Consequently records within a specific state are relatively uniform, although there can be differences from one county or town to another. As a marriage is usually a contract between two individuals, records of marriages typically begin before records of births and deaths. A record of a marriage puts a man and a woman in the same place at the same time. The record may also provide additional information about the couple including their age, residence, and religious affiliation. Later materials may be even more detailed.

Locating where a marriage took place can be difficult in some situations. There are several things to think about when trying to find where your ancestors got married:

- Did they get married in the county in which they lived?
- Did they marry in an adjacent state that might have had marriage laws that were more lax?
- Where was their first child born?
- Did they marry where the bride was from or where her parents were living?
- Did they take the train and ride to an adjacent county (or a county a few counties

over)?

- Were they married by an itinerant minister who left no records?
- Might they have gone to a nearby county to find the "right" church?
- Did they elope in a county where no one would know them?
- Were they ever "officially" married?

Marriage records may come in many forms and will vary from one time period and one locality to another. Some records created at the time of the marriage may include:

- Marriage contracts
- Marriage bonds
- Marriage licenses
- Banns
- Church records
- Announcements in newspapers

Keep in mind how your ancestors likely met. They may have been neighbors or they may have attended the same church. They might have been members of the same ethnic group or had parents of the same social class. A couple often met because they had something in common. Determining that commonality is the difficulty. Other records besides marriage records may provide information about the marriage even if the records are not technically marriage records and even if they were created years after the marriage took place. These secondary sources of marriage information should be compared with other known information to determine if the information is consistent or not.

Other records that may document a marriage include:

- Pension papers
- Inheritance papers

- Death certificate
- Court papers

A question to ask: Did anything in my ancestor's life require them to prove their marriage? If so, are there records of that proof?

Birth Records

The civil recording of births in the United States typically began in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In the early days of recording these events many were not recorded, and slowly the proportion of events recorded increased over time. Birth records are recorded in the jurisdiction where the birth took place, not necessarily where the mother was living (especially if the bride returned "home" to have the baby). And a birth in specific location proves only that the mother was in that location on that date.

Some questions to ask when trying to locate a birth record:

- Did the family move frequently?
- Are you certain of where the family lived?
- Did the family live near the county line?
- Would the family have cared if the birth were recorded?
- Might there be a church record of the birth?
- Is there a pension record that might prove the age?
- Is there a guardianship or other estate record that might provide information on the person's age?

Again, if you cannot find the record, might your ancestor have had to prove his birth at some later point in his life? If so this record might assist you in locating birth information. If a delayed certificate of birth was filed, it probably was filed where the event took place but might have been filed where the individual re-

(Continued on page 12)

Rich Information from the Emigrant Savings Bank

— Juliana Smith

(Continued from page 3)

different spellings. As I searched for another relative, John Pyburn, I found only an index book entry. However, when I clicked on the link to search by account number, I found a test book entry, which due to poor handwriting, had been indexed in the database as John Pylman. The test book gave his address, occupation, and year of birth and stated that he was born in Co. Cork and that he had arrived in this country in 1851 on the ship "Margaret Evans." It also listed his wife's name as Mary Ryan.

Another reason to search by account number once you've located an entry is that I've seen a number of instances where the Transfer, Signature, and Test Books don't list a name in the "signature" field. An example of this can be found by searching for account 70346. Despite the lack of a name, this entry still lists the street address, occupation, year of birth, county of origin, immigration year, ship name, and both parents' names.

Don't stop your search if you find one entry for an ancestor. I found multiple accounts for several of my Kelly ancestors.

Search for everyone in the family. Because of the varying degrees of information in the accounts, details not found in your direct ancestor's account may show up in a sibling's account. (Ex: Parents' names, mother's maiden name, year of arrival, ship name, town of origin as opposed to only a county, etc.) In addition, for the siblings who were born in Ireland, I'd like to see if their birthplaces are the same as that of their father. It's possible that they moved within Ireland before emigrating to the United States. For extremely common names, try a search from the main immigration page, specifying the county name in the keyword field. The database will return a maximum of 2,000 hits. When I searched for all

the Kelly's, there are over 3,000 hits. Since I now have a county of origin, I can look for collateral relatives by including "Donegal" in the keyword field. Not all the indexed entries will list it as a birth location (even in some cases where it is listed in the account entry), but it was in enough for me to take a chance and see if I'd get lucky.

