

The Genie

*To inspire interest in family history through education, preservation and service.
We're in the family business.*



PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY

ARK-LA-TEX GENEALOGICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

P. O. BOX 4463
SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA 71134-0463

THE GENIE TABLE OF CONTENTS

Click on the "Content" item to jump to it.
Click on the "TOC" button to jump back to this page

Purpose

Organizational Structure

President's Message

Contributed by Glenda Efferson Bernard

Periodical Exchange Review

Contributed by Reed Mathews

The Big Green Umbrella

Contributed by Johnnie Covington

Leonard K – Another Vance Bachelor

Contributed by Dale and Larri Jennings

My Military Experience

Contributed by Isabelle M. Woods

Ruth Remembers Daddy Hen

Contributed by Ruth Roberts Frank Berlin

Peter Arts, My Dutch Ancestor

Contributed by Elaine Johnson

Genealogy Mystery Story With an Ark-La-Tex Connection

Contributed by Diane Tipton

Sometimes We Learn Too Late

Contributed by Glenda Efferson Bernard

August Genealogy Seminar

Contributed by Jim Johnson

Digging for your Roots at Haynes Cemetery

Contributed by Patsy Roberts

Highlighting Our Members

Contributed by Johnnie Covington

Writing Your Own Obituary

Contributed by Sarah (Sally) Green Hamer

Spring Street Museum

Contributed by Jim Johnson

Cemetery Preservation in Louisiana

Contributed by Sarah Zeagler White

ARK-LA-TEX GENEALOGICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

P.O. Box 4463

Shreveport, Louisiana 71134-0463

The Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association is a Section 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization incorporated in the State of Louisiana.

The purpose of this organization is:

- To collect, preserve and make available genealogical documents and records
- To encourage an interest in genealogy and to sponsor educational programs for its development
- To promote the Shreveport/Bossier City area as having significant resources for genealogical and historical research
- To compile and publish a quarterly publication, *The Genie*, composed of records of genealogical and historical importance, helpful research information, and ancestral queries.



The Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association meets on the second Saturday of each month from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm at the Broadmoor Branch Library, 1212 Captain Shreve Drive, Shreveport, LA

The membership year is from January 1 through December 31 and dues are \$20.00 annually for individual or same household family memberships. Dues for those members joining in the last half of the year (July 1 - December 31) are \$10.00. Membership renewals are due by January 31 at the "whole year" annual rate. Payment may be made online through PayPal, by regular mail, or at regular meetings. Refer to our website: altgenealogy.com/join.htm for details.

Statement of Publication: *The Genie* is published on a quarterly basis and distributed electronically as a pdf document to members and subscribing institutions that have provided an email address. The Association also participates in an exchange agreement with other organizations that publish similar genealogical publications. Those publications that are received are donated to the Broadmoor Branch Genealogy Department of the Shreve Memorial Library.

We welcome family history and genealogy research articles and records, especially those that are likely to be of an interest to others. Some examples are family pedigree charts, cemetery surveys/records, family and community histories, and transcribed courthouse records. We also accept articles describing a genealogical "brick wall," as well as queries. All submitted material should be typed or very plainly written and sent to our mailing address above or emailed to our editor at thegenie.editor@gmail.com. Please note that *The Genie* cannot be responsible for errors or inaccuracies, but will hasten to publish correction.

Copyright Laws: All who submit material from other sources should be aware of copyright restrictions. When articles are obtained from another source, permission should be obtained from the author, compiler, or owner of the material being submitted and a statement to that effect provided. Also, we encourage use of source citations when applicable.

Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association

Board of Directors for 2018

President	Glenda Efferson Bernard	glenda646@gmail.com
First Vice President	Sonja Webb	sdwebb@bellsouth.net
Second Vice President	Reed Mathews	reedmathews@yahoo.com
Treasurer	June Scholes	jscholez@aol.com
Recording Secretary	Peggy LaCour	suzanne.delacour@gmail.com
Editor	Sylvia Powers	thegenie.editor@gmail.com
Trustee	Barbara Dean Kronenberg	bdk@suddenlink.net
Trustee	Jim Johnson	jjohnson747@suddenlink.net
Trustee	Johnnie Covington	jhcov@aol.com
Trustee	Sarah White	zeagler606@aol.com
Trustee	Beverly Bowers	bbowers46@gmail.com

Publications (*The Genie*)

Editor	Sylvia Powers	thegenie.editor@gmail.com
Distribution	Glenda Efferson Bernard	glenda646@gmail.com
Compiler	Elaine Johnson	elaine.johnson@suddenlink.net
Exchange Reviewer	Reed Mathews	reedmathews@yahoo.com
Exchange Coordinator	June Scholes	jscholez@aol.com

ALTGA Committees

Membership	June Scholes	jscholez@aol.com
Publicity	Jim Johnson	jjohnson747@suddenlink.net
Programs	Jim Johnson	jjohnson747@suddenlink.net
Finance	June Scholes	jscholez@aol.com
Seminar	Jim Johnson	jjohnson747@suddenlink.net
Education	Sonja Webb	sdwebb@bellsouth.net

Other ALTGA Key Points of Contact

Refreshments Coordinator	Barbara Dean Kronenberg	bdk@suddenlink.net
Refreshments Coordinator	Sarah White	zeagler606@aol.com
Name Tags	June Scholes	jscholez@aol.com
Reception/Greeter	Suzanne Stimits	slstimits@yahoo.com
Website	Jim Johnson	jjohnson747@suddenlink.net

Visit our Website: altgenealogy.com

Visit Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2033769780203514/>

Email us at: altgenassn@gmail.com

Email articles for *The Genie* to: thegenie.editor@gmail.com

President's Message
Contributed by Glenda Efferson Bernard

Greetings! This third quarter of 2018 for the Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association is just another example of the resilience of our members! It takes only a moment to recall that we have moved from “pillar to post” for these past few months for our monthly meetings, permanently moved from our physical “home” at the Randle T. Moore Center, and made arrangements to “settle in” at the Broadmoor Library in Shreveport for the duration. That is quite a feat for a group of interested members and friends to support, often not knowing where we will gather from month to month. Thank you ever so much for following our lead to stick together in enjoying our collective interest in genealogy.

Meeting at Shreveport's Betty Virginia Park in July, a large group shared the enthusiasm of Ms. Melissa Elrod, librarian at the R. W. Norton Art Gallery. She informed us about the history of the gallery and especially about the oral history projects in which anyone can participate. Sonja Webb, Education Committee chairperson, expertly explained the great benefits of the Family Group Sheet, and during the Horn Book session, she explained how to capitalize on its use. Sonja also encouraged everyone to complete a survey sheet depicting possible Horn Book topics for the future.

What more can we say about the August seminar? Jim Johnson, seminar coordinator, planned another super seminar. It was very well received by citizens of the entire Ark-La-Tex! Mr. Philip Adderley, genealogist extraordinaire, presented four topics which grabbed the attention of everyone there. Elsewhere in this issue is a detailed account of more of the information which he shared with a Broadmoor United Methodist Pearce Auditorium packed house! We appreciate Phil for all of the many contributions to this day and to our organization at large.

Fingers were crossed for the September meeting at the Betty Virginia Park recreation building! Rain was predicted for the fourth day of the week, but worse than that, a “Big Wheels” event for children was scheduled in the park for that day. However, by noon, big-wheeled tractors and machinery were moving out, and the parking lot was virtually empty for our 1:00 p.m. beginning. Our very special guest was Mr. Marty Loschen, curator for the Spring Street Museum. He discussed “Keeping Shreveport's History Alive: An Overview of the Spring Street Historical Museum.” His interest in archeology delighted everyone, and several members agreed to join in his “digging” activities. Our Horn Book event was an excellent video by Dr. John Philip Colletta, “Genealogy Online-Gems and Junk.”

Please stay tuned to our next quarter as we hope the roller coaster ride for our location will have ended for 2018, and continued “education, preservation, and service” will prevail! Thank you, again, for supporting our efforts to highlight family history in the Ark-La-Tex.

Periodical Exchange Review

Contributed by Reed Mathews

The Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association currently exchanges periodical publications with dozens of historical and genealogical organizations across the country. These exchange publications are donated to the Genealogical Department at the Shreve Memorial Library. It is the purpose of this column to make readers aware of these wonderful resources for the family historian by giving brief descriptions of the publications and their content.

The Coweta Courier. *The Coweta Courier* is the quarterly publication of the Coweta County (Georgia) Genealogical Society, which operates out of Newnan. The Spring 2018 issue has 24 numbered pages that include a table of contents and an every-name index. It is staple-bound with a card-stock cover. Two black and white portraits accompany articles as illustrations. Sources are cited throughout.

The Coweta County Genealogical Society has several on-going projects to mine genealogical information from local sources. This issue of *The Courier* presents the latest installments in these endeavors. "Births in Coweta County from Miscellaneous Sources" gives information for people born in the county from 1932 to 1933. "Deaths Occurring in Coweta County, GA" presents information for people who died in the county from 1895 to 1947 whose names are alphabetically between McWilliams and Mitchell. Ted O. Brooke abstracts the local newspaper in his "*The Newnan Herald* Items of Genealogical Interest December 15, 1866 – December 29, 1866." "Coweta County Deed Book A" presents land records from 1829 and 1830. Many of these property transactions involve people from outside Coweta County.

The Coweta Courier is a wonderful source of information for people who lived in Coweta County. Editor Debbie Meade Mapp and the membership of the CCGS are doing a great job in making these materials available to researchers everywhere.

The Yell County Historical & Genealogical Association Bulletin. The Yell County (Arkansas) Historical & Genealogical Association publishes *The Bulletin* from its base in Dardanelle, apparently semi-annually, now. Issue number 1 for 2018 contains 36 numbered pages and includes a table of contents but no index. It is staple-bound with a card-stock cover. Two dozen elegant period prints of mountain vistas, street scenes, businesses, homes, and churches illustrate this edition. Sources were cited for most of the material.

This issue of *The Bulletin* provides a fair history of Yell in itself. In Wayne Banks' article "Indians and Agents," readers learn that the region that is now Yell County was the territory of the Great and Little Osages and the Quapaw, but those bands of Cherokee were driven from their homes in the southeastern U.S. to contest these tribes for their land. Banks further reports the early gold rush that brought Jean Lafitte and other speculators up the Mississippi and deep into the wilds of what became Yell County. Banks' "Pioneers & Early Settlements" discloses that the origin of Dardanelle is murky, but by 1819, this first white settlement had been established on the site of an Indian village.

