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THE GENIE

VOLUME 47

Fourth QUARTER 2013

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ARK-LA-TEX GENEALOGICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

Post Office Box 4463
Shreveport, Louisiana 71134-0463

The *Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association, Inc.* is a non-profit, non-sectarian, non-political, educational organization dedicated solely to the cause of genealogy. This organization is governed by these purposes:

To collect, preserve, and make available genealogical materials, documents, and records; to encourage an interest in genealogy and to sponsor educational programs for its development; to promote and publicize the City of Shreveport, Louisiana, as a major genealogical research center for genealogists and historians; to cooperate with and assist all other genealogical, historical, and patriotic societies in the furtherance of these purposes; to compile and publish a quarterly composed of records and data related to the science of genealogy.

The *Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association, Inc.* meets on the second Saturday of each month from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Randle T. Moore Senior Citizen Center, 3101 Fairfield Avenue, Shreveport, LA.

Dues for membership from January 1 through December 31 of each year in the *Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association, Inc.* are \$20.00 for an Individual Membership and \$25.00 for an additional family member, same household, and one quarterly per household.

All members receive four issues of The GENIE, which is published quarterly.

The *Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association, Inc.* will publicize a book of genealogical interest in The GENIE when submitted by the publisher or an author. These books are then donated to the Shreve Memorial Library, Broadmoor Branch Genealogy Department, 1212 Captain Shreve Drive, Shreveport, Louisiana 71105, where they are made available to the public. The Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association, Inc. periodically donates other genealogical material to this library.

The *Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association, Inc.* welcomes queries, which are published free in The GENIE. A query must be no more than seventy (70) words, either typewritten or legibly handwritten.

Statement of Publication

[Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association, Inc.]

The Genie is published quarterly with issues in March, June, September and December. Each member receives four issues for each year of membership. All material published in *The Genie* is compiled and contributed by the members. Members and nonmembers of the Ark-La-Tex Genealogy Association may contribute material for publication in *The Genie* (*bible records, cemetery listings, diaries, wills, etc.*). Such contributions are appreciated and encouraged. Send material for publication to *The Genie* at the Association's mailing address. Material will be used at the discretion of the Editorial Review Board as space permits. We reserve the right to edit and/or condense material as needed. Submission deadlines are the last week before the first day of the month of quarterly publication.

The Association *exchanges periodicals* with other genealogical and historical organizations publishing data of general interest. These periodicals are then donated to the Broadmoor Branch *Genealogy* Section of the Shreve Memorial Library. We regret that we cannot exchange with limited family organizations. However, send samples of your publications for review. Since many publications possess information of value concerning families contain therein.

When *Cemetery Records* are submitted, include the name of the contributor, the copier, date copied and cemetery locations (such as road name or number, community, etc.) and also the Section, Township, and Range, if known. When *Bible Records* are submitted, give date and publisher of the Bible (if known), date copied, name of the contributor, name of present owner and the original owner.

Queries are free and encouraged. Please submit them typed or very plainly written. Space is limited. Please be brief and concise, using no more than 70 words per query. The editor reserves the right to edit or reject queries not suitable for publication.

The Genie cannot be responsible for errors or inaccuracies, but will hasten to publish corrections. Please read the material carefully and advise the Association in writing of corrections.

This publication is *indexed* in the *Periodical Source Index* published by the Allen County Public Library Foundation, Ft. Wayne, IN.

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Visit our website: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~laaltga/>

OUR 2013 ROOT-CELLAR

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, ARK-LA-TEX GENEALOGICAL ASSOCIATION

Every Christmas in Bermuda virtually everyone offers visiting friends, kin, and neighbors a piece of homemade cassava pie. The cassava root used in my ancestors' pies is the starchy root of tropical shrubs and trees of the "spurge" family, a name befitting its standalone taste. Yet, my Bermudian kin persist in making and offering it. Why? For a while I thought these pies were wry attempts at colonial British humor—how well could each UK visitor to the island maintain a polite, courteous exterior manner while privately harboring different reactions? My grandmother Lona had no such motives. She labored to mix just the right set of ingredients so that the best aspects of the cassava root would come forth. Though I told her privately that cassava (by itself) was "less than appealing" to me, every year she made it using what she had on hand. As a result, some years' pies were better than others.

Every year our genealogical association labors to bring a monthly mix of ingredients to the "kitchen" hoping that our visitors and members come away from its table excited by the results. Our Root-Cellar in 2103 had archivists, historians, educators, hospitality specialists, businessmen, publicity makers, a Texas mayor, authors, genealogists, and lots of volunteers. Each month the pie had a different flavor, but the roots were consistently a generous blend of hospitality and genealogy. We hope you enjoyed the varied fare.

We give thanks for our 2013 speakers and educators: Shawn Bohannon, Sonja Webb, Raegan Stearns, Glenda Bernard, Joe Slattery, Peggy LaCour, Sally Sinor, Don Weathersby, John Sellers, Gary Pinkerton, and Monica Pels.

We give thanks for the numerous members and friends who helped make our Annual Seminar a singular success and Family History Assistance Days a memorable set of events. Our Seminar was supported by many contributors, but we especially thank Jim Johnson for leading the way. Family History Assistance Days would not have been possible without GENCOM and Friends of Genealogy, led by Jim Jones and Brenda Randall respectively; the Shreve Memorial Library's Genealogy Department and the Bossier Parish Library Historical Center, headed by Lisé Taylor and Ann Middleton respectively; and all of those organizations' members who consulted and assisted.

We give thanks to our Education Committee for their fabulous contributions: Glenda, Doris, Sonya, Peggy, and Marilyn. It has been such a pleasure, ladies.

We give thanks for all who contributed their research results and articles to our journal *The GENIE*. Though I cannot name you all here, I believe you will agree that Dale Jennings and Isabelle Woods have made singular, repeated contributions that have benefitted the genealogical and historical community. If you feel similarly about them and any other contributor I neglect to mention, please thank them and let them know how much you care.

We give thanks to our hosts, Shreveport Public Assembly and Recreation (SPAR) and the Randle T. Moore Center, with special thanks to John Samuel.

We give thanks to each and every Officer, Board member, committee member, and all who helped to support them in a myriad of ways. Take a moment to thank one personally. Their names appear in the preceding pages.

We give special thanks to two persons who have shaped and guided this organization over many years.

- Past president and longtime Board member Raymon Owens left us for his heavenly home early in 2013, leaving behind a lifetime of public service and a special legacy of support to this association. Those of us blessed to have known him recall a unique love of family and genealogy, a blinding wit, and selfless service.
- Our present Editor of *The GENIE* Willie R. Griffin has served us superbly in this office since 2001. It takes a singular amount of work to serve as editor of *any* publication, and *The GENIE* is no exception. Every editor labors behind the scenes, often making his or her contributors shine while he or she remains unheralded. Every quarter without fail for the past twelve years Willie gave us a journal that we anticipated with pride and read with joy. Willie "retires" with this quarterly issue. Join me in letting him know how you feel. We cannot thank him enough.

Finally, on a personal note, I give thanks to all who have attended, participated, or otherwise contributed to furthering the field of genealogy, within and without the association. It keeps me interested and hungry for more.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays for 2013.

Philip Burnett Adderley, CG, *President*.

p.s. I may have some left-over cassava pie for those interested, but let's see what's the kitchen is cooking up: have a Happy, Yummy New Year in 2014.

Second Vice President Message

By Reed Mathews

This autumn has brought another round of wonderful genealogical and historical programming for the Association. It is a pleasure to report the highlights of these exciting shows. The season brings real changes for our society, too. I am excited to share these, also.

In September, Glenda Bernard and Peggy La Cour discussed their studies at the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research at Samford. Glenda and Peggy spoke of how pleasant the experience was. Peggy mentioned the "beautiful, historical campus", the ease of getting around and the helpful staff. Instructors were organized and knowledgeable. They presented their ideas well. Students were eager and motivated. Peggy spoke of "camaraderie with other like-minded people" and Glenda used the same language.

Glenda and Peggy both thanked Phil Adderley's company, 311 Research, for funding their studies. They spoke of the classes that they had taken and the many valuable lessons they had learned. They both offered many practical genealogical tips that they had picked up at Samford. Look for Glenda and Peggy's tips elsewhere in this issue of "The Genie".

In October, Phil Adderley discussed, "The Ball-Kirkland Brick Wall: Using Indirect Evidence and Y- and Autosomal-DNA Results to Prove a Relationship". Chuck Ball has worked for more than 20 years to identify the parents of his great grandfather Samuel I. Ball who lived in Little River County, Arkansas in the "very early 1900's". Phil joined the search in 2006.

Although much work had been done on the family, Phil's diligence proved that the problem was more complex than it appeared. By using scientific handwriting analysis, Phil proved there were actually two different Sam Balls of similar ages who lived in Little River County in the 1890's. By noting such differences as land ownership and economic status, Phil was also able to distinguish two additional men named Sam Ball who lived in Cass County, Texas. To add to the confusion, these Sam Balls of Cass County both had brothers named John J. Ball of similar ages! Phil confirmed all these separate identities through further research.

By 2010-2012, Phil had collected enough evidence to theorize connections between Chuck Ball's known family and others. Two descendants of these target families were identified and were DNA-tested against Chuck Ball and his father. Although a Ball connection was not made, Samuel I. Ball's mother "was proved to be Elizabeth Kirkland of Henry County, Georgia, and Cass County, Texas". This strategy of developing enough traditional genealogical evidence to warrant targeted DNA testing to prove or disprove a theorized connection is known as "the paper mill approach".

I have greatly simplified Phil's wonderful work, here. I am sure that I have not done it justice. Phil is planning to present this same discussion in its full glory at the 18th Annual Angelina College Genealogy Conference in Lufkin, Texas, in July 2014.

Historian Gary Pinkerton spoke at the Genealogy Department of the Shreve Library's celebration of Family History Month in October. The Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association co-sponsored this event. Pinkerton told of his life-long fascination with Nicholas Trammell and the trail he opened into Texas, in 1813. Trammell's Trace begins in Fulton, Arkansas, crosses Red River, and passes through east Texas between the later sites of Jefferson and Marshall, wending south to Nacogdoches. Following ancient Indian trails and crossing dense forests and native canebrakes, the trail offered a new access to pioneers, outlaws, thieves and renegades. Davy Crockett and Jim Bowie are said to have travelled the trace. As settlements rose and straighter roads were built, the trail fell into disuse, however. Memory of the trail has gradually vanished.

Mr. Pinkerton has travelled the length of Trammell's Trace, documenting the path, which in many places is only barely discernible as a shallow depression running through modern meadows. He has gathered much of the lost lore of the trail and has endeavored to document these tales or to discredit them. He spoke of the story that Jean Lafitte and his men had taken to the trace to flee authorities and that in the course of this flight had sunk several wagon loads of silver ingots in Henderson Lake. Henderson Lake has drawn treasure hunters ever since, but according to Pinkerton no such treasure has ever been found. No evidence supports the legend.

Nicholas Trammell was seen as an ornery, dangerous man. Pinkerton painted him as a litigious opportunist. He said that he had found evidence that Trammell could be mean, but that he really seemed to be a son of the place and time. Lovers of history enjoy such rounded portraits. Mr. Pinkerton hopes to publish his history of Trammell's Trace as a book.

Monica Pels spoke in November on "The History of Greenwood Cemetery." Opened in 1892, Greenwood Cemetery was the large public burial ground for Shreveport well into the 20th century. There are military sections for Confederate veterans, for veterans of the Spanish American War, and for veterans of the two world wars. There is a Greek Orthodox section, a Jewish section and several sections for various fraternal and trade union groups. Six mayors of Shreveport and one governor of Louisiana rest there among many other notable people.

Ms. Pels told the story of Milton Taylor Hancock, an inventor and a millionaire by the time he was in his thirties. M. T. Hancock and his wife built an above ground tomb at Greenwood upon the death of their young daughter in 1893. They supposedly placed the girl's body in a glass casket in the tomb, so they could visit her and "see" her. Ms. Pels said that the tomb had been opened at some time, but that no such glass casket was found. Eric Brock relates in his book *Eric Brock's Shreveport* the same story that the Hancocks had placed their daughter's body in a glass casket so that they could visit her. He also mentions that by 1905 the Hancocks left Shreveport to move to California, however. One has to wonder if they removed their daughter's body from the tomb or if the story was never more than a legend.

The Board of Directors has voted to discontinue publishing a paper version of "The Genie" with this issue. Beginning in 2014 "The Genie" will be issued in PDF format via email. All members who have registered email accounts with the Association should expect their next first quarter 2014 Genie in their email. I urge members who have not registered their emails to do so as soon as possible. I would like to congratulate Willie Griffin on his many years as the editor of "The Genie" and to thank him on behalf of the Association for his excellent work in that position. His retirement from this post is a real loss.

This December, the Association elected Dick Tatum and Bonnie Beran as new trustees to the Board. Linda Scott became our new corresponding secretary. I would like to congratulate all on their election and welcome them to the Board. I wish everyone a joyous holiday season and peace, health and happiness in 2014!



The GENIE beginning in 2014

The Electronic Journal of the Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association

As 2013 progressed we decided and announced on several occasions our plan to publish *The GENIE* in an electronic format beginning with the Spring Issue in 2014. Here is a recap of the important changes:

Content:

We expect the journal to continue as-is with respect to content. As it has to this day, content is driven largely by the nature and quality of the articles submitted by you our readers. The overall size of each issue will no longer be constrained to a 50-page minimum, but the Editor expects to publish each issue using that size as a guideline.