As with any index, particularly those that depend on deciphering what can be pretty bad handwriting, check for variant spellings. I found several "look-alike" mis-indexed entries, such as Helly and Relly, instead of Kelly. Also search using initials and abbreviations. I saw quite a few abbreviated names including Chas for Charles, Cathe for Catherine, Margt or Mgt for Margaret, Jas for James, Jno for John, etc. In some of these cases, a wild card search (which only requires the first three letters) would locate alternate entries, but in cases like James or John, several searches will need to be done.

This database is a good place to look up sponsors, neighbors, and other suspicious characters that keep reappearing in records with or near your ancestors. Because of the relationship information and the fairly consistent inclusion of mother's maiden names, you may find that information in this database will finally link these folks to your family tree.

I was surprised that although I've found accounts for several Kelly family members, I still haven't been able to locate one for James Kelly (son of the James Kelly I mentioned earlier). I've printed out the index listing of all the James Kellys in the database, and included variant spellings (like Kelley) as well. On this index print, I'm making notes about the entries as I go through them. I have quite a collection of

Kellys from city directories that I compiled over several trips to the Family History Library. (More on this is found in [this article](#)) Using the addresses found in this database, I can now rule out many of the directory entries and this may help me to zero in on related families. Knowing their exact location year to year can help me to locate church records and may help me to tie in other Kelly family members that I'm unaware of at this time.

In Summary

If you're still with me, I admire your perseverance. I've been hard pressed to get anything else done this past week and have spent most of my free time exploring the various books. It's really easy to get caught up and what you find really gives some interesting insights into the times. I found it fascinating to see how much money my ancestors had in their accounts at various times and how this immigrant family grew their fortune in their new home.

In browsing I noted many who signed with his or her "mark," while others signed their full names. In the entries during Civil War years, you'll see a lot of soldiers' accounts. In the Test Books for 1865, image 77 includes the accounts of four soldiers, with their regiment and company listed as their residence. The relations field for three of these entries gives instructions for payment "in case of death."

There is a wealth of information waiting to be uncovered, some of it spelled out and some not as obvious. For family historians with ancestors included in this database, this is one of the richest banks in the world. Best of luck with your searches! "Juliana Smith is the editor of the *Ancestry Daily News*. *Ancestry Daily News*" (<http://www.ancestry.com/dailynews>)

Save Your Research

It's taken hours of telephone calls, tons of e-mails and more money than you care to think of. It is years of research and a personal satisfaction that is second to few other achievements.

But what happens to the documents, photos and notes all of the research you have toiled overafter your death?

You might get lucky, some relative might recognize those piles of papers, the file cabinet or notebooks full of painstaking work for what is really is. Or the entire thing could end up in the nearest land fill.

Many genealogists in order to protect their research are creating a Codicil to their will.

While this document may have no real legal impact, it does let your wishes be known.

Here's a sample of how it might read:

"To my spouse, children, guardian, administrator and/or executor:

Upon my demise it is requested that you DO NOT dis-

pose of and or all of my genealogical records, both those prepared personally by me and those records prepared by others that may be in my possession, including but not limited to books, files, notebooks and computer programs for a period of two years."

"During this time period, please attempt to identify one or more persons who would be willing to take custody of the said materials, and the responsibility of maintaining and continuing the family histories."

"In the event you do not find anyone to accept these materials, please contact the various genealogical organizations that I have been a member of and determine if they will accept part or all of my genealogical material."

Please remember that my genealogical endeavors were extremely important to me and consumed a great deal of time, travel, and money. Therefore it is my desire that the products of these endeavors be allowed to continue in a manner that will make them available to others in the future."