Articles "Town of Danville," "Bellville," "Centerville," "Chickalah," "Havana," "Ola," "Ard Community," "Oak Grove Community," and "Riley Creek," provide thumbnail histories of the towns of Yell County, but Banks mentions a score of other settlements from across the county. Other articles discuss the schools, the churches, and the businesses of the various communities.

Noted in these pages are many of the families who developed Yell County. According to Banks, the population of Yell County peaked at 26,488 in 1910. "The great drought" and the Depression took their tolls on farmers, driving them to other parts of the country. Many of the sturdy and proud Yell families have prospered, but many have done well to survive.

The Yell County Historical & Genealogical Association Bulletin is a great resource for family researchers and a wellspring of local culture and history.



The Big Green Umbrella *Contributed by Johnnie Covington*



I started first grade at Fairfield Elementary School in Cedar Grove, Shreveport, in 1952. My teacher was Ms. Ora Belle Clinton, a tall silver-haired, very stern lady. The desks were dark brown and very old. They even had a hole to hold an ink bottle. The desks and their benches were fastened together in straight rows with what appeared to be wrought iron rails which were bolted to the oak plank floor. If Ms. Clinton had to leave the room, we little imps would rock the row of desks left and right, and soon you could see the big bolts being pulled out of the wood!

At reading time, part of the class would be moved to small wooden chairs which were arranged in a circle. Those not in the reading circle, remained at their desks working in their

workbooks. Our little reading books were FUN WITH DICK AND JANE. Before asking us questions about the last Dick and Jane story, Ms. Clinton reminded us not to answer out but to raise our hands and be called on. I never have been very good at listening, so when Ms. Clinton asked what color was the big umbrella, I blurted out, "Green!" That was the right answer, but I had violated the rule.

I was sent to the cloakroom, which was a very large closet across the back of the room. It was cold, dark, and gloomy in there, and I was crying. I don't know how long I was in there by myself, but it seemed like a long time. One of my classmates, Charles Odom, a very cute little boy, came in to get his book satchel and galoshes because he was checking out of school early. Charles felt sorry for me so he gave me a kiss.

Thank you, Ms. Clinton!

LEONARD K. – ANOTHER VANCE BACHELOR

Contributed by Dale and Larri Jennings

From 1840 through 1891, twelve Vance men from northwestern South Carolina migrated to Louisiana's Bossier Parish and to Shreveport in Caddo Parish across the Red River. All were single and related (representing three generations), and each made the move individually. Seven remained bachelors. All but Leonard K. have been identified or featured in previous issues of the Vance Family Association Newsletters.

Three of the bachelors were doctors: James Washington (Wash), his nephew Rosborough Washington, and Norwood Kincaid. The others were Norwood's brother, Frank Hampton, Joseph Patillo, and Doctor Wash, Vance's brother, Joseph Harrison (Harp), who later returned to South Carolina. The last was Leonard K. Vance. (In an earlier newsletter article, it was stated erroneously that Frank Hampton, who represented the Travelers Insurance Company in Shreveport, had lost his lawsuit against his employer over commissions, although he had in fact won.)

William Edrington mentioned Leonard (L. K.) in his undated Edrington family history, published on March 3, 1901, in Winnsboro's *News & Herald* of Fairfield County, SC. Two of his sisters had married Vance brothers, David and William. He wrote, in part: "My second sister, Elizabeth, married William Vance, of Laurens County, in 1821. He lived and died near Milton. He was industrious, honest and economical, a successful planter and worthy citizen. He died about 1827, leaving nine children, quite a charge for my sister, but she brought them up to labor and taught them lessons of morality and economy. She moved to Mississippi about the year 1857 and died there a few years afterwards. Her children moved to the West also, except the youngest, Susan, who married Richard Satterwhite and lived in Newberry, where she died since the war. Carr E. Vance's only daughter, Mrs. Kinard, died in Newberry County in 1885. She was an estimable lady and left only one son, who is at school in Newberry. One of her brothers, L. K., is on the farm she left; the other, Carr E. is living in Texas." (The first Carr E. was William's son and Susan's brother, and Leonard K. (L.K.), Carr Edrington, Jr., and Sarah E. (Mrs. Kinard) were siblings. William actually left ten children. He died in 1836 and his wife in 1866.)

Some interesting information about Leonard comes from a Caddo Parish court case in which Leonard was the defendant. The transcript reveals that in August, 1891, Leonard K. Vance came to Shreveport from Columbia, South Carolina, by way of Timpson, Texas, saying that he was broke, unemployed, and a cousin to Calvin Vance. Upon arrival in Shreveport, he had a little too much to drink and found himself next morning in a pile of hay behind Cooper's livery stable. L. K. encountered policeman Boynton on the street and recounted how he had awakened to find most of his clothing and other property missing. In response to his inquiry about employment, he was told that Mr. Monroe had a stock raising, planting, and mercantile operation ten miles from town and frequently hired extra hands. Leonard was hired by Monroe with the understanding that his wages would be contingent on his work performance. At the end of the week, he inquired about his pay and was told by his employer that he knew no more then about his worth than the day he hired him. Leonard's foreman was equally unsuccessful in getting any determination about his wages but persuaded Leonard to stay on another week. During the two-week period, L. K. twice drew clothing and tobacco allowances, worth \$5.30, from the plantation

store against his anticipated wages. At the end of the second week, still with no resolution about his pay, Leonard sought other employment. He was soon arrested and charged with violation of labor agreement and receipt of goods in conjunction therewith. Upon his being placed in a jail room with a boy accused of theft, (and "Johnson," a suspected murderer), he summoned Mr. Herndon from his law office across the street. He requested that lawyer Herndon contact a relative, Calvin Vance, in hopes that Calvin would make his bail. Herndon learned that Captain Vance was across the river visiting one of his plantations. The "Cotton Belt train" was delayed, but upon its arrival in Shreveport, he met with Calvin and relayed his anxious client's request, to which Cal unhesitatingly said, "Yes, I will go his bond." Leonard Vance was acquitted, with an opinion by the court that a better case could have been made against Mr. Monroe, but since no such charges had been brought, the case was dismissed. Leonard did bring suit against Monroe for malicious arrest, prosecution, and deprivation of liberty. Monroe's defense was that he had contracted for Mr. Vance's services for a three-month period, after which time he was to be compensated. This account did not stand the test of logic or witness testimony, and Leonard was awarded \$200, although he had sued for \$1,500. Leonard was no doubt a "cousin" to Calvin, but research disclosed that he was more specifically the grandson of William McTeer Vance, a brother of Wash, Harp, and Allen Vance, the father of Calvin's wife and cousin, Nina Vance (Calvin's parentage is uncertain).

It seems puzzling that Mr. Monroe, knowing that Leonard was related to a locally prominent and respected citizen, would have treated him so badly. These excerpts from a laudatory 1898 obituary tribute to Calvin may cast some light on this: "There was no pretense about him. Deceit was foreign to him and he scorned it in others. He was above petty littleness. It merited and received his hearty contempt." William Calvin Vance may not have been liked by everyone he came in contact with.

Leonard Vance became yard foreman for the Union Oil Company. Its Shreveport Hamilton Mill pressed oil from cotton seed and produced cotton seed cake and meal for stock feed. The evening *Shreveport Journal* reported on February 27, 1901, that L. K. Vance's body had been found that morning in a closet (probably a janitor or furnace room) in the alley back of the Enders building on Sprague Street. Sixty dollars and a watch were found on his body. The coroner concluded that he had died a natural death. Leonard, aged fifty, had been ill for several months suffering from heart trouble and other complications. He had just gotten a six-month leave of absence and had stated his intent to go to Hot Springs, Arkansas. His remains were turned over to the oil mill officials who would see to his proper interment. He was buried on the following day in Shreveport's Greenwood Cemetery. The *Journal* reported that L. K., a native of Clinton, SC, had claimed to be related to the Vance family of Shreveport. Leonard's brother, Carr Vance of Mineola, Texas, enlisted Shreveport's Dr. Norwood Vance, a cousin of the same generation, to act as administrator for the disposition of his meager estate.

(Republished from the Vance Family Association Newsletter, Issue of Aug 2007. Larri Jennings, a past member, is descended from Allen, Nina, and William Calvin Vance.)

My Military Experience
Contributed by Isabelle M. Woods

The following article, "My Military Experience" was submitted to the LINEAGE publication, (Volume 4, Issue 11) on November 2016, by USAF LTC (Retired) James M. Free. Isabelle M. Woods, editor/publisher at that time, has given permission for the use of this article in *THE GENIE*. We are privileged to honor one of our outstanding veterans in our publication. Thank you for your service, Sir.

Volume 4, Issue 11

November 2016

LINEAGE



LIEUTENANT COLONEL (RETIRED)
JAMES M. FREE
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

**MY MILITARY
EXPERIENCE**

November and Veterans' Day—the month and holiday when United States citizens especially focus on veterans who have served their country in the armed services.

It was a privilege, therefore, to hear Mr. Free commemorate this celebration by presenting, "My Military Experience," on November 18, 2016, at the Family History Club in Bastrop, Louisiana. He generously shared his personal and military lives and discussed how both lives interlaced events affecting the United States and the world at large from 1958 to 1961.

Like a true native of Louisiana, Mr. Free also served his audience with *lagniappes*—kernels of European history he experienced along this journey. His wife, Erma, and later, a daughter, were fortunate to have accompanied him on this delightful adventure. On occasion, Mrs. Free shared her perspective on their lives in England.

We learned the responsibilities of a

Vehicle Maintenance Officer and about the military operation which supported military personnel who flew airplanes, launched missiles, and fired their guns. He enhanced his presentation with exhibits of the military equipment his operation maintained, their residences, and historical sites they toured.

In 1953, Mr. Free attended Louisiana State University (LSU) at Baton Rouge, Louisiana. To do so, he hitchhiked to-and-from Baton Rouge and his home in Richland Parish, Louisiana.

He recalls being subjected to the current attitude of the dean of engineering, who spoke about the present supply of engineers. While Mr. Free sat in an early physics class for engineers in 1953, the head of the school of engineering entered. The dean declared that too many persons were studying engineering. He predicted that of the ninety students present, only sixty will graduate. He, therefore, encouraged any person who did not like the odds of graduating to leave now rather than after they fail in the field of engineering.

However, by 1957, schools could not find enough engineers. This change in their demand occurred after Russia launched the *Sputnik* that October. With an additional clamor for jet bombers by the military, the United States' educational systems placed an emphasis on increasing the enrollment of engineers to meet these technical demands for national defense.

In January, 1958, he completed his studies at LSU with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Engineering. He had also completed a training program for commissioned officers with the Air Force Reserve Officers' Training Corp

LINEAGE

Page 2

(AFROTC). He, therefore, incurred a four year obligation to serve in the United States Air Force.