Format:

Format will change from a print version to an electronic version. By “electronic” we mean that all the articles and images submitted by contributors and selected by the Editor will be converted and combined into a single publication file using Adobe’s Portable Document Format (PDF). PDF format is widely used by the publishers, libraries, archival institutions, and virtually every entity that disseminated documents and images via the Internet. Almost every device from computers to smart phones and tablets has the ability to open and read PDF files.

Our Editor plans to make every issue fully searchable. This means that anyone using, for example, Adobe’s free Adobe Reader software can search for names, places, and keywords very effectively.

Delivery:

The association will distribute each issue beginning with the Spring 2014 issue via email. We will deliver using the email address we hold for you on our membership roster. Therefore it is important that we hold a *current* email address for you. If we publish an issue that is too large to attach to a conventional email, we will email a link that you can use to freely and securely download that issue.

If you do not yet have an email address, our recommendation follows that of Dick Eastman: the most highly recommended, *free* email service today is Google’s gmail.com service. You can sign up for a free email account using this link: <https://accounts.google.com/SignUp> . Note that one can create and access an email account using a variety of electronic devices, not just a personal computer. Furthermore, should you not own a computer, smart phone, or tablet device, *some* businesses and institutions that provide Internet access to the public via designated computers allow users to access and read email and email attachments.

If you need time to acquire an email address, please contact Phil Adderley (687.9347). He has agreed to print *at his expense* a limited number of copies on a case-by-case basis in 2014.

A HISTORY OF BENTON ROAD Bossier Parish, LA

By Dale Jennings

James Turner Manry wrote in the 1926 *Bossier Banner* about his travel by foot from Shreveport up Benton Road fifty years earlier. It was then the old roadway somewhat closer to the river. Young J. T. was on the final leg of his journey from Mississippi to visit his uncle, Judge Richard Turner, in Bellevue. Because of flooded conditions, he had to take the longer route through the river plantations by way of Benton (still "old Benton" in 1876). He noted the passage of Mrs. Cane's residence and those of Dillard, Cash, Carmouche, Vance and Ogden, as well as the large store at Shady Grove (later Vanceville) run by S. J. Zeigler. Shady Grove Plantation was then owned by Zeigler's father-in-law, Samuel Whitfield Vance. Pat Cash had sold his first plantation near Plain Dealing and bought another between Pandora and Mrs. Cane's. Mr. Manry incorrectly identified Buck Hall as belonging to Capt Cal Vance, who then owned the Riverside and Palmetto plantations (and later the Willow Chute).

Manry had to negotiate the mud of "Gilmer Lane." He said that this segment of Benton Road (the Gilmer place on one side and Pandora plantation on the other) was well known to old North Bossier residents, all of whom had been stuck in its mud. He recalled seeing wrecked wagons and the bones of oxen that had perished in the roadway. J. T. commented on the levees, immense fields of cotton, and the fact that he had seen less than half a dozen whites between Canes and Benton. In Benton he was directed to the road east, and out to Bellevue.

The maintenance of the Bossier Parish public roads - to include Benton Road - was by the overseer system. Periodically the police jury appointed individual landowners to supervise scheduled road work on a designated segment of their road. The July 3, 1858, *Bossier Banner* announced: "Be it enacted by the police jury of Bossier Parish, that John A. Brownlee be appointed overseer on the Ark. and Shreveport road from the east bank of Red river (at Cane's Landing) to Benois (sp) bayou, working his own hands and overseer, Thomas Gilmer's hands and overseer, David Gilmer's hands and overseer, J. M. Sandidges hands and overseer and all hands in legal bounds." Dr. S. W. Vance was given responsibility for the road from Benois Bayou to Gum Spring above Benton. He was to work his hands and those of Cash Point, J. W. Vance, Gold Point, Isaac Lay, Willow Chute, Dr. Worthy, Widow Dixon and others in legal bounds. The *Banner* published these notices in much the same manner through the mid-1890's. After the Civil War, the "hands" would be workers on the Benton Road plantations, rather than the slaves. In 1897, the system was changed to wholly tax-funded maintenance by the parish.

Benois Bayou was early on crossed by a parish granted concession ferry. William Hilton operated his toll bridge there between the year 1866 and his death in 1868. The toll was unpopular with the citizens and they voted to have the police jury close off the bayou from the river and fill in the roadway. Like all the bayous, it had flowed from,

rather than into the river. Willow Chute Bayou had a parish maintained bridge until its roadway was also filled in near the turn of the century.

In 1888, a branch line of the St Louis and Southwestern was brought from Lewisville, Arkansas down through Bossier Parish to Shreveport. The tracks passed through the river plantations just east of Benton Road. The railroad was identified by its trunk line and other names on period maps, but settled on the more popular, "Cotton Belt Line." A number of depots and little "flag stations" were established between Bossier City and "new" Benton – its historical location being relegated to "Old Benton" by its new site at the depot a mile up the track. Other depot locations were Brownlee, Vanceville and Willow Chute, with flag stops at Gray's, Taylor, Honore and North Riverside. The Willow Chute depot was out on the plantation, where the Benton High School is now located. Brownlee and Vanceville acquired post offices.

The new town of Benton was an immediate success despite a delay until 1890 in getting its anticipated new court house. The Benton Road roadway would be relocated over to the east side of the Cotton Belt tracks and become Louisiana State Route 10 (now LA State Highway 3). "Old Benton" withered away and suffered an early demise.

A continuous system of levees had been built down through the length of Bossier Parish. This was to protect life and property against the flood waters from the river's vast upper water shed. Each Red River plantation owner was responsible for his own section of levee. The Benton Road levees had great pressure put on them at the tight bends of the peninsulas. The great flood of 1892 caused breaks in the Gold Point levee, sending water high over the Cotton Belt track and Benton Road. If the breach at that location became general, a great diversion of water would travel down the back land and bayous and would not be able to pass through the already full swamps, bayous and swollen Lake Bistineau to get back into the river. There was a fear that it would back up out of the lake and – held in by the "hills" – would flood the entire Red River valley to as far up as Benton. The levee was saved, but Gold Point and some of the plantations below it were flooded. South of Bossier City, Mr. W. P. Belcher did not attempt to heighten his levee soon enough and a major break at his plantation caused the inundation of several plantations below his. These disasters prompted the creation of the parish levee boards, appointed by the governor, to standardize the reliability of the levees.

Larry Vance Hunt (the writer's mother-in-law) was born in October 1908 to William Calvin Jr. and Mary Arnold Vance. She said that before she was born the levee on her parents' North Riverside Plantation was threatened by the 1908 Red River flood. She was told that every available hand on the road and hundreds of mules were assembled to try to save the levee and their house. The men were apprehensive about the levee giving way, but would not leave as long as her mother and the other women stayed to provide food, water and other assistance to the crews. The levee was held for the time and the house was disassembled and rebuilt farther back. The levee had to be set back as well and about one-hundred acres of the plantation land was surrendered to the river. (This would later become the R. C. Atkins home at their large pecan orchard on Benton Road, torn down a few years ago for the widening of Benton Road.)

The Carmouche home also had to be moved back from the river and Mary Cane's fine old home was torn down prior to the site going off into the river. This was not uncommon. Red River planter and ex-Confederate cavalry officer John M. Arnold (son-in-law of John Brownlee and the father of Mary Arnold Vance) told Bossier historian J. T. Manry in 1928 of cemeteries along the river that were lost to its encroachment. Mr. Manry unfortunately did not elaborate, but one is said to have been the little Elysian Grove family cemetery where Mary Cane's first two husbands, William Bennett and James Cane, were buried.

The Red River plantations along the southern half of Benton Road underwent transformation, simplified here in this brief history of the road. Henry Marshall died in 1864 with the Bossier Parish part of his estate largely intact. At his succession sale after the war, Samuel Hollingsworth purchased 2,445 acres of the estate and Isaac A. Dillard and J. N. Howell bought the remaining 1,758. These tracts now comprise a major part of the municipality of Bossier City. The Hollingsworth plantation would later be partitioned into three "lots" of 790 acres each. Daughter Amanda, wife of Dr. R. A. Gray, received the middle Lot No. 2. Lillian Hollingsworth, a niece married to Lieutenant Governor Thomas C. Barret, would buy out the heirs to the topmost Lot No. 1. The bottom lot bordering the Dillard plantation was sold by its heirs to the big cotton planter and ginner, S. J. Harman. The Dillard land was also fragmented, and would be the first to be enveloped by the business and residential expansion of Bossier City. The Cane and other properties at the bottom of the road were earlier incorporated into the heart of the village, and then town.

To the north, still in Township 18, Thomas Meriwether Gilmer assembled another of his Benton Road river plantations. This was the 1,140-acre "Tom Gilmer Place" on the upper boundary of the Hollingsworth land. Yet another of his properties was the muddled claim to General Phil Thomas' peninsula warrant. George Poindexter's widow in Mississippi substantiated her husband's sale of this tract to Thomas Gilmer. Poindexter's partner, Felix Huston, sold the same 644 acres to Christopher Ford. John T. Jeter obtained the property from Ford's widow. He in turn mortgaged it to Henry A. Jones – a mortgage that would not be paid off fully. A 127-acre parcel between Benton Road and Red River would come back into the estate of the widow Jeter. It was awarded to Jeter heirs Annie Jeter Carmouche and her brother John in 1878, upon conclusion of a litigation over the property (H. A. Jones vs. T. M and R. L. Gilmer).

Thomas Gilmer lost his "Gilmer Place" plantation to Patrick Cash and it became the "Cash Plantation." Cash added another 300 acres from the Brownlee lands. In 1906, the Cash heirs sold the 1,443-acre plantation to prominent planter, James H. Fullilove. In 1912, Fullilove sold it to Chicago hotel magnate and investor Honore Palmer. He and Potter Palmer, Jr., partnered on that property and bought Mrs. Barret's 760-acre Lot 1 (30 acres on the west side of Benton Road had gone into the river). Mrs. Gray had just sold her 790-acre Lot 2 to Mr. Harman, who had previously purchased Lot 3.

The Caddo-Bossier Land Company (A. C. Steere, president) bought the Palmer Plantation, less part of the Brownlee land, from the Palmer interests. Steere's investment company sold the 2,012-acre plantation to George T. Shaw, with a minority interest to Jessie E. Thomas, in 1919. Both Shaw and his brother-in-law Thomas were

residents of Homer in Claiborne Parish. The property came with a large mortgage to run until January 1, 1924. Shaw and his partner also bought Mrs. Gray's 790-acre Lot 2 from Harman. They soon purchased another approximately 350 acres from various landowners. This included Brownlee land and some of the old Carmouche and other peninsula property from Walter Colquitt.

George Shaw was a progressive farmer with an impressive fleet of tractors and other modern farming equipment. (It is said that he painted his some twenty Farmall tractors white so that he could easily tell if they were being kept clean.) In 1924, Shaw and Thomas remortgaged their plantation with Loy L. Beene of Haynesville in Claiborne Parish. The notes were to run for seven years. Farming was a precarious business with a range of hazards to include drought and other weather events, insects, low crop prices and downturns in the economy. In December 1929, with the onset of the Great Depression, Shaw was indebted to Beene in the amount of \$175,000. When the final note came due in 1932, Mr. Beene acquired the Shaw Plantation at sheriff's foreclosure sale (including its 12 Farmall tractors). The now Beene Plantation, under the entity "Beene Planting Company," was sold by Mr. Beene to the "Haynesville Mercantile Company." The Beene family had earlier incorporated under the capital stock company to manage their diverse mercantile, farm, oil and gas and other business interests. Sydney L. (S.L.) Beene was president and his brother Loy Beene was secretary-treasurer and then vice president. Loy had placed his Bossier Parish property under Haynesville Mercantile, "for convenience only." The company added more acreage, to include old Jeter and other Colquitt properties. The Beene Plantation contained parts of ten sections and some 3,300 acres. Although primarily a cotton farm, it had other crops, registered beef cattle and thoroughbred horses.

Typically many of the cotton farmers along Benton Road used interim financing to carry them through the picking season. "Uncle Dave" Roos of Shreveport provided this service to the Vances and others through the 1940's. Mr. Roos was frequently a pall bearer at their funerals. He used to say that he carried them while they were living and felt honored to do so after they had died. He predicted that Bossier City and Benton would someday grow together along Benton Road. In 1960, the "Airline Drive Extension Highway" was constructed from Bossier City up to the edge of Benton, and would compete for that growth.

The old cotton fields on the lower part of the Airline and Benton roads have gradually given way to development as Haynesville Mercantile sells off to developers and others. The migration of Bossier City northward has taken on the full range of urban growth to include residential subdivisions, apartment complexes, individual retail and shopping centers, medical facilities, churches, schools, etc.

Today virtually no cotton is seen on Benton Road. Agricultural practices have gone over to corn, soybeans and other row crops, hay, some pecans, and livestock. Uncle Dave Roos' prediction is edging closer to happening. People continue to abandon the cities for the ever increasing new subdivisions that are overtaking the old Benton Road (and Airline) river plantations.

Genealogy - Why You Should Get Involved In Your Family History

By: Gene Hall

Published: September 1, 2007

<http://www.populararticles.com/category449.html>

A few years ago I read a statistic that said that genealogy was the second largest hobby in the United States; second only to gardening. It was no surprise to me as I have been finding and documenting my family tree for almost 30 years. Over that time a lot of people have asked me, Why genealogy? What do you get out of it? There are a lot of reasons to find out about your family and I'll cover just a few hoping that one of them will get you started.