If you know someone who might be

interested in taking over your project, talk to them well ahead of time and include their contact information in the text. If not, search out area genealogical and historical societies and libraries to find out their contribution policies.

Finally, make sure that your research can be found and identified. A stray death certificate might inadvertently be thrown away. While family research is not a project that's ever "finished," and few of us stay up to date with our filing, it is important to at least keep the information together.

Tips From Everton's Genealogical Helper

KNOW YOUR WORDS

Answers from page 7.

1. F.
2. D.
3. A.
4. E.
5. C.
6. B.

The New York Times has teamed up with ProQuest, parent company of the Heritage Quest genealogy database service, to provide a searchable online archive of more than 15 million articles in the times from 1851-1995. Search for free by keyword, author and headline, and narrow your search by date. The results show the first paragraph or a summary of each article, and you can purchase the whole thing (including photos, graphics and ads.) in PDF format for \$2.95. Visit <http://pqasb.pqarchiver.com/nytimes/advancedsearch.html> to search the newspaper archives.

"The Ohio Repository," 01 April 1841, page 3:

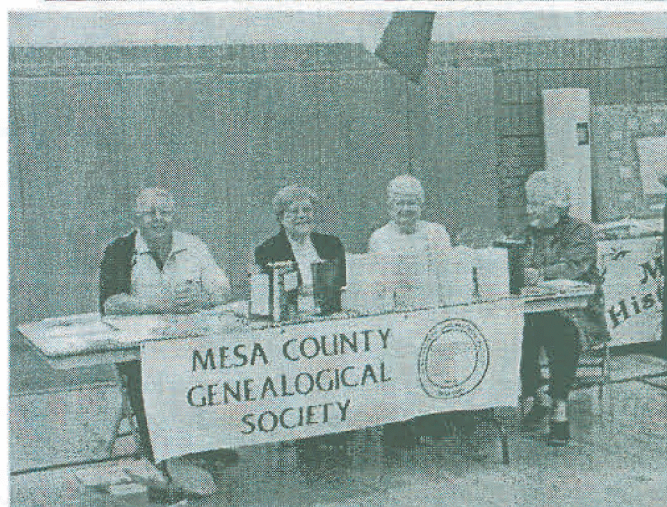
GREAT FLOOD IN THE SOUTH

The floods in the streams of South Carolina have been so high and violent as to have done great damage, and completely interrupted travelling for several days.--At the last accounts they were beginning to subside; but several mails are yet behind. The latest papers from New Orleans that we have received are from the 5th of the month.

The Charleston Courier of the 17th states that the whole of the low country in the direction of Savannah is under water. Many of the bridges between Charleston and Savannah have been carried away.

The Raleigh (North Carolina) Register of the 19th says that the snow was lying there ten inches deep.--Nat. Int.

Family History Fair



TENNESSEE, CIVIL WAR CONFEDERATE PENSION APPLICATIONS INDEX

This database is an index to approximately 28,000 individuals who applied for Civil War Confederate pensions in Tennessee. These pension applicants were either Confederate soldiers or the widows of deceased soldiers. Information found in this index includes the applicant's name, county of residence at the time of application, whether soldier or widow, application number, name of soldier if not the applicant, state served in, and source information. Photocopies of applications may be obtained from the Tennessee State Library and Archives. For more information about these records and how to order them, please visit their website (<http://www.state.tn.us/sos/statelib/>). Information about

these pension applications may be found by clicking on "Tennessee History and Genealogy" on the homepage, then by clicking on "Military Records", and finally, "Tennessee Confederate Pension Applications: Soldiers and Widows." Source Information: Ancestry.com. "Tennessee, Civil War Confederate Pension Applications index" [database online]. Provo, Utah: MyFamily.com, Inc., 2005. Original data: Tennessee State Library and Archives, comp. Samuel Sistler, revised. "Index to Tennessee Confederate Pension Applications." Nashville, TN: 1964 (revised 1994).