However, after his graduation, he was not needed by the United States Air Force. "But we'll let you know when we do. We'll send you a notice."

This adversely affected his opportunities for civilian employment. Prospective employers held his four-year obligation as reason not to hire him. In essence they kept inferring: "We are really interested in talking with you. But finish your service obligation, then come back and talk to us." However, Mr. Charley Stokes, an Engineer responsible for constructing the City Service Refinery at Lake Charles, Louisiana, was different. He hired Mr. Free anyway.



1953 STUDEBAKER

With a job as engineer on Mr. Stokes' staff, Mr. Free returned to Richland Parish and borrowed money from his father to purchase a used car to transport him to work. Mr. Free purchased a 1953 Stude-

baker, red over black.

"That was some car for a person who did not have a car. It was a lot redder than that. The photograph (above) was taken some years after it had been used on the farm..."

He drove to LSU, picked up his degree and commission, and went to work at Lake Charles, Louisiana. He met his future wife, Erma. She had red hair, blue eyes, and was an elementary school teacher for children from Chennault Air Force Base at Lake Charles.

After working a few months, a notice from the Air Force instructed Mr. Free to report to Cheyenne, Wyoming, for management training in vehicle maintenance. After training, Mr. Free had hoped to be assigned to the Chennault Air Force Base. Instead, Mr. Free was assigned to England for three years. His friend, Mr. Jerry Jones, obtained an eighteen-month assignment to Morocco, a hardship area.

"Three years is a long time in England," Mr. Free said.

"Yeah," Mr. Jones concurred, "and Sidi Slimane, Morocco, don't sound too good to me, either. How about trading?" Mr. Free considered the offer, but decided otherwise. He mailed a letter to Erma, asking her to accept his hand in marriage and live in England with him for three years.

Erma said, "Yes." They were married and had a short honeymoon. With Mr. Free having to report to RAF (Royal Air Force) Greenham Common, Berkshire, England, by July, the newlyweds had very little time to plan their future together.

Shortly thereafter, he flew to England via Prestwick, Scotland, where he spent the night. Here he was surprised to

see its buildings, shaped like ships. Mr. Free later learned the British trained its Navy personnel at Prestwick during World War II. Without ships for early training, these ship-shaped buildings were used to help condition sailors for life aboard ship. The next day, Mr. Free traveled from Prestwick by train through London to Reading and RAF Greenham Common.

Mr. Free began his military career as a Second Lieutenant with the United States Air Force as a Vehicle Maintenance Officer. He then progressed to other jobs in transportation as his career in the United States Air Force advanced.

RAF Greenham Common was a Strategic Air Command REFLEX Base with B-47 Stratojet bombers. In England, it was one of eight bases with B-47's. This base "is a former Royal Air Force station in Berkshire, England. The airfield was southeast of Newbury, Berkshire, 55 miles (89 km) west of London.

"Opened in 1942, it was used by both the Royal Air Force and United States Army Air Forces during the Second World War..."

"In late 1943, Greenham Common airfield was turned over to the USAAF Ninth Air Force..."¹

The insignia for the Strategic Air Command is the steel fist holding flashes of lightning and an olive branch. This symbol signifies "Peace through Strength."

Manufactured by the Boeing Air Craft Company, a B-47 Stratojet, multi-engine, airplane was the first all-jet bomber the United States possessed. Boeing adapted the swept back wing from more advanced jet aircraft designs captured from the Germans.



B-47 STRATOJET BOMBER

RAF Greenham Common was a REFLEX base, where Lt. Free's operation supported flight crews and their aircraft temporarily assigned to this base. Reflex aircraft were placed in England and other countries to provide security in



INSIGNIA OF THE STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND



AREAS OF MILITARY SERVICE, RESIDENCES, AND TRAVELS

LINEAGE

Page 3

dispersal and place them closer to potential targets in the Soviet Union. Aircraft and crews were rotated to REFLEX bases from the United States permanent duty bases for ninety days' alert duty. At the end of ninety days, they returned to their permanent duty stations in Kansas, Missouri, etc. Replacement REFLEX crews and aircraft were in place on alert before departing crews were released to return home.

Always on alert, these flight crews slept near their airplanes. They had to be prepared to launch their bombers either to confront a real threat or to perform an exercise. Sometimes an alert was initiated simply to ensure all crew members were present and accountable. One plan for an alert required a number of bases to launch 500 bombers within fifteen minutes. The first wave of these bombers had to be airborne within six minutes.

As the Vehicle Maintenance Officer, Lt. Free was responsible for maintaining all motorized equipment, such as staff cars, buses, cargo trucks, fuel service trucks, cargo and bomb handling equipment, ambulances, tow trucks, and construction equipment. The Air Force used commercial off-the-shelf equipment when practical. This equipment was similar to that any American citizen purchased from a local dealer. There was no standardization among similar units. For instance, there could be a combination of Ford, Chevrolet, and Dodge one-half-ton pickups.

Where commercial equipment was not practical, military designed equipment was used, such as the M-38 Jeep, M-20 Armored Car, and M-62 Wrecker. Similar military designed units were standardized regardless of manufacture. For instance, parts from one M-38 Jeep would fit another M-38 Jeep if it was manufactured by *Ford* or *Willys*.

A portion of the vehicle fleet was of British manufacture. For instance, the U. S. military had *Vanguard* and *Thames* trucks, *Austin* buses, and *Thornycroft* runway sweepers. Equipment purchased by the United States Government helped boost the British economy. All these makes, models, and sources of manufacture vastly complicated maintenance efforts. Supply sources for United States equipment were from many locations an ocean away. Parts' sources and systems from British equipment were something new Lt Free had to learn. Internal training programs for mechanics and supply troops had to be expanded to cope with all this variety of equipment.

Lieutenant Free's operation maintained the M-20 armored personnel carrier which patrolled the bomb storage areas. One day an M-20 required a set of points from the Office of Army Supply. A new *Cadillac* engine arrived in a steel overseas shipping container. Vehicle maintenance personnel removed the distributor points, placed them



1943 FORD M-20 ARMORED
COMMAND CAR, WW II,
UNITED STATES ARMY

in the M-20, attached a repairable tag on the new engine stating it needed points, and returned it to Army Supply.

The vehicle maintenance unit did not have the capability to perform certain repairs. These repairs were accomplished by contract with local British firms.

One day an Austin bus was sideswiped. When Lt. Free monitored the progress of repairs to that bus, he was surprised to see repairs being performed in a church building. The choir loft held an upholstery shop. Where pews once sat, a man with a band saw was sawing wood framing for the bus to replace items damaged in the accident.

Upon arrival at his first duty station, RAF Greenham Common, Lt. Free was warmly welcomed by Major David Lawrie, his Squadron Commander, and his staff. He was driven to areas where he had to check in and was returned to his office.

He received very brief instructions. The Commander told him simply to see whatever needs doing and do it. Major Lawrie also told him: "You can brief me on what's going on here at the staff meeting each week. But if you need help before that, you can call me."



LIEUTENANT COLONEL
JAMES M. FREE

Lt. Free was disappointed in the brevity of his orientation; but pleased with the commander's confidence in his ability to get the job done.

Lieutenant Free observed the operation and reviewed the paperwork on his desk. Most of it revealed personnel-related problems of individuals reporting late to work, drinking or getting drunk on the job. These were infractions he never expected to find in an operational Air Force unit. Lt Free worked to resolve problems within his authority and documented the more serious ones for Major Lawrie's consideration.

He then arranged a meeting with Major Lawrie to discuss the problem. Major Lawrie required Lt. Free and the person with the infraction to report to his office to discuss the problem. He asked Lt. Free to describe the problem in the presence of the accused. Then he asked the accused to present his side of the story. The accused seldom disputed the facts. When Major Lawrie was convinced the person was guilty, he decided if counseling or disciplinary action was needed.

Although not knowledgeable about vehicle maintenance or transportation operations, Major Lawrie was a good Commander. He listened. He weighed the facts before deciding the punishment the accused deserved. His range of minor punishment consisted of counseling, being given another chance, assessing a small fine or a little reduction in grade, or a short jail time. Major Lawrie then gave the

LINEAGE

Page 4

accused an option either of accepting Article 15 punishment he deemed appropriate or of facing a court martial. Many persons learned to accept Major Lawrie's judicial punishment.

At a weekly staff meeting, Major Lawrie asked Lt. Free if he was aware of a problem at a specific shop.

"No, but I've been trying to get up with Captain Knox." (Lt. Free had replaced Captain Knox.)

"Don't talk to Captain Knox," Major Lawrie directed. Instead, he advised Lt. Free to take his time and solve the problem himself.

Major Lawrie's instruction to not talk to Captain Knox bothered Lt. Free. After conferring with his chief non-commission officer (NCO), he learned why. Captain Knox had been placed on the Control Roster. The troops on whom Lt. Free had initiated discipline were Captain Knox's drinking buddies. Captain Knox had been drinking with them in the shop before Lt. Free arrived.

In the Strategic Air Command, the Control Roster was a method of maintaining quality control within its operations. If an airman's performance was unsatisfactory, he was placed on the Control Roster. This individual was given a formal evaluation, counseled, and instructed how to correct his performance. The airman was re-evaluated at intervals of 30 days and 60 days. If this person continued to perform unsatisfactory within 90 days despite these measures, he was discharged from the United States Air Force.

With the commander's help, the drinking problem was soon resolved, the NCOs got the support they needed, and most of the disciplinary problems disappeared. It was a nice place to work.

Lt. Free resided at Greenham Lodge for five months. It was located across the runway from the base proper and was a residence for single officers. It was a short drive to the base if he dared to drive across the active runway. Otherwise, it was a three-mile drive to the base.

In 1954, Greenham Lodge became a club for United States Air Force officers stationed at RAF Greenham Common.²

While driving by the flight line one day, he saw a big, beautiful, silver airplane. He later gained access to the airplane

through an influential neighbor employed at the local British Customs Office.

The airplane was "the Boeing KC-135 Stratotanker, a military aerial refueling aircraft. The KC-135 entered service with the United States Air Force in 1957..."³

General James Harold "Jimmy" Doolittle, famed leader of the Tokyo Raiders, had flown it there to visit the nearby Farnborough International Air Show, where countries met to display and to demonstrate their latest aircraft for sale.

In November, Lt. Free moved into this bungalow with his wife, Erma. The house they rented was very modern for the area. The owner was in South Africa and was a secretary to an English lord. He built this home where he planned to reside when he retired. His daughter managed the property for him.