Curiosity: A lot of people are just plain curious about where they came from, what their ancestors did, how they got here to this time and this place. Lots of people find themselves in this category when they are told that they are adopted. While they have adoptive parents, traditions, and history, they also have another history that calls out to them. Other people have lost touch and are curious about where people are, how they turned out, who they married.

It's a Great Puzzle: This applies to me in several areas of my life besides genealogy. I have worked with numbers a lot particularly with market research. I just love understanding what motivates people to buy certain products, where they shop, how much they want to pay, and where they want to hear about those products. When my wife and I go camping I spend hours working crypto quotes in the sun fun and challenging puzzles that help me relax.

When it comes to puzzles, I don't think anything can match the complexity and fun of genealogy. Just think about a jigsaw puzzle that has an almost infinite number of pieces some of them that don't fit and some of them missing. Nothing can match the satisfaction I get from finding one of those lost pieces of the puzzle and putting it into place. These are puzzle pieces that lead to long-lost cousins and far-off places.

Hobby: I did a lot of market research before organizing FamilyTrackers, Inc. The company was started out of my belief that Internet searches could be much more accurate than those usually conducted on the Internet. Interestingly, there is a group of genealogists who resist a more accurate way to find information. They are not interested in any tools that make the job faster. That is the reason I do my family tree to fill up my time. Looking into page after page of results is the part I like about genealogy. It's my hobby, they said. Fortunately for me and for FamilyTrackers those who like the things I find most tedious are not a large portion of the market.

Leave a Legacy: Some people approach middle age or have a traumatic event

at any age that prompts them to think about their mortality. If I never meet my grandchildren, what will they know about me? What will they know about my parents? How will we be remembered? Those of us who are fortunate enough to have ancestors in this category are indeed lucky. My grandmother wrote a short story about her trip as a young girl in a covered wagon from Illinois to Kansas. Thinking about it now, it must have been a dusty, hot, and miserable trip. The events that she wrote about were ordinary, daily occurrences that were taken for granted in her time something that she wrote about because the trip was out of the ordinary. Read the same story today and discover something that is unique to our experience herding cattle, rustlers, camping out every night. *If you do nothing else with your family history, you should write down or record your life experiences in your own words in any way that you see fit.*

Emotional Satisfaction: This is a huge reason for being involved in genealogy and one that I hear repeated by other people as they talk excitedly about their latest discovery. There are moments that happen during a search that are touching and immensely satisfying. This is the moment that you look at your great grandfather's signature on your grandparent's marriage license; put your hand on the baptismal font where your oldest known ancestor was baptized; stand on the ground where your great grandfather from the old country is buried knowing that your grandmother stood on this spot in front of an open grave grieving her loss. These moments are thrilling, goose-bump producing moments of a lifetime when you can almost reach across time and touch a person who you finally understand and know. This is a moment you must not miss!

Give Something Back: Lots of people get involved when they volunteer at their local genealogical or historical society. What a wonderful place to meet nice people who are willing to help you discover your roots. These groups are responsible for saving crumbling records all over the world and for making the information available to everybody. People who work in these places are almost always unpaid and give their time and effort on behalf of people like you and me every single day people they have never even met. This is important work and you can get the satisfaction of helping other people by volunteering yourself. It is easy. Pick up the phone and call.

Whatever your reasons, give genealogy a try. It is a stimulating hobby that will put you in touch with yourself and with a lot of nice people who are ready and willing to help.

Gene Hall is a genealogist with almost 30 years of experience and the CEO of FamilyTrackers, Inc., a world-wide genealogy exchange dedicated to serving the needs of genealogists, genealogical societies, professional genealogists, and transcribers all over the world.

FamilyTrackers is located at <http://www.familytrackers.com/>

THE BALL-KIRKLAND BRICK WALL: USING INDIRECT EVIDENCE AND
Y- AND AUTOSOMAL-DNA RESULTS TO PROVE A RELATIONSHIP.

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FOREWORD

In 2006 the author began a series of independent research “phases” in support of Mr. Chuck Ball, presently of Erie, Colorado, who gives his permission to share the results. One objective was to identify the parents of Chuck’s great grandfather Samuel I. Ball. Sam last resided in Little River County, Arkansas, in the very early 1900’s, and he has eluded all researchers since. Chuck had actively enlisted others in the search for Samuel’s parents since 1991. By 2010 a reasonable theory was proposed based largely upon “indirect” evidence derived from genealogical and historical paper-trail research documentation. The totality was insufficient to support a proof argument. Then, in 2010–2012, suitable candidates in the theoretical family lines were located, and two subjects provided DNA test samples for comparison with Chuck and his father. The DNA results supported the paper-trail theory convincingly, and Sam’s mother was proved to be Elizabeth Kirkland of Henry County, Georgia, and Cass County, Texas. Sam’s biological father, however, did not carry the Ball surname, and the search for him continues.

The following notes and sub-themes were provided as supporting material to those who attended the Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association’s October 2013 Lecture in Shreveport. For those who did not have the opportunity to hear the program, the author plans to present the case study again at the 18th Annual Angelina College Genealogy Conference in Lufkin, Texas, July 2014.

ONE SOURCE PROVES NOTHING

Proof rests, instead, on “the sum of the evidence.”¹ When genealogists using the Genealogical Proof Standard aggregate evidence to establish an identity and prove a relationship, they detect one person in disparate sources and dismiss other people. Most people’s names, locations, and other details vary. Conversely, different people have similar names and characteristics. Assimilating and considering all relevant information while recognizing and dismissing irrelevant data may fall short of proof but perhaps yield a promising theory. Applying appropriate DNA tests to prove or disprove a theory is an option if a suitable set of surviving descendants have been or are willing to be tested.

DNA TEST RESULTS ALONE CANNOT PROVE THE IDENTITY OF A UNIQUE PERSON

Various types of affordable DNA testing, even those that identify a person’s risk for certain diseases (23andMe.com), cannot selectively identify a person uniquely from all other humans. They do, however, provide us results that we can compare with other tested humans. This helps us winnow the human universe to a more manageable subset of people. To help identify specific ancestors within the last, say, one thousand years, three types of DNA testing are available: Y-DNA for all-male lines; mitochondrial DNA for all-female lines, and for sons of each female in that line; and autosomal DNA for *all* ancestors to, currently,

¹ CG or Certified Genealogist are service marks of the Board for Certification of Genealogists, used under license by Board-certified associates after periodic competency evaluations, and the board name is registered in the US Patent & Trademark Office.

¹ Board for Certification of Genealogists, *The BCG Genealogical Standards Manual* (Orem, Utah: Ancestry, 2000), 11.

five or six generations.² Two basic *approaches* work but both require sound, traditional genealogical research to reach conclusions of proof.

THE BARNYARD APPROACH

DNA testing may immediately suggest previously unknown relations who descend from one or more shared ancestors. The testing service we use calls these “matches.” The first of the “Barnyard Approach’s” two parts is to find tested living descendants in the database of the testing service being used. In autosomal tests, for example, we may have hundreds of matches that suggest anywhere from close to distant relationships (distant meaning 4th or 5th cousins). In the worst case scenario, none of these may correlate with the lines of ascent we seek; thus, if a match does not exist with someone already in that testing service’s database (“barnyard”), we must either wait, hoping a future match occurs for the line of interest, or add ourselves to another testing service’s barnyard to expand the pool of candidates. One potential dilemma faces us: it may not be immediately clear who in the barnyard fits our specific line of interest. As a result, the approach has a second requirement: we must use—or, more realistically, develop—the genealogical research paper trails of selected matches to help positively identify the shared ancestor. Why “develop?” Do not be surprised if many persons in the barnyard have not developed or posted their own *properly researched* paper trails.

THE PAPER MILL APPROACH

This approach uses *targeted* DNA testing to confirm or reject paper-trail hypotheses and theories. The focus first depends upon a thoroughly researched paper trail, not just for the immediate line of interest but also for members of that line’s kinship group and FAN club, “FAN” being friends, associates, and neighbors. Essentially we do the “paper mill” processing up front, developing a credible theory or two. Second, we use the theory/theories to propose specific DNA tests that can help us to confirm or reject the same, or, if inconclusive, look for alternative theories that can be tested. Our success depends upon (a) a paper trail that leaves few stones unturned, and (b) being able to identify, contact, and test willing, living descendants that the milling process produces. We then correlate (or not) the actual DNA results with the DNA results expected from our theory or theories. It is important to mention that DNA tests can be intentionally adapted to test for positive or negative correlations (e.g., excluding all connections but one); and they can be cumulatively or sequentially designed, with one set of DNA tests building upon previous DNA test results.

CONDUCTING RESEARCH FOR OTHERS

I am grateful for clients who have labored diligently—in some cases for years—before asking for assistance. If someone asks you for help, always ask for copies of all original records that have been uncovered in their research which have any type of connection (direct or indirect) to the research problem. Even then be alert to the possibility that submitted information associated with one person may represent two or more persons of the same or similar name. I received information about Sam Ball of Little River County, Arkansas, only to discover later that two different Sam Balls of roughly similar ages were being described in the county.

Also ask for any oral family traditions, no matter how tenuous, as these may carry kernels of truth. Such may suggest a line of research not otherwise apparent from the submitted records.

² The genetics field and a small army of citizen scientists are working on techniques that might expand the present 5-6 generation limit to upwards of 12 generations.

RESOLVING MULTIPLE IDENTITIES

The case required resolving the identities of two persons within ten years of age using the name Sam Ball in Little River County, Arkansas; and two persons named Sam Ball of similar ages in Cass County, Texas, each having a brother named John J. Ball in Cass County, also of similar age. In each situation different types of information were used to resolve their identities. The Little River County Sams had a fundamental difference in their handwriting which suggested they were two persons, not one. Researching both men confirmed the initial theory. The two John J. Balls in Cass County, Texas, differed in their principle occupations and economic status, and they were uniquely defined by many records including vital, census, land, and tax records. The two Sam Balls in Cass County, Texas, were distinguished by their land ownership differences, economic status, and their migrations from the county, as suggested by real estate and poll tax records, and confirmed with subsequent research, including Rev. Samuel Lynch Ball's autobiographical manuscript written when he was fifty-five years old.

CENSUS ANALYSIS – MIXED TOPICS³

“In-Law” relationships should be used as clues versus hard facts. Using 21st century definitions of an in-law are too restrictive.⁴ Fannie Stevenson appears as a full sister, half-sister, and sister-in-law to her various half-brothers spanning the 1880-1940 federal censuses. Prospective parents' birthplaces may suggest whether (or not) the head of household or his spouse is the first person to investigate as a candidate for a blood relation to the “in-law.”

Overwritten entries should be closely examined. Use both entries if they are discernable. Try to estimate what situations might cause both entries.

- Sam's birthplace in the 1900 census shows what might be the initial letters of “Texas” overwritten by “Georgia.” Both were relevant in subsequent research.
- The entry of an underline serving as the equivalent of a ditto appeared for all of Elizabeth Stevenson's children's surnames in her 1880 U. S. census household. Why, then, did the enumerator overwrite the underline with the surname Stevenson for Fanny's entry, when her surname could be inferred from the original “ditto?”

Each irregular gap of time between children's births should trigger a search for the cause. Elizabeth Kirkland had several children spaced a few years apart between 1854 and 1860, then another son eight to twelve years later in the period 1868-1872, and lastly a daughter at least another seven to ten years later. Several reasons might explain the gaps, but the simplest starting hypothesis for her case is that the last two children had different biological fathers than the first group.

Recognize Fundamental and Valid Presumptions When Correlating Information

³ A favorite census reference is Kathleen Hinckley, *Your Guide to the Federal Census* (Cincinnati, Ohio: Betterway Books, 2002).

⁴ Milton Rubincam, *FASG, Pitfalls in Genealogical Research* (Salt Lake City: Ancestry Incorporated, 1987), particularly chapter 7 “Interpretation of Terms,” 37-44.

The BCG *Genealogical Standards Manual* identifies several presumptions that should be overtly recognized when correlating information.⁵ **Fundamental** presumptions are those that are “generally accepted as objectively true.” Of these the following played a major role:

- *People cannot be in more than one place simultaneously (and travel-time between places is consistent with the technology of the period).*
- *Everybody has one biological mother and one biological father.*
- *No matter how temporary or rudimentary, everybody lives in a physical place.*

The manual also states **valid** presumptions as “concepts that are generally accepted as true *unless convincingly contradicted*.” Some that applied in this case were:

- *A child is conceived when its mother is roughly twelve to forty-nine years old.*
- *A person’s behavior and life patterns are coherent.*
- *Information in public and church records, contemporaneous family-Bible entries, and sworn court testimony is usually reliable.*

Kinship Groups in the South

When the research trail of our target ancestor runs cold, consider researching his/her friends, associates, and neighbors. In the antebellum South, these typically formed informal kinship groups, tied together by a mixture of blood and legal ties. Ethnicity and religious factors also strengthened bonds.⁶ When migrations occurred, whether by single mass movement or through a push-pull migration over time, a kinship group offers research candidates to pursue when the primary targets prove elusive. This case revealed a push-pull migration of an extended kinship group from Henry/Clayton County, Georgia, to Cass County, Texas, beginning before the Civil War, and resuming during post-war reconstruction.

HANDWRITING IDENTIFICATION

A genealogist who becomes familiar with the basic concepts and principles used by a forensic document examiner (FDE) adds a powerful capability to her/his research toolbox. Such genealogist is better equipped to analyze and correlate available writings with potential authors, to determine whether a conclusion as to authorship is possible, to qualify her /his conclusions, and to defer certain decisions to credentialed examiners.⁷ Handwriting identification in this case study helped suggest that despite many similarities in handwriting, two men named Sam Ball lived in Little River County in the 1890s.