BUNGALOW

Near Newbury, England, their bungalow was still a three-mile drive to the base. Newbury was in the rural countryside almost directly west of London, just below Reading.

Before leaving Louisiana, Lt. Free was advised not to ship his 1953 Studebaker to England, where mechanics did not know how to repair it and parts for it were unavailable. He later purchased a British Standard, eight-horsepower car, (approximately 35 U. S. horsepower). The Free family's car was similar, but not as well restored as the car in the photograph (right). His Standard Eight had neither a trunk nor a gas gauge. The car required so little gas; he twice forgot to refill its tank. He recounted fortunate incidents, six months apart, when local farmers came to his rescue.



BRITISH STANDARD EIGHT

The Strategic Air Command policy makers consolidated their eight British bases to four. After a year at RAF Greenham Common, Lt. Free was transferred to RAF Brize Norton, about thirteen miles from their bungalow. Although similar in some respects, RAF Brize Norton had an additional mission of supporting a readiness fleet of equipment. There was the usual fleet of vehicles used to carry out day-to-day operations. There was a second fleet of war reserve vehicles. Lt. Free maintained them in a state of operational readiness, ready to expand base operations with airlift of additional personnel from the United States.

As they did previously, the Free family lived off base. They preferred doing so. Mrs. Free said that they were often the only American family living in their community. They enjoyed the opportunity to intermingle with neighbors and



GREENHAM LODGE

FORMER USAF OFFICERS' CLUB,
GREENHAM LODGE

LINEAGE

Page 5

friends.

From a one-story bungalow, the Free family moved into a two-story cottage in the little village of Nether Westcote. It had limited amenities. Villagers traveled to another small village to buy bread and to a different village in the opposite direction to buy other groceries.



COTTAGE

Lieutenant Free's welcome to RAF Brize Norton was considerably different from that he received at RAF Greenham Common. He reported to Lt. Colonel Holmes, the Director of Materiel. He entered the office by saluting and identifying himself: "Second Lieutenant Free here, reporting as Vehicle Maintenance Officer."

Lt. Colonel Holmes said, "I don't know why you are here. That's a Captain's job."

Lieutenant Free replied, "I have orders. The Air Force sent me."

Lt. Colonel Holmes repeated, "That's a Captain's job. It requires experience."

Lieutenant Free replied, "Sir, I have experience. I have just completed a year in a similar job at Greenham Common." That was the essence of their encounter. Lt. Free saluted and left as soon as possible with a promise to perform to the best of his ability.

Things turned out well. Lt. Free earned a promotion to First Lieutenant six months later and received an assignment for advance study at the Air Force Institute of Technology as a follow-up assignment.

On one occasion, Lt. Free was given a responsibility unrelated to his specialty of engineering or transportation. With a day's advance notice, he was ordered to report on the welfare of an American prisoner at England's notorious prison at Wormwood Scrubs, England. Its official name is "Her Majesty's Prison Wormwood Scrubs." This report fulfilled an American Embassy's responsibility of periodically checking on Americans held in foreign jails.

His orders did not state the name of the American prisoner. The Provost Marshall was the only person who knew the prisoner's name; but he was on leave. Despite this omission, Lt. Free made travel plans to comply with this order.

Upon his arrival, the Superintendent informed him that Wormwood Prison held three American prisoners. All of them were civilian, not military, men. Lt. Free interviewed all three by asking each person a list of prepared questions in



HM PRISON WORMWOOD SCRUBS

the presence of a prison guard. He then made his report. Until today, he does not know which of the three, if any, was the intended American prisoner.

During his military service, the policy makers of the Strategic Air Command (SAC) required its personnel to possess a high school education or a GED. Further, they decreed, anyone without a high school education must be pursuing a GED to remain employees of SAC. From his research, Lt. Free learned two airmen in his operation could not read or write. One of them was a Cajun from Louisiana with the surname of Thibodeaux. He had progressed to the level of a non-commissioned officer (NCO) in his almost seventeen years of military service.

Lt. Free asked, "Man, how did you get here?"

Mr. Thibodeaux replied, "Well, during World War II, they didn't care whether you could read, write, or not. Put me down. Train me. Give me a gun and I'm off. The Air Force forms. I was transferred. Here I am."

Lt. Free then assured him: "We'll see what we can do for you."

Lt. Free conferred with Mr. Logan, the base education officer. With his help, a teacher was provided for both of these men. The airman from Louisiana continued to make progress toward earning a GED. The other airman soon transferred out of SAC and did not complete his studies.

Lt. Free also took every opportunity to continue his education while in military service. He attended a course at Oxford University and enrolled in educational courses throughout his career.

At leisure, the Free family visited historical sites at London and other nearby villages and towns, such as Runnymede and Salisbury. In London, they visited Big Ben, and the Tower of London (a former prison).

At the Tower of London, they saw a museum, a display of the royal jewels, and the executioner's block and axe (above), where important State prisoners and people of noble birth were beheaded. On very rare occasions a sword was used, as in Anne Boleyn's execution.⁴



At Stonehenge (above) on the plains of Salisbury, the Free family closely approached these stones. A few visitors even climbed these stones. "Today," Mrs. Free said, "a high security fence surrounds Stonehenge to preserve it."

LINEAGE

Page 6



MAGNA CARTA MONUMENT

At Runnymede they visited a monument commemorating the signing of the *Magna Carta*. In 2015 the American Bar Association celebrated the 800th Anniversary of this event.

In 1960 the Free family conducted a camping tour of England, Scotland, and Wales. They traveled north to Edinburgh, Scotland, along Loch Ness, and other points of interest.

Before leaving England in 1961, they completed a thirty-day camping tour of Europe. They had a list of places to visit and of special things to do.

Their itinerary included France. However Lt. Free was ordered not to visit Paris, France, the scene of recent terrorist bombings. He made a concession whereby the Free family avoided Paris. Their tour of France included spending a few days on the French Riviera. Then they drove along the coast of Italy, down to the City of Rome, and returned northward.

He marveled that their small car accommodated their family of three. They were now blessed with an infant daughter. They successfully drove their small car over the Alps with the added weight of their luggage.

Mr. Free purposely put a very personal and an historical site on his list—a visit to the gravesite of his cousin. Mr. Mark A. Heath was more like an older brother than a cousin to Mr. Free. They especially bonded while Mr. Heath lived in the Free household.

Staff Sergeant Mark A. Heath was born on May 12, 1917, at Mangham, Richland Parish, Louisiana, to the union of Felton F. Heath and Callie A. Jackson. He was the eldest of twelve children.

He enlisted in the United States Army on October 11, 1940, at Jackson, Mississippi. After military training in Georgia, he served in Europe. Staff Sergeant Mark A. Heath was assigned to the 8th Regiment of the 4th Infantry Division.⁵

The 4th Infantry Division is nicknamed the "Ivy Division." Its insignia (right) has four green ivy leaves joined at the stems and opening at the four corners of a square on a brown background. The Division's second nickname, "Iron Horse," has been recently adopted to indicate the speed and power of the division. The 4th Division's motto is "Steadfast and Loyal."⁶

Staff Sergeant Heath participated in the Normandy Invasion on Utah Beach as a member of the 4th Division. This historical event known as "D-Day" has become synonymous

with the date of June 6, 1944.

"...June 6, 1944, (is) the day the Allied powers crossed the English Channel and landed on the beaches of Normandy, France, beginning the liberation of Western Europe from Nazi control during World War II. Within three months, the northern part of France would be freed and the invasion force would be preparing to enter Germany, where they would meet up with Soviet forces moving in from the east."⁷

Staff Sergeant Heath never made it back to Louisiana. He was wounded in France and subsequently killed in action on November 20, 1944, in Germany. He was 27 years old.

For his service to his country, he was awarded the *Bronze Star Medal* (left) and the *Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster Medal* (right).



An oak leaf cluster is added to each of these two medals each time a serviceman performs meritorious service, is wounded, or is killed and deserving of either—or both—of these medals.

Staff Sergeant Heath is buried in the American War Cemetery near Margraten in the Netherlands.⁸

"The American War Cemetery and Memorial in Margraten is the sole U. S. war cemetery in the Netherlands. The cemetery is the final resting place of 8,301 U. S. WWII soldiers...."⁹

Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Free presented a rare insider's view of the interplay of operations within the Strategic Air Command to ensure its personnel and equipment are ready to meet any threat to America's security.

Obviously, Mr. Free and his wife, Erma, have enjoyed three years in Europe. Today, they permitted us to join them.

STAFF SERGEANT
MARK A. HEATH

Footnotes: ¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RAF_Greenham_Common

² <https://www.greenham-common.org.uk>

³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boeing_KC-135_Stratotanker

⁴ www.ancientfortresses.org/executions-beheading-tower-of-london

⁵ and ⁸ and ⁹ <http://www.fieldsofhonor-database.com>

⁶ <http://www.militaryvetshop.com/History/4thInfantry.html>

⁷ <http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/d-day>

Photo credits: Photographs ©2016 by James M. Free, Bastrop, Louisiana, are: the two of himself, 1953 Studebaker, bungalow, cottage, Stonehenge, Executioner's Block, and Magna Carta Monument; Photograph of Insignia of Strategic Air Command at www.conservapedia.com/Strategic_Air_Command/; Photograph of B-47 Stratojet Bomber at www.aviation-contral.com/1946-1970/afb20.htm; Photograph of M-20 Armored Command Car at <http://Ww2live.com>; Photographs of Exterior and Interior of Greenham Lodge at <http://descentfromadam.wordpress.com/>; Photograph of British Standard Eight at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Standard_Eight; Photograph of HM Prison Wormwood Scrubs by Petr Broz (Chmee2); Photograph of Staff Sergeant Mark A. Heath at www.fieldsofhonor-database.com/index.php/american-war-cemetery; Photograph of Insignia of 4th Division at <https://store.nwtmint.com/>; Photographs of the Bronze Star Medal at <http://www.mowwvandenber.org/MedalsPage.htm>; Photograph of Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster at <http://www.lexingtonrifles.com>

James M. Free



LINEAGE



RUTH REMEMBERS

DADDY HEN

©2016 by Ruth Roberts Frank Berlin



Daddy
Ben H. Roberts

Daddy was a school teacher. Mother was a housewife. And, though I didn't know it back there during the Great Depression Days, we were poor! To help make ends meet, Mother and Daddy raised baby chicks to broiler size and then sold them. People drove all the way out to Greenwood from Shreveport just to purchase broiler size chickens from my parents.

Though we had hens that laid eggs for use in our home, my folks bought newly hatched "biddies" to raise to nice tender broiler size. The baby chicks arrived at the Post Office in specially constructed cardboard boxes, were picked up by my father, and then taken to our home where they were settled in a small building Daddy named "Brooder House."

Brooder House, out near the chicken yard, was a low building—no more than four feet high, ten feet long, five feet wide, and floored. The back of the house faced north; and a latch was on the outside of the door which was on the west end of the building. The south side of Brooder House was designed to take advantage of the low-lying sun in the winter; so it was one very large piece of plate glass. The bright rays of the sun helped keep the "biddies" warm.

Inside Brooder House was a large metal upside down dish called a "brooder." It had a good-sized light bulb hanging from its center. The light bulb provided heat. The metal dish brooder held and reflected the heat. There were several chicken feed trays that had little holes up both sides—just large enough for a wee chicken's head to enter. Upside down quart-sized fruit jars filled with water were attached to special lids which allowed only measured amounts of water to stand in the small jelly, mold-like, dish surrounding the lid. Also, there were numerous solid bricks scattered under the brooder and light. They were there to gather and reflect heat to help keep the little chickens warm.

A new shipment of baby chickens arrive one cold, cold day. After Daddy brought the chicks home from the Post Office, Mother identified several she felt would not live unless they were kept in our house in a box beside the hot water heater in the bathroom. (Ugh! There is nothing like baby chickens running around on the bathroom floor

in the early morning hours!) The other baby chickens were taken to Brooder House where the light had been burning and the bricks had been warming for several hours in preparation for the new arrivals.

After the baby chicks were settled in their new, warm home, the family settled down in their warm home to have supper and listen to the radio. Following supper and the evening news, Mother and Daddy decided they needed to check on the chickens before bed time. They bundled up, putting on sweaters, coats, scarves, hats, and gloves to face the blustery north wind blowing outside. Armed with a flashlight, and in their winter garb, they headed for Brooder House.

My folks stood outside Brooder House looking at the baby chickens through the large plate glass windows. They observed the feed trays—plenty of food. They looked at the water bottles—all were well. These chicks represented a large financial investment; and my parents wanted none to perish.

Then, daddy spied something in Brooder House he felt needed attention. Mother unlatched the door and Daddy bent down and crawled in. Mother then latched the door to keep the warmth and chickens in the house. Daddy began correcting the problem identified.

Mother remained standing outside trembling from the cold. Soon, the cold overcame Mother. She hurried back across the yard, up the steps, and into the light and warmth of the house. When Mother entered the house, she removed her hat, scarf, gloves, coat, and sweater, and settled down to hear a program on the radio. My sister and I gathered 'round to help her listen.

Presently, my grandfather came in to the room. He stood there a moment, looked about the room, and then inquired, "Where is Ben?"

Ben?" Mother questioned. Then "BEN!" she repeated with excitement! "Ben is in the Brooder House!" As she said those last words, she was out of her chair, putting on her hat and coat and heading for the kitchen door. She ran down the steps and across the yard to rescue Daddy and the chicks.

What would she find—broken glass, dead chicks, frozen Ben? No, no, no. She found Ben and the chicks doing quite well. Daddy had gathered some of the warm bricks together and had fashioned himself a seat. He was sitting there on the bricks just waiting for someone to remember where he was and to come and let him out of Brooder House.

My grandfather, along with Marilyn and me, enjoyed remembering and laughing about the night Mother locked Daddy in Brooder House. Sometimes we referred to the experience as the night Daddy was a mother hen for a short while.

Peter Arts, My Dutch Ancestor

Contributed by Elaine Johnson

Peter Arts is my great-great-grandfather on my dad's side of the family. Arts is my maiden name, and I have been researching this name since 1997. My parents divorced when I was young, so I basically knew nothing about my dad's side of the family.

By the time I became interested, my dad was deceased. My mother knew the names of his parents (Wilbur Arts and Florence Adrian), but she knew nothing beyond that. I called my dad's sister, and she had her son send me some information which showed that Wilber's parents were John Arts and Caroline Hennekens. After some research, I found their marriage record that showed John's father was Peter Arts, and mother was unknown. The 1860 census showed that John's mother's name was Catharina. I found the marriage record for Peter Arts and Catherina Duclow. It showed that Peter was from Holland, and Catharina was from Belgium.

Peter Arts first appeared in the United States on the 1850 census in Newton, Cook County, Illinois. He was living with the John B. Masy family. Appearing on the census were John B. Masy, Madeline (from Holland), several children, Joseph Grimm (from France), and Peter Arts. Luckily at that time, Arts was a very rare surname. If you search the entire 1850 census, you will find only one Peter Arts in the United States, and he was in Newton, Cook County, Illinois, aged 26, born Holland.

1850	John B. Masy	34	Holland
	Madeline M.	33	Holland
	Charles M.	11	"
	Joseph M.	9	"
	John M.	6	"
	Anthony M.	4	"
	Joseph Grimm	39	France
	Peter Arts	26	Holland

Peter signed a Declaration of Oath on November 6, 1854, in Brown County, Wisconsin, that said he was born about 1824 in Holland and immigrated to the United States and landed at the Port of New York about September 1848.

State of Wisconsin, }
COUNTY OF BROWN.

Peter Arts personally appeared
before the Clerk of the Circuit Court of said County, being a Court of Record, and made oath that
he was born in Holland
on or about the year 18 24, that he emigrated to the United States, and landed at the Port of
New York on or about the month of September in the year 18 48, that it
is bona fide his intention to become a Citizen of the United States, and to renounce forever all
allegiance and fidelity to any foreign Prince, Potentate, State or Sovereignty whatever, and particu-
larly to William King of Holland
of whom he is a subject.

Subscribed and sworn to the 6
day of Nov A.D. 18 54

John Last CLERK. Peter Arts

I found a passenger list for the *Maria Magdalena* that showed P. Arts, age 23, farmer from Mook. The date of the list was October 9, 1848. Initially, I was not 100% sure that it was him. The "P" could stand for anything. Further research has convinced me that it is him.

DISTRICT OF

PORT OF

Do do solemnly, sincerely and truly declare that the following List or Manifest of Passengers, subscribed with my name, and now delivered by me to the Collector of the Customs for the District of *Mr. [illegible]* contains, to the best of my knowledge and belief, a just and true account of all the Passengers received on board the *Mat. Maria Magdalena* wherewith I am Master, from *Holland* to help me God.

Signed at this
Before me

9 Oct 1848
List or Manifest of ALL THE PASSENGERS taken on board the *Mat. Maria Magdalena*

Mat. Maria Magdalena

[Signature]

28	<i>H. L. Meaguer</i>	30	<i>Mat. Maria Magdalena</i>
29	<i>P. Arts</i>	23	<i>Mook</i>

His marriage record to Catharina Duclow says that he was born in Holland, and his parents are Henry (no last name, but I assume Arts) and Jane Coonen:

272 MARRIAGES.

1.—Full name of husband.	<i>Peter Arts</i>
2.—Name of the father of said husband.	<i>Henry</i>
3.—Name of the mother of said husband.	<i>Jane Coonen</i>
4.—Occupation of said husband.	<i>Farmer</i>
5.—Residence of husband.	<i>New Sweden</i>
6.—Birthplace of husband.	<i>Holland</i>
7.—Full name of wife previously to marriage.	<i>Catharina Duclow</i>

Peter was on the 1860 census in Brown County, Wisconsin, with his wife Catharina and his son John (my great-grandfather). The John B. Masse family was also in Brown County, Wisconsin.

Peter Arts signed up for the Civil War Draft two times. In August 1862, he stated that he was married. In August 1863, he said that he was single. It is assumed that his wife Catharina either died, or they split up sometime between August 1862 and August 1863. Even with considerable searching, I have never been able to find a death record for her, so I am not sure if she died, or if they split up.

On the 1870 census, Peter was still in Brown County, but this time with Mary and John. There was no indication on the 1870 census if they were married. From birth records of the children of Peter and Mary, they probably married at least before 1872 (when the first child was born). I have never found a marriage record, but each of the children's records says they are the "child" of Peter Arts and Mary Hessel.

Peter and Mary had two young daughters who died in 1879 from diphtheria. Mary Arts, age 11 months, died March 27, 1879. Anna Arts, age 5, died April 7, 1879. After I found their death records, I wondered if this could have been a stressor that split up the family.

On March 1, 1880, Peter Arts and his **wife** Mary sold their land in Brown County. I found Mary Arts with Margaret and Frederick, their two remaining children, on the June 23, 1880 census. They were in a poor house in Brown County, Wisconsin. But I could not find Peter. I was not sure if he had died or just disappeared.

So these are the things I knew for sure:

- Immigrated to the US in 1848 from Holland (*probably on the Maria Magdalena*).
- Was in Cook County, Illinois in 1850 (*1850 Census*).
- Was in Brown County, Wisconsin by 1854 (*Declaration of Oath*).
- Was on the 1855 Wisconsin State Census in Brown County.
- Bought and sold land in Brown County, Wisconsin, between 1855-1857 (*land records*).
- Married Catharina Duclow on February 15, 1858 (*marriage record*).
- Bought Land in Brown County, Wisconsin, from the US Government in 1858 (*land records*).
- Was the father of John Arts, born April 3, 1859 (*birth record from the Catholic Church, which also showed Catharina's maiden name*).
- Was on the 1860 Census in Brown County, Wisconsin, with Catharina and son John (*1860 Census Record*). (Note: *The John B. Masse family was also in Brown County in 1860.*)
- Catharina probably died about 1863. (*No record, but the Catholic Church said many records were missing from that time.*)
- Sold land in Brown County, Wisconsin, in 1865 (*land records*).
- Bought land in 1865 and 1866 in Brown County, Wisconsin (*land records*).
- Was on the 1870 census in Brown County, Wisconsin, with Mary and son John. He was listed as a citizen eligible to vote. There is no indication as to whether he and Mary were married. (*1870 Census Record*).
- Had a daughter Annie Margaret "Maggie," born about 1872 (*Sheryl Cseke, wife of a descendant of Margaret Arts*).
- Had a daughter Anna born, January 22, 1874 (*death record*).
- Had a son Frederick Joseph, born October 7, 1877 (*Sheryl Cseke, wife of a descendant of Margaret Arts*).
- Had a daughter Mary, born April 27, 1878 (*death record*).
- Mary Arts died March 27, 1879 (*death record*).
- Anna Arts died April 7, 1879 (*death record*).
- Peter Arts and **wife** Mary Hessel sold their land in Brown County, March 1, 1880 (*land records*).
- I can find Mary Arts with children Fred and Margaret on the 1880 Census (**but not Peter**).
- Mary Hessel gave birth to their youngest child Maria Anna on September 26, 1880. (*Sheryl Cseke, wife of a descendant of Margaret Arts*).