⁵ Board of Certification of Genealogists, *The BCG Genealogical Standards Manual* (Orem, Utah: Ancestry, 2000), 11.

⁶ Carolyn Earle Billingsley, Ph.D, CG, *Communities of Kinship, Antebellum Families and the Settlement of the Cotton Frontier* (Athens Georgia: University of Georgia Press, 2004).

⁷ A variety of references are useful to genealogists: Roy A. Huber and A. M. Headrick, *Handwriting Identification: Facts and Fundamentals* (New York: CRC Press, 1999), 33-57, 81-139, 196-221, 227-243. Ron N. Morris, *Forensic Handwriting Identification: Fundamental concepts and principles* (New York: Academic Press, 2000), particularly 37-118. Katherine M. Koppenhaver, *Attorney’s Guide to Document Examination* (Westport, Connecticut: Quorum Books, 2002), particularly 65-91.

To support handwriting identification, original records should be sought at all times, regardless of the quality or provenance of its recorded equivalent. Forensic document examination in many ways “mirrors” the discipline invoked by the first three (of five) tenets of the Genealogical Proof Standard.⁸

1. Conduct a reasonably exhaustive search for known handwriting samples for comparison with the *questioned* handwriting. One Sam Ball of Little River County left seven signatures in a U. S. Homestead Land Entry File held by NARA, under the name of Albert N. Ball. The other Sam Ball gave his signature in three separate instances on marriage bonds in Ashdown: for a future brother-in-law, a census neighbor, and himself.
2. Completely cite the samples’ sources, including discussions as to provenance and factors that might have influenced the conditions under which the samples were created.
3. Analyze and correlate collected samples to
 - a. Determine the natural variation of the writer of the known samples.
 - b. Determine the likelihood that the writer of the known samples authored or did not author each questioned signature or writing.

Exercise great caution in comparing small signature sample sets. There is no such thing as a “match” between two signatures—the expected terminology for such a finding by a credentialed forensic document examiner is “forgery.”

⁸ The Board for Certification of Genealogists, *The BCG Genealogical Standards Manual* (Orem, Utah: Ancestry Publishing, 2000), 1.

PERIODICAL EXCHANGE REVIEW

Compiled by Glenda Efferson Bernard

The Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association is part of an exchange program with other genealogical societies across the nation. The idea is to obtain newsletters and bulletins from these various societies in exchange for a copy of this association's publication, "The Genie." This very successful endeavor benefits genealogists who visit the Broadmoor Branch of the Shreve Memorial Library in Shreveport, Louisiana. The items discussed in this article, along with many others, are found on a rotating magazine rack to one's right upon entering the Genealogy Department.

The purpose of this article is to acquaint the reader with several publications which may be of interest in research. Generally speaking, one can find more data about the person of interest if research is covered in his locale before searching nationwide. For example, regional articles may provide an early church roster with just the name needed while a magazine showcased to reach statewide readers may not include such detail.

Numerous exchange copies have been deposited recently into the library's collection. Some interesting ones include:

Oregon Genealogical Society Journal, Lane County, Volume 51 Number 2, Fall 2013, 52 pages is nicely organized. A detailed article appears in this issue about locating a surname in "Gieber, Sieber, Siever, or Sever: The Search for a Surname." The author, Regina Frey, wrote a follow-up article to this essay entitled "Steps to Resolve a Surname." Three articles in this volume highlight the life of a long-time member, Grace Romig Runyan. Several other locally oriented personalities are described in biographies such as Edwin Paul Sawyer, 1891-1928, "Gabriel Walling and Joseph Lane," and Emma Bliss and Ruben Wood in "Bliss and Wood Families of Chitwood, Oregon."

Yell County Historical and Genealogical Association Bulletin, is published by the association, Volume 38, No. 2, 2013 (Arkansas), and contains 48 pages. This is always a delightful bulletin. Several family lines are presented: the Pfeifer family in "A Proud Heritage, Little Czechoslovakia in Dardanelle," "Descendants of L. Hall Pound," with photographs, as well as a list of burials in the Pound Cemetery, Yell County, AR are included. "Descendants of James E. Campbell" close out the volume as a basic family tree with names and dates listed.

Plum Creek Almanac, Caldwell County, Texas, is published by The Genealogical and Historical Society of Caldwell County, Volume 31, No. 1 Spring 2013, 96 pages. This is a huge publication which expresses great interest in the history of this area in smaller articles of a number of

families...Thomas Ellison, Jonathan and Celia Ellison, James Oscar Lipscomb and one of his sons, Elisha E. Lipscomb, (included is "A Civil War Letter" written by Elisha E. Lipscomb to his wife, Catherine Frances), William and Nancy Burnett, Thomas Benton Coopwood as well as "The Gilliland Family in Caldwell County." "First Houses Built in Prairie Lea" and "Maritime Trade in Texas Cattle" are two very interesting commentaries of general interest to the area. Numerous pages detail "Caldwell County Obituaries from Early Texas Newspapers" along with various "Caldwell County Confederate Pension Applications." Prior to a lengthy index one would find "Minutes Accounts Allowed by County Commissioner Caldwell County Beginning at the February Term, 1888."

The Carroll County Genealogical Quarterly, Fall 2013, is published by the Carroll County, Georgia, Genealogical Society and is 26 pages in length. An "Abstract of Carroll County (Georgia) Register" is the first article in this little publication from a four-page newspaper printed in 1876. Also abstracted is "1854 Carroll County Tax Digest" and "1938 District School Accounts, 1938 Digest." An interesting 2 ½ page article "Educational History in the Twentieth Century, Part 2" is included which centers on activities in the county in the early twentieth century.

Footprints Quarterly Journal, August, 2013, Volume 56, No. 3, is published by the Fort Worth Genealogical Society and is 43 pages long. After an interesting article on Cleaves Rhea, founder of GEICO (Government Employees Insurance Company) and the early beginnings of this company and the popular television gecko personality, this journal prints several "nuts and bolts" articles. The first is "Tarrant County, Texas Marriage Book 6" and the second, "Benbrook and Howard Cemeteries Tarrant County, Texas." J. Frank Elliston is accented in a biographical sketch which is spotlighted in "Civil War Veterans of Northeast Tarrant County."

Oklahoma Genealogical Society Quarterly, Volume 58, Number 3, September 2013, is published by the society and contains about 50 pages. There is much news of this society and its' programs, a calendar of events, and a very interesting addition: obituaries of former Oklahomans who died in CA and were sent to the Oklahoma Genealogical Society from Orange County Genealogical Society in California. A number of pages are devoted to an abstract from the "List of Personal Property in the Township of Marshall in Garfield County, Oklahoma Territory, 1902." The society sponsors a story writing contest and the quarterly closes with information about this idea.

Tree Talk, Volume 38, Issue 4, Summer 2013, 50 pages, is published by the Cherokee County Genealogical Society of Jacksonville, Texas. This entire volume is devoted to various contributions entitled "Random Recollections by Hattie Nicholson Schultz" and is a continuation from *Tree Talk*, v. 38, Issue 3.

Cass County Connections, Spring-Summer, Volume 39, Number 1, is 55 pages in length and is packed with interesting articles. One of the most fascinating, "Folk Houses in Early East Texas," discusses types of Cass County houses found in eastern Texas by early pioneers. An explanation of the houses is followed by line drawings of each of the types of houses. The one room log house, the saddlebag house, Cumberland house, and dog trot house are all explained and illustrated. Several pages of land grants from Cass County as well as a listing of delayed births from Cass County are included. Rounding out this publication is a rather long genealogy, "Descendants of Elijah Hardin," with notes included.

The Tree Tracers, Volume 37, Number 4, Jun 2013-Aug 2013, about 55 pages is published by Southwest Oklahoma Genealogical Society. This particular issue transcribes a variety of newspaper articles from "The Lawton News-Republican," "Centennial Sketches," which are excerpts from "A History of the State of Oklahoma," as well as some "Harmon County Marriages," "Some Caddo County Deaths," and "Comanche County Marriage Records."

Our Heritage, published by the San Antonio Genealogical and Historical Society, Volume 54, Numbers 3 & 4, Spring and Summer 2013, 95 pages, is a substantial publication. Its first article is well documented and a good read for anyone interested in genealogy. "New England Ancestors of a San Antonio Family" includes copies of original memos, photographs and 30 extensive endnotes of the life and times of William H. Ford. "Researching Bexar County Probate Records" would be an excellent help to anyone who may be researching that county with elaborate detail of explanation with endnotes and bibliography. "David T. Reynolds First Lieutenant, C.S.A. (1839-1862)" is a great mini-biography with similar sources given. Phenomenal photographs are a part of the article "Civil War Treasures of Emerett Nicholson" with 32 endnotes on this article alone. The last article is a very long scan, "Bexar County Index of Civil Minutes 1837-1875: Plaintiff's "M" Index."

Le Raconteur, Volume XXXIII, No. 3, September 2013, 78 pages, is published by Le Comite des Archives de la Louisiane, Inc. This premier publication begins this issue with an outstanding submission by Margie Luke entitled "William Hull's Letters from St. Mary Parish to His Family in Michigan, 1842-1845." This delightful group of letters highlights the St Mary Parish area in the mid-19th century. Another interesting abstract, "Deaths in Baton Rouge in 1853, The Year of the Great Yellow Fever Epidemic," not only lists those who died but also captures some descriptions of the people as to their occupations, cause of death or place of residence. Another extensive addition is "Extracts from the *St. Martin Banner*, St Martinville, St. Martin Parish, 1907-1939." This continuation article is quite lengthy and includes many surnames. The last article, "Indian Census and Annuity Rolls and other Records Relating to Individual Tribal Members at the National Archives at Fort Worth," breaks down Indian tribes into dates and titles of microfilm on these tribes available at

this branch of the National Archives. Quite a resource for researchers needing Native American resources all in one facility!

Kinfolks, Volume 37, No. 3, September 2013, published by the Southwest Louisiana Genealogical Society, Inc., is 37 pages long. A very helpful feature in this bulletin helps one maneuver through the chroniclingamerica.loc.gov website, "Searching for Past Lives: DLNP and Chronicling America in Genealogical Research." The authors, Laura Charney and Gina Costello, explain how to find particular information especially located in the section devoted to digitized newspapers. Various shorter family stories are related regarding M. Newton, the Duson brothers and the LaBove families along with an excellent reprinted article by William Dollarhide involving quit claim deeds and deed recovery.

New Genealogy Books

**Shreve Memorial Library, Broadmoor Branch, Genealogy Department
1212 Captain Shreve Drive, Shreveport, Louisiana 71105
Phone: (318) 869-0120**

Submitted by Peggy Suzanne LaCour

[Note: A recent listing compiled in the Genealogy Department includes 130 new genealogy books! These additions to the library feature references, military, specific ethnic groups including African American, Native American, Jewish, & Norwegian. You will also find a wide variety of states and counties represented.]

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NEW JERUSALEM MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH CEMETERY

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THIS CEMETERY IS BEHIND THE NEW JERUSALEM MISSIONARY
BAPTIST CHURCH, 4585 GAINES AVENUE, BASTROP, LOUISIANA

ID	NAME (Last, First, Middle)	PRE/SUFFIX	BIRTHDATE	DEATHDATE	INSCRIPTION/NOTES
23	ASHTON, BEN			JUL 1984	OBITUARY, BASTROP (LA) ENTERPRISE DTD 20 JUL 1984
33	BROWN, GLÓRIA BENNETTE	MRS.	23 MAR 1954	17 SEP 2000	FP: PARENTS-M/M JEANETTE AND JEFF JIMMERSON
3	BRYANT, JANIE (ANN)		1932	01 DEC 1989	OBITUARY, BASTROP (LA) ENTERPRISE DTD 04 DEC 1989
9	BYES, ALFRED		15 JAN 1920	17 FEB 1984	FRIEND
11	CAMPBELL, WILLIE		06 MAY 1913	24 MAR 1994	OBITUARY, BASTROP (LA) ENTERPRISE DTD 01 APR 1994
18	DOBBINS, AUGUSTA			08 MAR 1979	OBITUARY, BASTROP (LA) ENTERPRISE DTD 13 MAR 1979
30	FORD, BEATRICE	MRS.		09 JUN 1988	OBITUARY, BASTROP (LA) ENTERPRISE DTD 18 JUN 1988
15	HARPER, EDDIE		22 SEP 1875	26 AUG 1979	FP: PARENTS-MR. & MRS. MARY AND SAMUEL HARPER
4	HODGES, ETHEL W.		06 NOV 1902	08 OCT 1981	OBITUARY, BASTROP (LA) ENTERPRISE DTD 12 OCT 1981
29	HOLLOWAY, ANNIE	MRS.		10 JUL 1990	OBITUARY, BASTROP (LA) ENTERPRISE DTD 13 JUL 1990
1	HUNTER, CLAINA (BURLEY)	MRS.	13 JAN 1908	15 MAR 2001	OBITUARY, BASTROP (LA) ENTERPRISE DTD 21 MAR 2001
2	HUNTER, GLASPER B.		06 AUG 1900	31 JUL 1984	OBITUARY, BASTROP (LA) ENTERPRISE DTD 3 AUG 1984
22	JACKSON, JOHN (PEE-WEE)		20 MAR 1926	19 OCT 1984	OBITUARY, BASTROP (LA) ENTERPRISE DTD 24 OCT 1984
21	JIMMERSON, LUELLA FAYE			15 MAR 1985	OBITUARY, BASTROP (LA) ENTERPRISE DTD 20 MAR 1985
17	JOHNSON, CHARLIE			OCT 1982	OBITUARY, BASTROP (LA) ENTERPRISE DTD 29 OCT 1982
25	JONES, FRANK			13 JUL 1977	OBITUARY, BASTROP (LA) ENTERPRISE DTD 16 JUL 1977
14	LOVE, JOHN HENRY		1893	16 JUL 1995	VAULT IS ONLY BURIAL ON CHURCH'S FRONT LAWN
27	LOVE, WILLIAM "BOGGIE"			29 OCT 1988	OBITUARY, BASTROP (LA) ENTERPRISE DTD 01 NOV 1988
28	MACK, REVELL			03 JAN 1998	OBITUARY, NEWS-STAR (MONROE, LA) DTD 08 JAN 1998
32	MARTIN, LUE RENDIA SMITH	MRS.		21 DEC 1975	OBITUARY, BASTROP (LA) ENTERPRISE DTD 24 DEC 1975
24	MATTHEWS, URIAL			12 DEC 1977	OBITUARY, BASTROP (LA) ENTERPRISE DTD 16 DEC 1977
10	MOSS, ALBERTA WARD		23 JUN 1924	26 JAN 1976	OBITUARY, BASTROP (LA) ENTERP. DTD 27 JAN 1976
20	PEOPLES, FANNIE	MRS.		DEC 1983	OBITUARY, BASTROP (LA) ENTERPRISE DTD 06 DEC 1983
8	ROSS, MERTIS	MRS.	20 JAN 1935	05 AUG 2000	OBITUARY, BASTROP (LA) ENTERPRISE DTD 11 AUG 2000
12	SAMPSON, PATTY ELJAH		17 MAR 1901	27 DEC 1998	BELOVED MOTHER AND GRANDMOTHER
26	THOMPSON, MATTIE FREELAND			MAR 2002	OBITUARY, BASTROP (LA) ENTERPRISE DTD 13 MAR 2002
34	WHEELER, JURLINE			02 JUL 1972	OBITUARY, BASTROP (LA) ENTERPRISE DTD 05 JUL 1972
16	WILLIAMS, AGNÉS	MRS.		2002	OBITUARY, BASTROP (LA) ENTERPRISE DTD 20 DEC 2002