A lot of the information above was found in 2002, when my husband and I took a trip to Brown County, Wisconsin. For the next 11 years, I kept trying to find Peter Arts. The last thing I found was his land record when he sold his land in March 1880, but there were no clues as to where he went. He was not on any census record after the 1870 census. Since 2002, I have put out numerous queries and have searched every database that I could find. I searched **Ancestry.com** countless times as well as **familysearch.org**. I kept hoping someone would post something somewhere that would help me find him...all to no avail! I did make contact in January 2012 with a descendant of Peter and his second wife. She had information about their children that I did not have. But she did not know where Peter had gone either. Other than children's information, I had much more than she did.

Then in March 2013, I found him! My husband, Jim, subscribes to a genealogy newsletter that had an article about Door County, Wisconsin; they were putting their historical newspapers online. When he sent me the link, I did not expect to find anything because everywhere I had searched turned up nothing. But there he was—just one county away from Brown County!! Door County was considering getting a railroad from Door County to Green Bay, Brown County. Peter Arts was used as an example of how taxes would go up if they did that. His taxes had apparently doubled in Brown County after they got the railroad. So, it appeared that he sold his property in Brown County and moved to Door County.

In the fall of 2013, Jim and I took another trip to Wisconsin – this time to Door County. It was reported in the newspaper that Peter Arts bought 80 acres of land on June 13, 1881, from E. C. Daniels. I could find no deed for the transaction. However, I did find a deed where John Arts (Peter's son) bought 80 acres on June 14, 1881, from E. C. Daniels, described as E1/2 SE1/4 S13 T28 R26E (80 acres) for \$725.00.

From there, it gets a little complicated. There are 11 different land transactions between John Arts and Peter Arts from June 14, 1881, until February 7, 1884, all involving the same 80 acres described above. The final result was that John and his wife Caroline moved to Chippewa County, Wisconsin. The land was Peter's, and he sold it on February 7, 1884.

Conclusion regarding my US Research: I know that Peter Arts was born about 1824 in Holland, immigrated to the US in 1848, and that his parents were Henry and "Jane Coonen." He was in the U.S. on the 1850, 1860, and 1870 Censuses. I know that he sold his land in Brown County on March 1, 1880, and was not on the 1880 census. I found him again in June 1881 in Door County, but when he sold his land on February 7, 1884, he once again disappeared. I did not know if he had died in Door County or if he had gone to Chippewa County (where John was) and died there or somewhere in between. I even wondered if he went back to the Netherlands. Who knows? Well, now IDO!

Recently on one of my genealogy Facebook sites, someone posted a link to a good Dutch website called **WieWasWie**. <https://www.wiewaswie.nl/en/search/?advancedsearch=1> It's a wonderful website if you have Dutch ancestors. The site is in Dutch, but you can click on EN at the top to convert most of it to English. I still had to use **google translate** for a lot of the words. It can be searched for free. But I invested in the \$20.00 subscription because it allows you to search with two people at the same time. This is a really helpful feature for finding families.

I also learned that [FamilySearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org) recently uploaded about 29,000,000 original Dutch Records. (Unfortunately, they are in Dutch☹.) **FamilySearch** also has some really good videos regarding researching Dutch ancestors. There are a couple in particular that I found really helpful with regard to **WieWasWie.com**. Basically, it shows how **WieWasWie** and **FamilySearch** work together to find the original documents. This is the link to those videos: <https://www.familysearch.org/ask/landing?show=lessons&search=Netherlands>

The first thing I searched for in **WieWasWie** was “Peter Arts in Mook.” I found a Peter Arts, age 71, who died May 25, 1895, son of Hendrikus Arts and Johanna Koenen. It said he was born in Groesbeek, Gelderland Province. His age at date of death would make his birth year about 1824. This seemed to be a good match as I knew that Peter Arts was born about 1824 and that his parents were Henry and “Jane Coonen”

I continued to search using this website. I searched for Peter Arts in Groesbeek. I found Peter Arts born March 23, 1825, son of Johan Henrich Arts and Johanna Koenen. I then searched for Johan Henrich Arts and found a marriage record and a couple more children. Using those records I have put together the following family:

Johan Henrich Arts was born March 4, 1782, in Kleve, Germany. He was the son of Lambertus Arts and Maria Elisabeth Stoffelen. Johan Henrich Arts married Johanna Koenen on September 22, 1824, in Groesbeek, Gelderland, Netherlands. The marriage record said that Johan Henrich was the widower of Petronella Derks. He died February 4, 1853, in Mook, Limburg, Netherlands, at the age of 73. (*Records varied his name from Johnan Henrich to Hendrikus, Hendricus, and Jan Hendrik, but they are always paired with Johanna Koenen, so I know it is the same person.*)

Johanna Koenen was born February 6, 1787, in Wyler, Germany. She was the daughter of Gerardus Koenen and Johanna Walters. She was the widow of Christiaan Loeffen. Johanna Koenen died April 5, 1878, in Groesbeek, Gelderland, Netherlands. (*Note that Kleve and Wyler, Germany are right on the border of the Netherlands.*)

Below is the index/abstract of their marriage from **WieWasWie.com** (*Note: using this you can find the original record on FamilySearch. The information in parentheses and italics are my notes from translating the word.*)

BS Huwelijk met Johan Henrich Arts (*wedding*)

Groom Johan Henrich Arts	Event date 22-09-1824
Profession Landbouwer (<i>farmer</i>)	Event place Groesbeek
Bride Johanna Koenen	Document type BS Huwelijk
Profession landbouwster (<i>farmer</i>)	Institution name Gelders Archief
Father of groom Lambertus Arts	Institution place Arnhem
Profession arbeider (<i>worker</i>)	Collection region Gelderland
Mother of the groom Maria Elisabeth Stoffelen	Archive 0207
Profession geen beroep vermeld (<i>no profession given</i>)	Registration number 4530
Father of bride Gerardus Koenen	Source number 15
Profession arbeider (<i>worker</i>)	Registration date 22-09-1824
Mother of the bride Johanna Walters	Certificate place Groesbeek
Profession geen beroep vermeld (<i>no profession given</i>)	Collection Groesbeek
Event Huwelijk (<i>wedding</i>)	Opmerking weduwnaar van Petronella Derks -- weduwe van Christiaan Loffen (<i>Note: widower of Petronella Derks – widow of Christiaan Loffen.</i>)

The record states that both of them had a previous marriage. It appears the Henricus Aarts and Petronella Derks had a daughter, Theodora. Maria Stoffelen was the witness. I found Theodora's christening record, but I have yet to find out anything else about her.

Johanna Koenen and Christiaan Loeffen had at least five children:

Petronella (1811), Gerardus (Jan 24, 1814-Sept. 3, 1875), Johanna (Feb. 29, 1816 -), Maria (1818 - Mar 4, 1912), and Christina (Sept. 18, 1822 – Feb 6, 1890)...(born after the death of Christiaan Loeffen).

Johan Henrich Arts and Johanna Koenen had three children:

1. **Peter Arts**, born March 23, 1825, in Groesbeek, Gelderland, Netherlands. Died May 25, 1895, in Mook, Limburg, Netherlands. Birth: <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-62KH-S79?i=366&wc=Q84W-BTM%3A299981601%2C299951301&cc=1949343> (see No. 30, bottom of left page).
2. **Hendrina Arts**, born December 28, 1827, in Groesbeek, Gelderland, Netherlands. Died March 10, 1835, (age 7) in Mook, Limburg, Netherlands.
3. **Gertruida Arts**, born July 20, 1830, in Mook, Limburg, Netherlands. Died May 19, 1907, in Mook, Limburg, Netherlands. I cannot find any evidence that she ever married.

I am sure this is the family of my Peter Arts.

After I had done the research on the **WieWasWie** website, I joined a Dutch Genealogy Facebook site. I posted what I knew from the U.S. and what I had found on **WieWasWie.com** and asked if there were any way to prove or disprove my theory.

They were SO helpful. I cannot say enough good things about them. If you have Dutch ancestors, definitely check them out. Almost all of them with whom I corresponded live in the Netherlands, speak very good English, and were so excited to help. All of the information below was on **FamilySearch**, but I had no idea how to find it OR read it after I found it. I would not be to this point without their help.

I have already discussed the records that I found in the United States as well as the indexes for the birth, marriage, and death records that I found from the Netherlands. I learned a lot with the help of the Dutch Genealogy Facebook Group and have found many original records. Now I will show how they all fit like pieces of a puzzle and why I think it is the same family.

Records from the Netherlands.

The Netherlands has records that are called Population Registers (Bevolkingsregister). They are very similar to U.S. Census records, but they tell more of a story. They list full names (including the maiden name of the spouse), dates of birth, place of birth, and when they moved to or from a particular address. When they move from an address, they are crossed off and annotated as to where they moved. If they died, it shows their date of death.

1. So the first record is the 1849-1860 Population Register:

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-G936-LV1?i=58&cc=2018408>

NUMMER VAN HET HUIS.	STRAAT, STEEG, OF GEHUCHT.	HUISNUMMER EN HUIS. INWOONER VAN HUIS.	NAMEN EN VOORNAMEN.	GEBORTE DAG.	GEBORTE PLAATS.	HUIS- en GEZINSGELIEDEN.				BEROEP KWALITEIT OF BETREKING.	GEOOCCUPATIE GELIEDEN.				DATUM VAN INSCRIBUING OF ZIEK LUST.	VAN WAAR AANGEKOMEN.	NAAR WELKE GEMEENTE VERTROKKEN.	OVERLEDEN.	AANMERKINGEN.
						Mannel.	Vrouwel.	Jonckv.	Vrouw.		RODSCHE.	PROTESTANT.	ISRAELIET.	ANDERE.					
41	Deve	19	Masse, John Benjamin	23 Jun 1816	Roubaix, Fr. L.	1													
			Grimm, Madeline van	18 Apr 1819	Katzeneln		1												
			Masse, Caroline	3 Mar 1839	Daarburg			1											
			Masse, Joz. Math. Louis	10 May 1841	St. Jans			1											
			Masse, Johanna	31 Mar 1853	Wierd			1											
			Masse, M. C. J. C.	18 Mar 1855	Wierd			1											
			Grimm, Josephine Ph.	22 Mar 1816	Rijssel			1											
			Arts, Peter	23 Mar 1824	Groesbeek			1											
			Millem, Wilhelmina	18 Mar 1826	Coija														

Note that this record (most likely dated 1849) shows that Peter was living with the John B. Masse (age 32) family, including Madeline Masse (age 31) and Joseph Grimm (age 38) (*who was born in Ryssel, a city in Northern France*).

Note how all their names are crossed off. To the far right it says “This household moved to North America in 1848.” Also note that Peter says he was born **March 29, 1824**, in Groesbeek. His actual birth record says he was born March 23, 1825 – and there is no other Peter Arts born in 1824. As per the person who sent this information, Peter’s occupation was “tobacco carver”.

2. Next is the passenger list of the *Maria Magdalena*. After I found the information above, I looked at the listing again to see if I could find the Masse Family. I found this (last entry on the passenger list).

44	Mr. Massy	32	Male	Gentleman	Hollands
	Mrs. Massy	31	Female		
	William	19	Male		
	George	8	Male		
	Joseph	6	Male		
	J. B. & J. Grimm	38	Male		

Note that it says Mr. Massy (age 32), Mrs. Massy (age 31), and J. Grimm (age 38) are all from Holland. I am certain this is the same family listed on the 1849 Population Register above, which indicates to me that P. Arts that I mentioned earlier IS Peter Arts.

3. Now look again at the 1850 Census in Cook County, Illinois:



1871194	John B. Masy	34	Married	400	West Andes
	Madeline M.	33	W		Holland
	Chas	11	M		"
	Joseph	9	"		"
	John	6	"		"
	Anthony	4	"		"
	Joseph Grimm	39	"		France
	Peter Arts	26	"		Holland

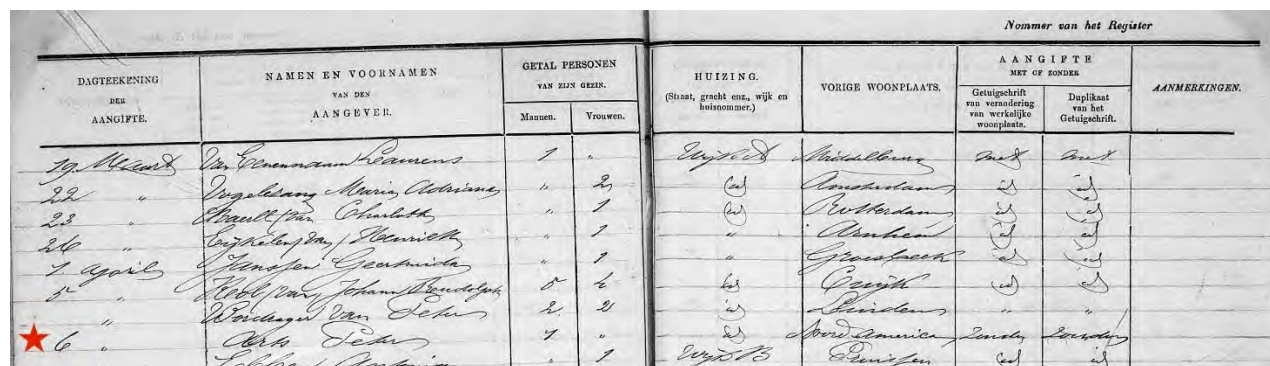
It lists John B. Masy, Madeline M. Masy, Joseph Grimm (from France), and Peter Arts. This is clearly Peter Arts living with the same family who was listed in the Mook 1849 Dutch Population Register. So I am 100% sure that Peter Arts, born in Groesbeek, Gelderland, Netherlands, was living with the Masse family in Mook, immigrated with them to the U.S. on the *Maria Magdalena* in September/October 1848, and was living with them in Cook County, Illinois, on the 1850 census.

If I were putting all of this into chronological order this would be the beginning of the story. But for me, it was found many years after I knew the history of Peter Arts in the United States. So knowing that he emigrated to the U.S. in 1848 from Holland; sold his land in Wisconsin on March 1, 1880; and was not on the 1880 Census: **WHERE WAS PETER ARTS IN 1880?**

I went back to the Dutch records that were found by the Dutch Genealogy Facebook Group:

4. This was described to me as a list of "Incoming Persons".

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-L936-LTX?i=77&cc=2018408>



DAGTEKENING DER AANGIFTE.	NAMEN EN VOORNAMEN VAN DEN AANGEVER.	GETAL PERSONEN VAN ELK GEE.		HUIZING. (Straat, gracht enz., wijk en huisnummer.)	VORIGE WOONPLAATS.	AANGIFTE MET OF ZONDER		AANMERKINGEN.
		Manen.	Vrouwen.			Getuigschrift van verandering van werkelijke woonplaats.	Duplikaat van het Getuigschrift.	
19. April	Mr. P. van der Pijl	1	"	Wijk 1	Amsterdam	met	met	
22 "	Ingelien Maria, P. van der Pijl	"	2	(w)	Amsterdam	(w)	(w)	
23 "	Engel van der Pijl	"	1	(w)	Amsterdam	(w)	(w)	
24 "	Ingelien Maria, P. van der Pijl	"	1	"	Amsterdam	(w)	(w)	
5 April	Ingelien Maria, P. van der Pijl	"	1	"	Amsterdam	(w)	(w)	
6 "	Ingelien Maria, P. van der Pijl	0	6	(w)	Amsterdam	(w)	(w)	
6 "	Ingelien Maria, P. van der Pijl	2	2	(w)	Amsterdam	(w)	(w)	
6 "	Ingelien Maria, P. van der Pijl	1	"	(w)	Amsterdam	(w)	(w)	
6 "	Ingelien Maria, P. van der Pijl	"	1	(w)	Amsterdam	(w)	(w)	

Description of the Declaration: **April 6, 1880**

Names and first names: **Arts, Peter**

Number of Person in his Family: 1 male

Housing (Street, Canal etc., neighborhood and house)??

Previous Place of Residence: North America

Declaration with or without

Signature of change of actual residence: none

Duplicate of the certificate: none.

Note that Peter Arts came into the Netherlands from North America on April 6, 1880—just after the land was sold in Brown County, Wisconsin, on March 1, 1880.

5. This is the 1880-1890 Population Register: <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-L936-2P3L?i=263&cc=2018408>

										Nummer van het blad 54										
Volgens.	Dag- tekening in Jaar der Inschrijving	FAMILIESAM. (Familienummer der vrouw)	VOORSAMEN. (Voluit geschreven.)	Ged. 1. v. (Ged. 1. v.)	Dag- tekening en Jaar der Geborte.	GEBOORTESPLAATS. (Met aanteekening der provincie naar de bevolking, en het land naar de volksnaam.)	BEKERLIJKE STAAT. II. (Land.) N. (Nationaliteit) S. (Scheidsre van eelt.)	Veranderingen in late Ingeschrijving.	III. (Land) N. (Nationaliteit) S. (Scheidsre van eelt.)	Volgens.	Dag- tekening in Jaar der Inschrijving	FAMILIESAM. (Familienummer der vrouw)	VOORSAMEN. (Voluit geschreven.)	Ged. 1. v. (Ged. 1. v.)	Dag- tekening en Jaar der Geborte.	GEBOORTESPLAATS. (Met aanteekening der provincie naar de bevolking, en het land naar de volksnaam.)	BEKERLIJKE STAAT. II. (Land.) N. (Nationaliteit) S. (Scheidsre van eelt.)	Veranderingen in late Ingeschrijving.	III. (Land) N. (Nationaliteit) S. (Scheidsre van eelt.)	Volgens.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	
1	1880	1	Arts	Arts	1880	Arts	Arts	Arts	Arts	1	1880	1	Arts	Arts	1880	Arts	Arts	Arts	Arts	
2	1880	2	Arts	Arts	1880	Arts	Arts	Arts	Arts	2	1880	2	Arts	Arts	1880	Arts	Arts	Arts	Arts	
3	1880	3	Arts	Arts	1880	Arts	Arts	Arts	Arts	3	1880	3	Arts	Arts	1880	Arts	Arts	Arts	Arts	

Peter Arts is living with his half-sister Maria Loeffen (*daughter from the first marriage of Johanna Koenen and Christiaan Loeffen*) and Gertruida Arts (*daughter from the second marriage of Johanna Koenen and Hendrickus Arts*). Peter is described as Maria Loeffen's "half-brother," and it says that Peter arrived April 6, 1880. So this is the same Peter Arts that was on the "incoming persons" from North America noted above.

He is again using *born March 29, 1824, in Groesbeek* as his date and place of birth. This is the same date and place of birth that was used on the earlier Population Register when he was with the Masse family. Since I am 100% sure that the Peter Arts who was living with the Masse family is my Peter Arts, this date and place of birth convinces me that this is also my Peter Arts.

6. I am 100% sure that he was in Door County, Wisconsin, from 1881 to 1884. That is proved by newspaper articles, land records, and a Maintenance Bond that was signed between Peter and John/Caroline Arts. All the documentation says at the bottom that he "Personally Appeared." Therefore, I knew that he had to have made another trip back to the United States.

A record was found for P. Aarts who sailed from Liverpool, England, to New York, New York, on the *City of Paris*. The passenger list is dated April 25, 1881. I know that passenger lists were created after the ship docked. Again I know that the P could stand for anything, but I think it is entirely possible that this is my Peter Arts and that he returned to the United States just before he was found in Door County in June 1881. Note that the age is correct (age 56, farmer, from USA). The 1870 census shows that he was a citizen, so it would be correct to say that he was from the USA. Per Marianne (on the Dutch Genealogy Facebook Group), it was very common for people from the Netherlands to travel to a variety of places (including Liverpool), before completing their travels to the United States.

DISTRICT OF NEW YORK.									
PORT OF NEW YORK.									
<p>I, <u>George Lockhart</u> Master of the <u>S.S. City of Paris</u> do solemnly, sincerely and truly <u>swear</u> that the following List or Manifest, subscribed by me, and now delivered by me to the Collector of the Customs of the Collection District of New York, is a full and perfect List of all the Passengers taken on Board the said <u>City of Paris</u> at <u>New York</u> from which port the said <u>City of Paris</u> has now arrived; and that on said List is truly designated the age, the sex, and the occupation of each of said Passengers, the part of the vessel occupied by each during the passage, the country to which each belongs, and also the country of which it is intended by each to become an inhabitant; and that said List or Manifest truly sets forth the number of said Passengers who have died on said Voyage, and the names and ages of those who died.</p> <p>Sworn to this <u>April 25</u> 1881 <u>Geo. Lockhart</u> So Help Me God.</p> <p>Before me <u>Raymond</u> } <u>George Lockhart</u> is Master from <u>New York</u> burthen <u>1997</u> tons whereof</p>									
NAMES	AGE	SEX	OCCUPATION	The country to which they are bound	The country to which they intend to become an inhabitant	Died on the Voyage	Part of the Vessel occupied by each passenger during the Voyage		
<u>Helenebra</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>Farmer</u>	<u>USA</u>	<u>10.3</u>				
<u>P. Arts</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>Farmer</u>	<u>USA</u>	<u>1.0</u>				
<u>J. Radoloff</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>Lab.</u>	<u>Germany</u>					

So far, we have not located a document showing that he returned to the Netherlands after February, 1884, but I am confident that it will be found.