NEW JERUSALEM MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH CEMETERY

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BAPTIST CHURCH, 4585 GAINES AVENUE, BASTROP, LOUISIANA

ID	NAME (Last, First, Middle)	PRE/SUFFIX	BIRTHDATE	DEATHDATE	INSCRIPTION/NOTES
19	WILLIAMS, ANNIE M. S.	MRS.		25 JUN 1985	OBITUARY, BASTROP (LA) ENTERPRISE DTD 02 JUL 1985
6	WILLIAMS, BRYANT		04 OCT 1980	09 FEB 1996	OBITUARY, BASTROP (LA) ENTERPRISE DTD 15 FEB 1996
7	WILLIAMS, EDDIE LEE		14 NOV 1956	09 JUL 2002	FUNERAL HOME METAL MARKER
31	WILLIAMS, EDDIE LEE			01 JAN 1998	OBITUARY, BASTROP (LA) ENTERPRISE DTD 09 JAN 1998
5	WILLIAMS, ISAAC W.	REV.	03 AUG 1913	01 JAN 1983	OBITUARY, BASTROP (LA) ENTERPRISE DTD 6 JAN 1983
13	WORMLEY, JO CARRIE		14 JUL 1918	15 AUG 1999	OBITUARY, BASTROP (LA) ENTERPRISE DTD 24 AUG 1999



NEW JERUSALEM MISSIONARY
BAPTIST CHURCH
4585 GAINES ROAD
BASTROP, LOUISIANA

NEW JERUSALEM M. B. C.
ORGANIZED 1948 IN THE HOME
OF
BRO. LEE TAPE
REV. ISAAC WILLIAMS, PASTOR
REV. T. WHITFIELD
SIS. A. M. WILLIAMS
SIS. S. TAPE
BRO. L. TAPE
BRO. G. HUNTER, CHM OF BD
DEACON A. WILLIAMS

M. W. TRINITY GRAND LODGE
J. ODOM G. M.
A. F. & A. M. OF LA.
A. L. 5979 A. D. 1979

CORNERSTONE

ISSAC WILLIAMS

"The REV. ISSAC WILLIAMS, 69, died Saturday, January 1, at the Morehouse General Hospital following a lengthy illness.

"Funeral services will be held Saturday, January 6, 2:00 p.m., at the St. John Baptist Church on West Madison with Rev. Perkins officiating.

"Burial will be in the New Jerusalem Baptist Church on the Carbon Plant Road under the direction of Morehouse Funeral Home.

"Survivors include his wife, Annie Mae Williams of Bastrop; one son, Ricky Simpson of Bastrop; one daughter, Brenda White of North Carolina; one brother, Leon Williams of Bastrop; one sister, Fannie People of Bastrop; and a host of other relatives.

"Quiet hour will be Friday, January 7, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Chapel of Morehouse Funeral Home."

Source: Obituary of Rev. Issac Williams, *Bastrop Daily Enterprise*, 119 East Hickory Avenue, Bastrop, Louisiana, dated January 6, 1983. [NJ 5]

NEW JERUSALEM MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH CEMETERY

AUGUSTA DOBBINS

"Funeral services for MRS. AUGUSTA DOBBINS, 94, will be held Wednesday, March 14, at 1 p.m. at the New Jerusalem Baptist Church with the Rev. Isaac Williams officiating.

"Burial will follow in the New Jerusalem Cemetery under the direction of Loche's Mortuary.

"Mrs. Dobbins died Thursday, March 8, in the Morehouse General Hospital following a lengthy illness.

"Survivors include two daughters: Mrs. Mary Powell of Dumas, Ark.; and Mrs. Alberta Smith of Bastrop; six grandchildren, 41 great grandchildren; 57 great-great grandchildren and a number of other relatives."

Source: Obituary of Augusta Dobbins, *Bastrop Daily Enterprise*, 119 East Hickory Avenue, Bastrop, Louisiana, dated March 13, 1979. [NJ 18]

EDDIE HARPER

"BROTHER EDDIE HARPER was born September 22, 1875 to the late Mr. Samuel and Mrs. Mary Harper in Collinston, Louisiana.

"He was converted at an early age and united with the Williams Chapel C.M.E. Church of Collinston, Louisiana, under the leadership of Reverend Jackson. Later he moved to Bastrop, Louisiana, and united with the New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of Reverend Isaac Williams, where his membership remained until he departed his life August 26, 1979, in the Morehouse General Hospital, 9:30 P.M.

"Brother Harper was united in wedlock with Miss Theresa Moore in the year 1918. To this union four (4) sons were born. Later he was married to

Mrs. Janice Owens who preceded him in death.

"Survivors are: Johnny Harper of Jamaica, New York; Edward Harper, Jr., of Bastrop, Louisiana; Andrew and Samuel Harper of Gary, Indiana; twenty (20) grandchildren; thirty-three (33) great-grandchildren; two nephews, and one niece, and a host of friends."

Source: "Funeral Services for Brother Eddie Harper" dated September 1, 1979, in possession of Mrs. Isabelle Woods, 2016 Surrey Lane, Bossier City, Louisiana. [NJ 15]

ETHEL W. HODGE

"MRS. ETHEL WILLIAMS HODGE, 78, died Thursday, October 8, at 7:45 p.m. at Morehouse General Hospital after a lengthy illness. She was a lifelong resident of Morehouse Parish.

"Services will be held Tuesday, October 13, at 1:00 p.m. at St. Timothy Missionary Baptist

Church with the Rev. Frederick Perkins officiating.

"Burial will follow in the New Jerusalem Cemetery in Bastrop under the direction of Montgomery Funeral Home.

"Survivors include her husband, Richard Hodge of Bastrop; one son, Obbie Averitt of Ashbury Park, N. J.; one daughter, Leona Averitt Cross of Seattle, Wash.; one step-daughter, Lucy Mae Griffin of Chicago, Ill.; one sister, Mrs. Fannie Williams Peoples and two brothers: Leon and Issac Williams, all of Bastrop; five grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.

"Pallbearers will be her son, Mr. Obbie Averitt and grandsons: Dwight, Michael, and Winford Averitt."

Source: Obituary of Mrs. Ethel W. Hodge, *Bastrop Daily Enterprise*, 119 East Hickory Avenue, Bastrop, Louisiana, dated October 12, 1981. [NJ 4]



FRANK JONES

"Funeral services for FRANK JONES, 73, of Little Rock, Ark., will be held Monday at 1 p.m. at New Jerusalem Church with the Rev. Issac Williams officiating.

"Mr. Jones died Wednesday, July 13, at Hillview Nursing Home, following a lengthy illness.

"Survivors include one daughter, Francis Connors of Cleveland, Ohio; one sister, Mrs. Dora Hill of Bastrop; a niece, Mrs. Levern Hollins of Bastrop; and a number of nieces and nephews.

"Interment will follow in the church cemetery with Loche's Mortuary in charge of the arrangements."

Source: Obituary of Frank Jones, *Bastrop Daily Enterprise*, 119 East Hickory Avenue, Bastrop, Louisiana, dated July 16, 1977. [NJ 25]

LUERENDIA SMITH MARTIN

"MRS. LUERENDIA SMITH

MARTIN, age 71, died Sunday, December 21, at 6:30 a.m. at Morehouse General Hospital following a lengthy illness.

"Funeral services will be held Saturday at New Jerusalem at 12 noon with the Rev. Issac Williams officiating.

"Interment will follow in the church cemetery under the direction of Morehouse Funeral Home.

"Mrs. Martin had resided in Bastrop 31 years.

"Survivors include her husband, David Martin of Pine Bluff, Ark.; one son, David Martin, Jr., of Monroe; three daughters: Mrs. Delilah Bailey, Mrs. Beatrice Cranford and Mrs. Estella Brandon, all of Bastrop; her mother, Mrs. Augusta Dobbins of Bastrop; two sisters: Mrs. Mary Powell of Dumas, Ark.; and Miss Alberta Smith of Bastrop, 30 grandchildren, 34 great grandchildren, one niece and one nephew."

Source: Obituary of LueRendia Martin, *Bastrop Daily Enterprise*, 119 East Hickory Avenue, Bastrop, Louisiana, dated December 24, 1975, Page 14A, Column 2. [NJ 32]

URIAL MATTHEWS

"Funeral services for URIAL MATTHEWS will be held at 1 p.m., Saturday, at the New Jerusalem Church.

"Interment will be held at the church cemetery under the direction of Loche's Mortuary.

"Mr. Matthews died Monday at E.A. Conway Hospital in Monroe.

"Survivors include two sisters: Mrs. Florida Henderson and Mrs. Lucious Clay, both of Mer Rouge; one daughter, Florence Matthews of Bastrop; three sons: Urial Matthews, Jr., of Bastrop; Leo Matthews and Earl Matthews of California."

Source: Obituary of Urial Matthews, *Bastrop Daily Enterprise*, 119 East Hickory Avenue, Bastrop, Louisiana, dated December 16, 1977.

ALBERTA WARD MOSS

"MRS. ALBERTA WARD MOSS succumbed Monday, January 26, at 1:30 a.m. at Morehouse General Hospital following a lengthy illness.

"Funeral services (for MRS. ALBERTA WARD MOSS) will be held Sunday at 2 p.m. at New Jerusalem Baptist Church with the Reverend Isaac Williams officiating. Arrangements will be under the direction of Loche's Mortuary.

"A native of Oak Ridge, Mrs. Moss has resided in Morehouse Parish all of her life. She lived at 424 Guice St. at the time of her death. She was an employee of the Morehouse Parish School Board.

"Survivors include her husband, Gabe Ned Moss; six daughters: Mrs. Irma Armstrong, Mrs. Laura Cleveland, Mrs. Lois Rogers, Mrs. Melba Woods and Miss Rosie Moss, all of Bastrop; and Miss Millie Moss of Las Vegas, Nev.; 19 grandchildren; two brothers: Joe and Tonny Ward, both of Bastrop; her mother-in-law, Mrs. Laura Moss; an aunt and uncle, Robert Percy and Mrs. Minnie Myers, Bastrop."

Source: Obituary of Mrs. Alberta Moss; (photo), *Bastrop Daily Enterprise*, 119 East Hickory Avenue, Bastrop, Louisiana, dated January 27, 1976, Page 8, Column 3. [NJ 10]

Rocky Mount - A Small Crossroads Community in Bossier Parish

Submitted by Jim Johnson

The following newspaper article from the May 1, 1985 issue of the Bossier Press-Tribune was found in a vertical file at the Bossier Historical Center and describes the early beginnings of this small rural community in north Bossier Parish and a historic resolution declared there following the 1860 presidential election.

Rocky Mount is a small place located in the hills above Benton, roughly mid-way between the Bossier Parish Seat and Plain Dealing. According to an issue of *The Bossier Banner*, dated May 23, 1895, "The first settler of Rocky Mount was Mr. William Young, who came here in 1849, and built some cabins on the branch north of Rocky Mount. Mr. Eldridge Singleton built in 1853 or 1854 near the old fig tree in Dr. Irion's orchard" The account goes on to say that Singleton sold out to two gentlemen by the name of Keyser, "who put up a store." This is how the settlement obtained its original name of Keyserville. Upon the death of one of the Keyser, "the store and the land was sold to Mr. Noah Phillips, who built a dwelling house across the road." It was Phillips who renamed the community, Rocky Mount, "on account of its situation." This undoubtedly refers to the town's elevation and the abundance of red, rocky clay that may be found there.

"The first post office was established in 1855. In this year the first school house was built, which was afterwards burned," the *Banner* continued. "The first teacher at Rocky Mount was Mr. Wm. Robertson, nephew of Mr. J. W. Martin, who was one of the old citizens."

The nineteenth century historical perspective concluded, "The Hughs, Leaphearts, and Capt. Fish's family were the leading families of Rocky Mount. Most of the old settlers have passed away and sleep in the Rocky Mount Cemetery."

Rocky Mount has been a small place as long as Parnell Jones can remember. Jones, principal at Rocky Mount Elementary School, is a lifelong resident "I was raised right across the road," he reflected from his office. According to Jones, Rocky Mount is not an incorporated town, just a quiet community. "Between the two signs we have a school, two churches, the store....and that'd be about it."

Rocky Mount Elementary handles grades kindergarten through sixth, and boasts a modest enrollment of 81. Jones said that Rocky Mount used to have a high school, but the kids now go to either Plain Dealing or Benton High. All this adds up to a population of the area being approximated at 100. "There are a few people moving in," Jones said. "But the population generally remains constant."

Murray Ford has been a Rocky Mount resident for nearly 80 years, "I've been right here, on this place, since 1907. Ford said that there were a "good many" people in the area prior to the railroad's trek into north Bossier parish. There were several stores, two sawmills and a blacksmith shop. But when the railroad was laid from the north down to Bossier City and

beyond, it missed Rocky Mount. The nearest crossing was five miles away. And that was where local business migrated to. "When the railroad missed it, it just kinda went down," Ford recalled.

Rocky Mount's claim to historical fame, however, does not come from its off-center relation to the path of the railroad, nor from its elevation or red, rocky soil. Rocky Mount, Louisiana a small, rural out of the way place, was the site of one of the first sparks of a conflict that became...The War Between the States.

"The Birthplace of Secession" - This infamous honor is still proclaimed on a faded, weather-worn sign in the center of Rocky Mount. "The birthplace of Secession, Nov. 26, 1860"

In the presidential election of 1860, Stephen Douglas was the candidate of the Democratic Party. He had, however, little party support in the North and none in the South. Another convention was held. The seceding states nominated John C. Breckinridge whose platform was reflective of and sympathetic to Southern traditions and attitudes. A Breckinridge bar-be-que was held at Rocky Mount in October. It was reported to have been a large, well attended rally that essentially ended the presidential campaign in Bossier Parish. When the November 5 ballots were counted, Breckinridge had easily carried the parish. But word came from the North that Abraham Lincoln, a Republican, had been elected president.

On November 26, a meeting was held at the Hughes home in Rocky Mount. Drastic Action was imminent. A resolution was adopted and was published in *The Bossier Banner* on November 30, 1860: "Whereas, we are in the midst of a revolution, and as it is necessary for the honor of the State of Louisiana and the protection of the interests of her citizens to form military companies, we, the undersigned do hereby form ourselves into a Military Minute Rifle Company to be called the Minute Men of Bossier Parish and adopt the following resolution: That we pledge our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor, to sustain the rights of the State of Louisiana against the aggressions of the Black Republicans."

This was, reportedly the first act of secession to take place anywhere in the South; a month before the state of South Carolina seceded and five months before the firing on Fort Sumter. Kathryn Myrick, of Northeast Louisiana University, in an article prepared for *Civil War Times Illustrated*, said, "The significance of the November 26, 1860, meeting at Rocky Mount is perhaps more evident to observers today than to the actual participants in 1860. It was certainly Louisiana's first step toward the Confederacy and one of the first steps to be taken anywhere in the South. It has been described as "the sunrise of the Confederacy" and aptly so.

Bryson, Tom. "Rocky Mount: A small quiet cradle of American history." *Bossier Press-Tribune* 1 May 1985: B 1. Print

Common Problems

“African American Genealogist Faces”

<http://www.caagri.org/commonproblems.html>

From The Center for African American Genealogical Research, Inc.

There should be no confusion: the African American genealogist faces a number of challenges that other ethnic groups do not. This is a direct result of slavery. We know that slavery destroyed the African family in such a way that 140 years later, over 1.4 million of us are looking online for answers.

We've already addressed some of the common problems in other sections of this web site. It is important to understand why these problems exist even after the end of the Civil War (which by the way was not about states' rights or preserving the Union—it was about the freedom of slaves). The 4 main reasons are:

- **Slavery** - "The Emancipation Proclamation freed the slaves in 1863. This freedom was not represented on any census data until 1870. Prior to the 1870 census, slaves were considered property and therefore complete names (if any), places of birth, parents, etc. are difficult to assess without *access* to complete records of slave owners.
- **Slave Marriages** - Because slaves were considered Pieces of property, their "marriages" were never officially recognized or recorded in any official documents. In other words, the marriages were not legal. After the Emancipation Proclamation, the federal government established the Freedman's Bureau to assist former slaves in adjusting to society as free men. One of the critical services this agency performed was to record marriages that had taken place during the slavery era.
- **Name Changes** - After the Emancipation Proclamation, former slaves could choose any name to begin their new life as free people. The former slave could keep the name given to him by his master, or give himself any name of his choosing and in some cases; former slaves took the names of soldiers who had been killed during the Civil War.
- **Illiteracy** - Slaves in the southern states were forbidden by law from learning to read or write because Whites were fearful of uprising. When former slaves were first counted in the 1870 Census, few could spell their own names. The census takers were free to write whatever spelling they chose based on what they thought they heard or how they thought it was spelled. For example, a name like Jense in 1870 may appear later a Jessie, or Jenny, Jennifer, or James. Researchers in African-American research must be prepared for significant variations in name spellings and changes.

Coupled with these major challenges in research are other considerations such as:

- 1) understanding what was transpiring in the nation, state, county, and city for the particular time period being researched;
- 2) knowing the migration, naming, prejudice and settlement patterns of the particular family and ethnic group being investigated;
- 3) understanding the religious, benevolent, political and other special organizations which might have been extant in the geographic area and may have interacted with the ethnic group in question and
- 4) being cognizant of the implications laws, codes, and regulations may have had on the creation, maintenance, and location of pertinent historical records".

Understanding these conditions, will help you as you work through the information that is available to you. It should also be noted that not all Africans were slaves. Prior to the Civil War there were 200,000 free Africans in the north and 200,000 free Africans in the south.

**The Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association's
Board of Directors
Hope You were able to
Add several new names
To your genealogy
In the Past year and Wish
You much success in
Breaking through your *brick walls*
In the Coming Year
"Happy New Year"**

Birmingham is Calling Your Name!

Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research

At

Samford University

Birmingham, Alabama

Peggy LaCour and Glenda Bernard were awarded a tuition grant by 311 Research to attend an in-depth week of learning within the genealogical realm in Birmingham, Alabama, in June 2013. They shared some of what they learned in a presentation before the Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association at its September General Session. These two ladies are hopeful that the following three informational handouts give others a glimpse of the fantastic program presented during the week. Designed for any level of genealogical knowledge, several hundred energetic students of all ages, ethnicity, nationality and gender attend. Enrollees find themselves surrounded by experts in the field, other like-minded enthusiasts and pristine surroundings.

Anyone interested in attending next June would want to read more thoroughly the information on the website, www.samford.edu/schools/ighr. Various courses are offered, but with limited enrollment. Of major importance to anyone desiring to register for this outstanding opportunity, is the registration process. There are so many people who want to register, the classes fill very quickly...often within a half hour after opening. The date to register for the June 2014 session is **JANUARY 21, 2014 at 10:00cst**. Once a course of study has been decided upon, prospective students should be prepared to register at the moment the course is opened!

Ms. LaCour and Ms. Bernard are so appreciative to Phil Adderley's company, 311 Research, for offering the tuition grant for which they applied. Both plan to register for another course in January 2014 and become one of many to "not miss IGHR in June." These ladies would be happy to answer any questions regarding their experience. This six day genealogy 24-7 conference... only eight hours from Shreveport... is definitely calling your name!

The Samford *Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research (IGHR)* provides an educational forum for the discovery, critical evaluation, and use of genealogical sources and methodology through a week of intensive study led by nationally prominent genealogical educators. Students choose one of the offered courses that last throughout the week and that range from a course for beginners to courses on specialized topics.

The institute is academically and professionally oriented and is cosponsored by the Board for Certification of Genealogists. The faculty is composed of outstanding nationally known genealogy educators. Begun in 1962, the institute regularly enrolls over 200 students from around the country.

The 2014 Institute begins at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, June 8, and concludes at 12:00 p.m. Friday, June 13.

Source: <http://www4.samford.edu/schools/ighr/>

From Birmingham to Shreveport Best of the Best Ideas

Institute of Genealogy & Historical Research
<http://library.samford.edu/ighr>
Samford University - Birmingham, Alabama
June 2013

Course: Techniques & Technology Reported by Suzanne Peggy La Cour

1. Religious records are a rich, but underused, resource that provides vital record information as well as glimpses into relationships & communities. NUCMUC or National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections, www.loc.gov/coll/nucmc, can tell you about collections (church and others) as well as where the collection is housed. Another wonderful digital library: www.hathitrust.org
2. Have you ever tried to read (or transcribe) an old document? Reading early handwriting correctly, understanding obsolete words and phrases in context, being aware of calendar and dating practices can be a challenge. Let's look at a "thorn" and the letter "s." Some obsolete terms: instant (inst) same month, this immediate month; Ultimo (ult) last month, preceeding month, &c = etc. In some American colonies, the year began on 25th March. The Center for Family History & Genealogy, <http://script.byu.edu>, has tutorials.
3. Citation is made easy (easier?) at www.worldcat.org a free search engine of library catalogs around the world. You can choose a style of citation, such as Turabian, then copy/paste into your word processor or genealogy program. Want to put your hands on the actual book? The site will tell you the nearest library by zip code, with a copy. The NGS collection is available through interlibrary loan through the St Louis County Library, www.slcl.org. For more on how to cite your research go to Elizabeth Shown Mills' www.evidenceexplained.com. Note the archive of QuickLessons.
4. John Philip Colletta on interviewing:
Before the meeting: prepare with notes that provide order and logic; be familiar with history-geography-culture-period language (for example the terms hooker and stripper are jobs associated with tobacco harvest); prepare your equipment (not the time for dead batteries).
During the meeting: ask specific questions, use props such as photos & heirlooms, use your best listening skills, be clever ("we all know" or "I heard"), be diplomatic, be patient, say thank you, don't believe everything you hear. After the meeting: Compare notes you took (you DID take notes didn't you?) with previous information you have, select the issues and other interviewees for follow-up.
5. Perhaps you have the name of the place but no idea where it is. Try GNIS, the Geographic Names Information System at www.geonames.usga.gov. Then try www.nationalatlas.gov, www.usgwarchives, www.maphistory.info, or particularly for historical maps, www.davidrumsey.com.

Best of the Best Ideas

Institute of Genealogy & Historical Research
<http://library.samford.edu/ighr>
Samford University - Birmingham, Alabama
June 2013

Intermediate Level Course: Reported by Glenda E. Bernard

Best #1: Use an expert's bibliography to develop knowledge and skill. Some of Lloyd deWitt Bockstrup's favorite references: *Black's Law Dictionary*, Stevenson, Noel C. *Genealogical Evidence*; Stratton, Eugene. *Applied Genealogy*; Kirkham, E. Kay. *An Index to Some of the Family Records of the Southern States*; Riber, Shirley J. *The German Research Companion*; Sperry, Kip. *Reading Early American Handwriting*.

Best #2: Look deeper into church records. Alternative locations to search: church affiliations in obits, marriage records, Google, WPA records, familysearch.org. When you find the denomination, check their headquarters, seminary or university of that denomination.

Best #3: Onomatology – the study of proper names and the origin of names. Check Mencken, H. L., *The American Language*; Rose, Christine, *Nicknames, Past and Present*; Bockstrup, Lloyd deWitt, *The Name is the Game: Onomatology and the Genealogist*.

Best #4: Consider Michael John Neill's blogs and offerings at www.genealogytipoftheday.com, www.rootdig.com, www.searchtipoftheday.com. He uses helpful charts and tables to help solve problems.

Best #5: Use Nineteenth Century newspapers to view an ancestor as a "real" person. Check "Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers" at <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>; "Research in Newspapers" Chapter 12 in *The Source: A Guidebook of American Genealogy*; www.genealogybank.com; www.newspaperarchives.com.

LAGNIAPPE

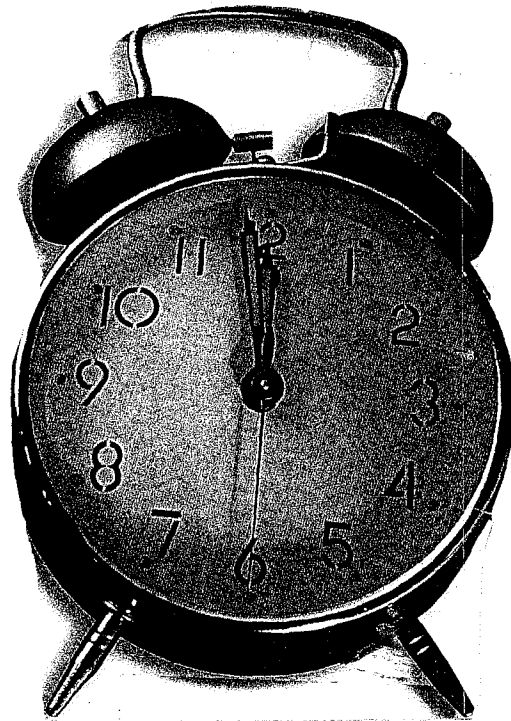
- a. Always search for military records in any war of your ancestor's siblings.
- b. 1870 census-many initials of first and middle names were in the South. Males used initials so the government could not figure out who they were and could then get jobs. Yankees didn't want to give a Confederate a government job.
- c. Parish registers are primarily baptisms. No early divorce records in the South. Baptist records will have no baptismal records.
- d. Original immigration records are critical. Use internet sites, National Archive Indexes on microfilm and book indexes in libraries.

Time to renew your membership.

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How Cemetery Records Help Genealogy Research

Prepared By: Steve Johnson

Resource: EzineArticles.com

Cemetery records and tombstone inscriptions are often used to confirm the burial location of one's ancestors and relatives. But they can also be used to provide clues towards tracing back a family history and genealogy.

Here are some tips on what information cemetery records can reveal...

- Tombstone inscriptions often contain clues that sexton records do not provide. A sexton record is the official recording of a burial by the cemetery caretaker. By visiting the cemetery and looking at the tombstone, you can pick up additional information the sexton records do not record... Tombstone inscriptions will often say things like "Beloved Mother", "Cherished Brother", or "Loving Aunt", which indicates this person had children, siblings, or nieces and nephews. And tombstones will sometimes include symbols and abbreviations of local clubs and organizations, which means additional history and stories of this person might be found in the newsletters of such groups. If the person was in the military, they're likely to have a military tombstone, particularly because the US Government provides them free of charge. And these stones will provide the person's rank or classification, and their residence of record at the time they died.
- Sexton records can be accessed by visiting the cemetery office, or by calling the office by phone. These records will provide the date the person was interred, and the contact person of record in charge of interring that person. It will also indicate who purchased the plot, if that person was someone other than the deceased. Many times, people purchase plots but end up being buried elsewhere. This often happens when a married couple purchases a double plot. This is a single plot dug deeper to hold two coffins. However, a widow or widower will often remarry, and when they die, are buried elsewhere. The sexton record will show that a double plot was purchased, and will also show if only one body or two are interred there. Thus, this can clue you in if a widow/widower remarried or moved away.

- When visiting the grave of an ancestor, take a look at the tombstones on either side, or in front of, or behind. They often contain relatives. It's a good idea to photograph these tombstones and draw a map of their proximity to each other. You'll never know down the road if you discover these plots are related or not.
- Take note of where in the cemetery someone is interred. Many cemeteries have sections reserved for specific groups. Some have Catholic sections, some have sections for specific ethnic groups, and others have sections for paupers and unclaimed bodies.
- Many cemeteries are part of a district funded by property tax dollars. Only people living within that district are eligible to be interred there. So if you know someone is interred there, you can narrow down the location of where they lived at the time of their death.

Steve Johnson is known as the publisher of Interment.net, a website that publishes cemetery records and tombstone transcriptions for genealogy research. He recently launched a new search engine for New York cemetery records: <http://www.newyorkcemeteryrecords.com>.



What interesting facts do you Know about YOUR ancestors?

http://www.familystorylines.com/interesting_facts.asp

Just think:

- Approximately 35 million Americans are linked by blood to one (or more) of the 102 pilgrims who came to America on the Mayflower in 1620.
- It has been estimated that nearly half of all Americans today can trace their family history to at least one person who passed through the Port of New York at Ellis Island.
- The United States has taken a census every 10 years since 1790. The most recent publicly available census is that of 1930. Each census lists the people alive in the United States at that time (your ancestors!) and identifies interesting information about each person.
- 3 million men fought in the Civil War. Depending on your age, these men could have been your 2nd or 3rd great-grandfathers. If all of your ancestors were in the United States at the time, that means you could have had up to eight 2nd great-grandfathers and sixteen 3rd great-grandfathers who fought! Fascinating records exist for many of those ancestors who fought.
- The Homestead Act of 1862 made public land available to anyone who was willing to pay a small filing fee and "improve" the land for five years. Before the act was repealed in 1934, over 1.6 million applications were processed for 270 million acres of public land. If your ancestors applied for land, very interesting family information can be available through these records.
- 1870 is an important year for African American genealogy. As the first post-Civil War U.S. Census, it was the first time former slaves were listed by name. Previously, only the slave owner was named and slaves were identified by a count.
- Coats of arms were used beginning around 1200 A.D. Since knights wearing armor all looked alike, the shield of each was painted in a way that he could be recognized. Although many people today are interested in finding a coat of arms for their family, it is not as simple as finding one for your last name. There can be many coats of arms for a single last name, or none at all. A coat of arms is specific to a particular family, so you need to trace several generations of your ancestors to see if there is a coat of arms for your family.

Church Records

“African American Genealogist Prior to the Civil War”

http://projects.btwixtstudios.com/caagri/html/church_record.php

Prior to the Civil War, some slaves were buried in slave cemeteries or on the plantations of their owners (usually only if the slave owner recognized them as their children). After the Civil War and when Blacks were allowed to establish their own churches, cemeteries were also established. The exact methodology of who was buried in the cemetery varies in location.

For the most part, members of the church would buy family plots. Deeds were issued by the church and allowed members to waive their rights to the plot to give to a cousin or an Aunt who didn't have a final resting place.

Many churches have kept these older records of burials as well as memberships and sermons (if you have a relative who was a Preacher, you might want to look into the possibility of obtaining his sermons). Membership records are ideal sources of information because it can lead to clues as to other relatives who lived in the area, belonged to the church, who are buried in the cemetery as well as relatives living out of state.

Smaller churches in very rural areas might not have a church secretary or services every Sunday. Elders in the community usually have the names and phone numbers of the pastor, the secretary or a deacon of the church and will be happy to share the information with you. Obtaining tax records from the IRS might also be another option if you can't contact a knowledgeable person in the community. This is a FOIA (Freedom Of Information Act) process and could take some time to have the results returned to you. Larger churches are usually fully staffed with full-time personnel so your chances of a speedy result are greater.

If the church does not have the records you are looking for, you'll have to visit the cemetery itself and conduct your own investigation.

The CENTER FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH INC.

Physical Address: Fredericksburg, VA 22404

Leadership: PAULA ROYSTER

“Reprinted from *Historic Shreveport* with permission”



JACK BARHAM

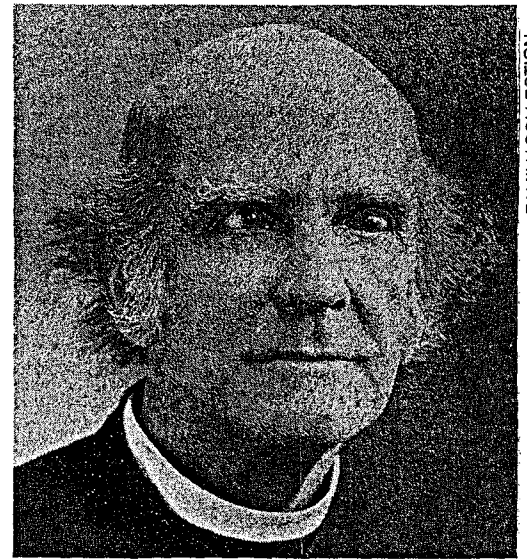
1

The Dalzell House 758 Austin Place. c. 1870.

Renovation has rescued this historic home from neglect and possible destruction. It was the rectory of St. Mark's Episcopal Church in the late 19th century, and here lived the remarkable clergyman Dr. W. T. D. Dalzell.

Dr. Dalzell was a British citizen and a graduate of Oxford, where he first studied medicine. He was ordained in the Church of England and later came to the United States. His ministry in Shreveport began shortly after the Civil War, and with the exception of one year he resided in the city until his death in 1899.

Dr. Dalzell was known widely for his work in yellow fever epidemics. He was among the first to recognize the outbreak of yellow fever in Shreveport in 1873, and he bravely remained at his post to nurse the sick and dying. Dr.

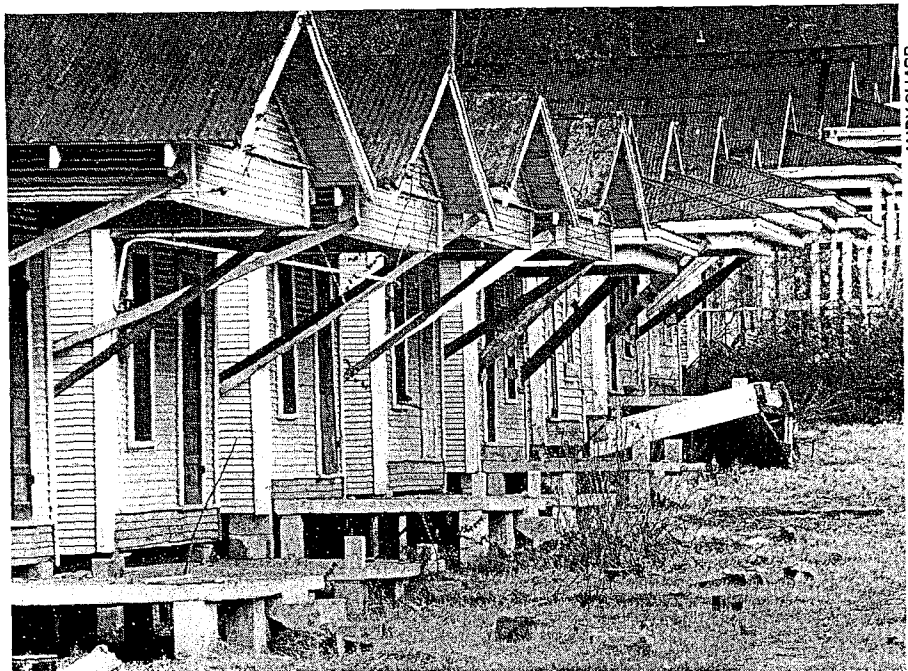


FAMILY COLLECTION

Dr. W. T. D. Dalzell

Dalzell performed a similar service in Memphis, Tenn., in 1878 when that city was gripped by one of the nation's most serious yellow fever outbreaks.

The Dalzell House reflects the transition from the Classical Revival style to the Victorian. It remained the Dalzell residence until at least 1882.



Laborers and their families were packed into shotgun houses.

The Bottoms

Once called St. Paul's Bottoms or simply the Quarters, this low-lying area immediately west of the downtown presents images of dilapidated houses, neglected streets, poverty and crime. Yet there is also written in the Bottoms's appearance a colorful and surprising history that is remarkable for its contrasts between good and bad.

Around the edges of the Bottoms were built in the 1880s some of the first rent houses for blacks, who were being drawn from nearby farms to jobs in the city's riverfront warehouses, railroad shops and industries. These laborers and their families were packed into narrow two- and three-room houses called shotguns. As in other Southern cities, blacks were settled on the least desirable land — in this case, on plots low and mosquito-infested.

Gradually, the Bottoms became a predominantly black neighborhood. It had its own stores and churches, including St. Paul Methodist, which lent its name to the area. Scattered here and there were white residences. A few white families

Using PERSI (PERiodical Source Index)

By Denise Slattery, OGS Board Member

Taken From: Oklahoma Genealogical Society Quarterly, Vol.58, No. 2, June 2013

Someone new to this addicting habit called genealogy may not have heard of PERSI. So what is it you ask? It is an acronym for the PERiodical Source Index, and is the largest and most widely used subject index to genealogy and local history periodicals in the world. Created by staff at the Allen County Public Library Foundation and the ACPL's Genealogy Center in Fort Wayne, Indiana in 1986, PERSI is highly recognized as a vital tool for genealogical researchers. The system indexes articles in 11,000 periodical titles published since the 1700s by thousands of local, state, national and international societies and organizations. Some examples of the periodicals used are magazines, newsletters, journals and quarterlies (OGS is one of these quarterlies!). Each year, there are many more periodicals titles added to the system so it continuously grows. It's a wise decision to search it every year or so to see if any new information has popped up. In 1997, the last edition was available in print form. Since then, it is digitally available and fully searchable on Ancestry.com and Heritage Quest Online.com. You may have access to both in your local library; check with the library to make sure. Updates are regularly done in Heritage Quest, but are sometimes delayed in Ancestry.com.

Since the system indexes by subject, one cannot do a search for any name or any word in the articles. In Heritage Quest, entries are by surname, location and record type and how-to. To begin a search, there are four options to choose: People, Places, How-To and Periodicals.

To begin your search for articles in People, enter the surname in the box. Keep in mind there are more than 126,000 surnames in the PERSI database, so it could a second or two to get results. As I've stated, this database is not an every name database. Every person mentioned in the article does not appear in the title. To narrow the search, you could enter a locality after the surname.

To search for articles in Places, select one of three search forms: In the United States, In Canada, or In other Countries. For a search in the United States, enter state or state and county. If choosing Canada, select as a whole country or by province. When searching in Other Countries, name the country, continent or even the world. After selecting a place, you can use the default of the record type to all to start the search, or you can narrow the search by selecting the type of record. Each of the following record types includes indexes to the stated material.

- Biography: more than three main people
- Cemeteries: listings, history of the cemetery, lot owners, plot maps and photos
- Census Records: federal, state, and municipal

- Church Records: history of the church, records, directories, and photos
- Court Records: civil cases, criminal cases, and licenses
- Deeds: only deeds (can include slaves)
- Directories: city, county, atlas directories, business or manufacturing
- History: narrative on various localities, companies, houses, and ethnic groups
- Institutions: orphanages, hospitals, poor farms, prisons, and photos
- Land Records: anything relating to land that is not a deed
- Maps: migration trails, county boundaries and their changes, and plats
- Military Records: muster rolls, regimental histories, troop movements and photos
- Naturalization: declarations of intent, petitions, and naturalizations
- Obituaries: full obituaries, death notices
- Other Records: archaeology, extracted local newspaper items, and photos
- Passenger Lists: ship histories, travel experiences, and lists
- Probate Records: administrations, guardianships, and apprentice documents
- School Records: attendance, student lists, histories and photos
- Tax Records: personal tax, property tax and income tax
- Vital Records: births, marriages, deaths, coroner inquests, and funeral homes
- Voter Records: lists, elections, and election procedures
- Wills: Indexes, abstracts, and transcriptions

If you know the title of a periodical, you can enter that in the box when searching Periodical Titles.

When searching in the How-To section of the database, thousands of citations about research methods are examined. These methods include long, detailed teaching articles to short tips. The 'Record Type' and 'Keyword' options are the same as those for the Places search.

After getting results from your search, you can print these results. From the Article Results List, click to show a checkmark next to the article title which you want printed. Once you make all the appropriate checkmarks, select Notebook at the top of the page. From this Notebook, options to Email, Print or Download are available.

Included in the limited information I have for my Slattery surname in Canada, the death certificate of my great grandfather, William Slattery Sr., shows his birth was in Woodstock, which is the county seat of Oxford County in Ontario Canada. Since I have yet to search for his birth certificate, I decided for a 'shot in the dark', using PERSI, in looking for information on the Slattery surname in the Oxford County or Woodstock area.

After going into People, I entered Slattery in the surname field and Oxford in Keywords field. Nothing. I tried using Canada (instead of Oxford) in the Keywords field. This turned up one result: "George Hanover-Catherine Slattery family, 1826-1874, Ireland: Canada." Since I wasn't aware of a

Catherine Slattery, I decided not to pursue this avenue — for now. I chose to use Places instead of People to try a different search.

Choosing Places then makes me choose between three options. I chose the Canada tab, then chose Ontario for the Province, entered Woodstock in the Keywords field and kept the default value of Record Type to All. After hitting enter, 47 results came up. After reading each one, I decided on three articles: "Woodstock Directory, 1852", "Woodstock Post Office Recs., 1835-1994", and "Woodstock, Brief History". I checked the boxes next to each of these three choices, then clicked on 'Notebook' at the top of the webpage. Choosing the download option takes me to another webpage where I can enter an optional title and/or optional comments. After deciding to do neither, I clicked on Download. I then chose Notepad to view the downloaded file. The file showed me the article name in the first line of each entry and the periodical information in the second line.

Armed with enough information to send off for the copied pages of these articles, I then went onto the Genealogy Center of the Allen County Public Library's website to print off the PERSI Order Form. [www.genealogycenter.org] Under Services, choose Article Fulfillment Form. A pdf file of the form will open. After printing this form, I began entering the information of the three articles I found.

Once filling out the form, I wrote out a check to ACPL Foundation in the amount of \$7.50. This is in pre-payment for their searching services. I sent off the form and the check. Since the fee for the copies of the articles' pages (20 cents per page) went over the \$7.50, I received an invoice for the difference and the copies about 8 weeks later.

Unfortunately, I didn't find any Slattery surnames in the pages of the articles that were sent to me. I did find, however, a brief history of the town of Woodstock, replete with a few names. The other articles provided me with a ton of names. These names I could reference at a later time once I find more information on my Slattery line in the Oxford County area.

Even though I didn't find the Slattery surname in any of the articles I ordered, I still consider this service a boon to genealogists. I will definitely file the pages I received for future reference and look forward to using this service in the future when I find additional surnames in Oxford County Ontario. It is my hope I have provided you with enough information for you to start your own PERSI search. Good Luck!

Family History Through the Alphabet — Queries

Originally published by Julie Cahill Tarr at GenBlog

<http://genblogiulie.blogspot.com>

Used with author's permission

Taken from: Oklahoma Genealogical Society Quarterly, VOL. 58, No. 2, June 2013

Submitted by: Glenda Bernard

Since message boards and mailing lists offer the opportunity to post a good amount of information, it's much easier to craft an effective query in these mediums than in a publication where queries are often limited due to space restrictions. In other words, TAKE ADVANTAGE of this opportunity and offer as much detail as possible in order to ensure your query is read and hopefully you'll get some helpful responses.

The Query

I hate to say it, but there are some really terrible queries out there. How do you respond to something like the following, posted to the Smith surname board on Ancestry?

Title: John Smith

Looking for John Smith died between 1880 and 1900, probably in Morgan County, Illinois.

*Okay, this is factitious and may be a little extreme, but I have seen queries of this broad and undefined nature before.

Chances are, you might not respond; heck, you may not even read the query since the title gives no indication of place, time period, or anything other than a very common name. The query is not any better than the title. Sure it gives a timeframe and a place, but do you know how many John Smith's died in Morgan County between 1880 and 1900? (At least four.)

Not only that, but when I see the range 1880-1900, I think, "missing 1890 census" and "20-year gap." Did John Smith really die, or did the researcher simply lose track of him in that 20-year span and jump to a premature conclusion? Who knows? There just isn't enough information in the query to work with.

So how do you craft an effective query when you don't know much about the person you are inquiring about? Good question. In my opinion, provide as much information as you can about the person in question as well as those you DO know about, like a spouse, parent, sibling, or child.

Here's an example. I don't know much about my third great-grandmother, Mary Ryan, but I do know a little bit about her children, which may help to identify her among the many fish Mary Ryans out there. The following is what I would post:

Title: Mary RYAN Millett (County Kilkenny, Ireland; b. abt. 1842, d. 1912)

Trying to learn more about Mary RYAN, born about 1842 and died in County Kilkenny, Ireland in 1912. I'm particularly interested in finding out when and where she was born, as well as who her parents and siblings are. Here's what I know about Mary so far:

She married John MILLETT on 20 February 1860 in County Kilkenny.
Mary and John were enumerated in the 1901 and 1911 censuses, residing in Stroan, Kilmone Parish, County Kilkenny.

Mary and John had at least seven children as follows:

- Margareth (1863-1945; removed to the United States and eventually settled in Aurora, Kane, Illinois; married Thomas CAHILL, also from County Kilkenny)
- Michael (1865-??; living in New York in 1945)
- Mary (1867-??)
- Robert (1872-??; living with parents in County Kilkenny in 1901 and 1911)
- Ellen (1874-??; married a ROBERTSON; living in Boston, Massachusetts in 1945)
- Anne (1878-??; may have died in 1902; living with parents in County Kilkenny in 1901)
- Catherine (1882-??; married John POWERS; living in County Kilkenny in 1945)

For additional details about the Ryan/Millett family, you can refer to my blog post Surname Saturday – Ryan (County Kilkenny) at <http://genblogjulie.blogspot.com/2013/05/surname-saturday-ryan-county-kilkenny.html>.

Additional info on Mary's children would also be much appreciated!

Willing to share information about Mary's daughter Margareth.

See how I used what I knew about both Mary and her children? If I simply stated only what I knew about Mary herself, it wouldn't have been much to go off. The post is still relatively short, but it gives enough relevant information to provide a good picture of the family I am looking for. Additionally, providing the information about her children shows where my gaps are that perhaps someone can fill in.

You'll also notice that I stated a purpose—what I was hoping to learn about Mary. While everything under the sun would be great, first and foremost, I specifically want to know when/where born and who her parents/siblings are. And, secondarily, if anyone has additional information on Mary's children, I'd be interested in filling those gaps as well.

Titles / Subject Lines

Titles should be specific to the person you are looking for. A name and some other identifier(s), such as location(s) or date(s) will help people determine if they need to read your query. We are all stretched for time and when we follow 'message boards or receive emails from mailing lists, we want to be able to go through them quickly and determine if we recognize something that we can help with. In the John Smith example I used earlier, that message would probably be skipped by many. If, however, it said "John Smith, b. 1808 in New London, Connecticut" or "John Smith, son of Josiah, b. 1808 in Connecticut" that might

ring a bell with someone and they would proceed to open the message and see what the query is and if they are able to assist. Of course the query itself would have to be crafted well too!

Additional Tips

Following are a few additional ideas to consider when using message boards and mailing lists and crafting your query.

Take a look at various message boards for inspiration. Just by looking at titles/subjects-and the queries themselves, you can get an idea of what works and what doesn't.

Please, please, please, write your query as if you were writing a business letter or email. Use proper grammar, capitalization, and punctuation, etc. It is so frustrating to read a huge run-on sentence, with no punctuation, misspelled words, etc. If you want to be taken seriously, please follow this advice!

If you have a tree online, share a link direct to the person you are inquiring about so that others can see any additional information you may have as well as the family structure. Alternatively, if you have a detailed blog post, research article, biographical sketch, or narrative available online about the person and/or other family member(s) mentioned in the query, provide a link to those as well (you'll notice, I did this in my example).

Post to multiple message board and mailing list providers. And don't forget to post to both the surname (including alternate spellings) and locality boards. For instance, I may choose to post my Mary Ryan query on Ancestry's message board, under both the Ryan surname and the County Kilkenny boards, as well as the Ryan surname and County Kilkenny mating lists at RootsWeb, and the Ryan surname board at GenForum. I'd even flip the query to focus on Mary's husband John, and post to the Millett, Millet, Milott, Mylott, etc. surname boards through the various providers. I wouldn't have to post again to the County Kilkenny boards because I include both Mary's maiden and married names in the title of the query.

When you learn more about a person you've previously posted a query about, add a "reply" to the original message with the new information.

A Final Thought

Granted, message boards can be used for other things besides looking for a specific individual or family. You may have a question about records in a particular location (e.g., what's available, where a certain record set it located, what sources do people recommend, etc.). You could have questions about the history of or an event that took place in a specific location. You might hope to find someone willing to do a lookup for you, or even inquire about genealogists for hire in a place that you are unable to travel to. The same "rules" for titles and queries apply. Be specific and provide enough information so that people can actually help you.

Colorful Roots

By Randall Franks

[An award-winning musician, singer and actor]

I recently attended my family reunion and I am still full as can be. One thing I have learned our folks know how to cook. This was our 23rd since the passing of my father Floyd Franks. He loved to spend time with his family. That joy he passed to me as a child in a desire to know more about our history. As I began my search for ancestors, I never knew what wonders the stories would open to me. Seeing history come to life through people to which I am related helped to make historical events more than just words upon a page.

I am sure that some of the tales have grown with time and the accuracy of some would not hold up in a court of law, but for a 10-year-old and avid history buff, reading about an uncle who traveled with the Lewis and Clarke expedition or discovering a long lost branch of the family that no one knew existed gave me such a thrill.

My search carried me to homes where members of my family have lived since the country was founded. I have stood with a musket in hand on the battlements where my ancestors staved off the Cherokees when the United States was still British colonies. I have touched the soil that once ran red with their blood as they fell fighting the red coats and indians.

Among the lineage I have come to know presidential candidates, congressmen, governors, state legislators, sheriffs, soldiers, cowboys, farmers, businessmen, lawyers, educators, preachers, moonshiners, outlaws and even royalty who left their titles behind to become part of the American experience.

With each turn of the page through another generation, my search became more fascinating.

A distant cousin enlightened me to an aspect of our family I never knew about how some of our ancestors from Portugal came to the Americas even before the Pilgrims settled in eastern North Carolina in the late 1500s. Their settlements were destroyed at some point, and survivors intermarried with Native American tribes and eventually migrated to the mountainous areas in western North Carolina and Southern Virginia, remaining together as a tribe. These folks became known as the Melungeons.

What young boy does the tales of Daniel Boone and Davy Crockett not fascinate? To find a link to one of these larger than life frontier men was a delight to me. One of my ancestors apparently was the mortal enemy of Daniel Boone. While that may seem a weak link, it only says to me that at some point in their lives these men were on opposite sides of a fight. Two other ancestors served Boone as scouts on the frontier of Kentucky and Tennessee.

I am told one of my Confederate ancestors, Robert Shields, came to the fight when he was already in his 50s. He left behind a wife and 13 children, some of who were already grown and had families of their own.

Shields was captured and sent to prison in Rock Island, Ill. Upon returning, he discovered that his death had been reported to his family earlier in the war.

His wife had re-married and re-settled in Alabama with a new husband. He then went in search of his wife. Only the wind now knows what transpired when he found her, but following the meeting, Robert returned to Georgia and started over. He married again. His second wife also gave him 13 children. He became a minister and started a church where he and his wives now rest.

Yes, both wives. After the death of his first wife's second husband, he brought her home and built a place for her. He looked after her until his death.

I stood at the foot of their graves only wishing I could hear the real story told.

Once our loved ones are gone, however, we are left with only the paper trail and some remnants of memories in the wind. One of my quests of finding the graves of my great, great grandparents William and Sarah Bandy may never be realized, because too many years have passed for anyone to recall their unmarked graves in the cemetery.

While history is a wonderful place to spend time seeing the colors that make up your family tree, if you would like to know the story of your family, start with those around you. Don't forget that those stories that are right at your fingertips will one day be history, too.

You might just wish you had written them down. Relish the people in your family. Thousands of stories and lives have been lived, so you have your chance at serving your generation. Honor them...

Randall Franks is an award-winning musician, singer and actor. He is best known for his role as "Officer Randy Goode" on TV's "In the Heat of the Night" now on WGN America. His latest CD release, An Appalachian Musical Revival, is by www.shareamericafoundation.org. He is a member of the Atlanta Country Music Hall of Fame. He is a syndicated columnist for <http://randallfranks.com/> and can be reached at rfrankscatoosa@gmail.com.



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