7. The next record that found in the Netherlands was the 1890 - 1931 Population Register:

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-9936-LSV7?i=94&cc=2018408>

Nummer van het Blad. 53

VOORNAAM	DAG- TEKENING EN JAAR DER INSCHRIJ- VING.	FAMILIENAAM <small>(Naam van de vader)</small>	VOORNAMEN <small>(Totaal geslachten)</small>	<small>N. (naam)</small> GEBORTE JAAR DER GEBORTE	DAG- TEKENING EN JAAR DER GEBORTE	GEBORTEPLAATS <small>(Het aangeven van de plaats van geboorte is noodzakelijk)</small>	<small>OPMERKINGEN</small>	<small>OPMERKINGEN</small>	ABT. HOOFDSTAD OF BUREAU WAARVOOR MEN HET BOEK IS AANGESLAGEN. <small>(Het aangeven van de plaats van geboorte is noodzakelijk)</small>	HUIZING. <small>(Het aangeven van de plaats van geboorte is noodzakelijk)</small>	DAG- TEKENING EN JAAR DER VERSTIGING IN DE GEMEENTE.	VOORIGE WOONPLAATS. <small>(Het aangeven van de plaats van geboorte is noodzakelijk)</small>	DAG- TEKENING EN JAAR VAN HET VERSTIGING SIT DE GEMEENTE.	WAARHEEN VERTOKKEN. <small>(Het aangeven van de plaats van geboorte is noodzakelijk)</small>	DAG- TEKENING EN JAAR VAN HET OVER- LIJDEN.	OPMERKINGEN TOEGELIJDEN.	Aanmerkingen.
1	1890	Arts	Peter	1825	1890	Groesbeek											
2	1890	Arts	Gertruida	1824	1890	Groesbeek											
3	1890	Arts	Maria	1824	1890	Groesbeek											
4	1890	Arts	Gertruida	1824	1890	Groesbeek											
5	1890	Arts	Peter	1825	1890	Groesbeek											
6	1890	Arts	Gertruida	1824	1890	Groesbeek											
7	1890	Arts	Maria	1824	1890	Groesbeek											
8	1890	Arts	Gertruida	1824	1890	Groesbeek											
9	1890	Arts	Peter	1825	1890	Groesbeek											
10	1890	Arts	Gertruida	1824	1890	Groesbeek											
11	1890	Arts	Maria	1824	1890	Groesbeek											
12	1890	Arts	Gertruida	1824	1890	Groesbeek											
13	1890	Arts	Peter	1825	1890	Groesbeek											
14	1890	Arts	Gertruida	1824	1890	Groesbeek											
15	1890	Arts	Maria	1824	1890	Groesbeek											
16	1890	Arts	Gertruida	1824	1890	Groesbeek											
17	1890	Arts	Peter	1825	1890	Groesbeek											
18	1890	Arts	Gertruida	1824	1890	Groesbeek											
19	1890	Arts	Maria	1824	1890	Groesbeek											
20	1890	Arts	Gertruida	1824	1890	Groesbeek											

Peter is again listed with Maria Loeffen and Gertruida Arts. He again uses the date of birth **March 29, 1824, and place of birth as Groesbeek**. Gertruida is listed as Maria's half-sister. Peter is listed as Maria's half-brother. Note the dates of death in the last completed column on the right page.

8. Peter Arts died May 25, 1896, in Mook, Limburg, Netherlands. I have both the index records for this from **WieWasWie** as well as original records from familysearch.org (below)

Death <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:9392-1H9L-18?i=130&wc=10723738&cc=2026214> (see No. 11 on the right page)

Mieke Roukens (Dutch Genealogy) gave me the basic information from the death record: "It's a death record of 25 May 1895. The declarants are Jacobus Derks, 55 years old, farmer, living in Mook, and Adolf van den Bulck, 46 years old, without profession, living in Mook. The first mentioned "behuwdneef" (is the nephew-in-law) of the deceased. They reported the death of Peter Arts, not married, 71 years old, without profession, born in Groesbeek, living in Mook, son of the late couple Hendrikus Arts, farmer in Mook and Johanna Koenen, without profession, who has lived in Groesbeek. Peter died **25 May 1895**, three o'clock in the afternoon in the municipality of Mook. Jacobus Derks couldn't sign the record because he never learned to write."

Mieke Roukens also reported that "Jacobus Derks was married to Johanna Loeffen, daughter of Gerardus Loeffen and Gertruij Martens. Gerardus was a son of Johanna Koenen and Christiaan Loeffen." So Jacobus was a nephew-in-law of Peter."

So this is my final conclusion:

Peter Arts was born March 23, 1825, in Groesbeek, Gelderland, Netherlands, (in spite of his consistently using March 29, 1824); was the son of John Henrich Arts and Johanna Koenen; immigrated from the Netherlands to the U.S. in 1848; returned to Netherlands in April 1880; made another trip back to the United States in April 1881; and, undoubtedly, returned to the Netherlands sometime after February, 1884. He died May 25, 1895, in Mook, Limburg, Netherlands.

I have little doubt that I have finally solved the puzzle of Peter Arts; however, there is still one piece missing. Peter Arts died in Mook, Limburg, Netherlands, so he would have had to return to the Netherlands after he sold his land in Door County, Wisconsin. I have not yet been able to find that record, but am continuing to look.

To sum it up: I know there is nothing here that actually proves this is my Peter Arts, except that ALL the pieces fit. Arts (and variations of the name Arts) is an uncommon name in the United States, particularly in the mid to late 1800s. In the U.S. Census records, I have never found another Peter Arts (or any other name that starts with “P”) who even comes close to being born in 1824 in the Netherlands – or anywhere else. Likewise, I have found the same thing in the Netherlands. There are many Peter Arts in the Netherlands, but there is no other Peter Arts that has the correct age and parents’ names.

1. U.S. Records say that he was born about 1824 in Holland; the actual birth record says March 23, 1825, but he consistently claimed March 29, 1824. There were a couple of Peter Arts born in 1824 in the Netherlands, but not in Groesbeek, and the parent’s names were not even close to being correct. So it appears that he was consistently using a wrong date of birth.
2. His marriage record says his parents are Henry (presumed Arts) and Jane Coonen. The parents for Peter Arts in the Netherlands are Johan Henrich Arts (*aka Hendricus and Hendrik*) and Johanna Koenen. (*The pronunciation of Koenen sounds like Coonen.*)
3. The Mook Population Register from 1849, the ship record for the *Maria Magdalena*, and the U.S. 1850 census all show Peter Arts from Mook with the John B. Masse family and Joseph Grimm. I know that Peter Arts on the 1850 Census is mine. So I am sure that Peter Arts on all these records is mine.
4. No one in the Dutch Genealogy Group has been able to find this Peter Arts in the Netherlands between 1848 and 1880.
5. He sold his land on March 1, 1880, in Brown County, Wisconsin, and was not found anywhere on the 1880 census (even though his wife and children were). From March 1, 1880, until June 13, 1881, I can find no record of him in Wisconsin.
6. Dutch records show that Peter Arts arrived in the Netherlands on April 6, 1880, from North America. Once there, he consistently used a date and place of birth of March 29, 1824, in Groesbeek. He was living with the family that I would expect to find him with, Gertruida Arts and half-sister Maria Loeffen.
7. Although the ship’s listing for the *City of Paris* only shows P. Aarts, his age and place where he came from are correct. Remember that after years of searching, I have only found one Peter Arts in the U.S. who was born about 1824. There is no other Peter Arts (or any P Arts/Aarts) that age from the USA. He arrived in New York before April 25, 1881, and by June 13, 1881, he was in Door County, Wisconsin.
8. He would have had to return to the Netherlands after February 1884, because he died May 25, 1895, in Mook, Limburg, Netherlands. The return to the Netherlands record has not been located yet, but I have no doubt that I will someday find it.

I have never had things fall into place the way this one has. It has been like putting a puzzle together. I have been researching Peter Arts many years, and I am sure I have found what became of him. Of course, I plan to keep researching. I am sure there is more to find.



If you have ancestors from the Netherlands, there are some really good resources out there to help you. I never thought I would be able to do research in another country due to language issues. But I have found that the Dutch Genealogy Facebook group is very English literate and very eager to help.

The Dutch records are quite good. Some interesting things that I have found out about those records:

1. The Netherlands is very small, less than twice the size of New Jersey. In 1811, they began Civil Registration. It is claimed that all of their records from this point are online but not all are indexed. There are records prior to that point, but they may or may not be online. It appears that they also have good archives for each Province.
2. **WieWasWie.com** is an excellent resource. Most of it can be in English, and the way the records are indexed can help you find the original records on **FamilySearch.org**.
3. **FamilySearch.org** has these (Dutch) records online. And the Dutch Genealogy Facebook Group has been excellent about finding these records and then interpreting them for me. **FamilySearch** also has some extraordinary tutorials regarding Dutch Research (including finding records prior to 1811).
4. Another good resource is <https://www.openarch.nl/>. This website is also in English. The advanced search gives you the option of searching for two names at the same time. Instructions for using this website are on the FamilySearch.org link given earlier.
5. The Population Registers starts with 1849. I am providing a couple of links for this one. These records are so good, much like our census records, only better! Be sure to scroll down on the second one as it has several links with information regarding how helpful these records can be with Dutch research:
<https://www.dutchgenealogy.nl/population-registers/>
<https://www.dutchgenealogy.nl/?s=population+registers>
6. If you want to change your residence in the Netherlands, it is mandatory to officially register this with the local authorities (city hall) of your current residence. They issue a certificate of relocation (getuigschrift van verandering van werkelijke woonplaats), a copy/duplicate of this is to be handed over to the city hall of your new residence. Nowadays this is done digitally. This is really helpful to determine where people have gone, or where they are from. This information is also recorded on the Population Registers.
7. Marriage Supplements (*Huwelijksbijlagen*) are documents that a bride and groom had to submit to prove identity and eligibility to get married. They often included birth records, proof that the groom fulfilled his military duties, and the death records of any predeceased spouses or parents. These records are a great place to look for information on your ancestors and can often point you to other records to look for as well! The following link will tell you all about them: <https://www.dutchgenealogy.nl/marriage-supplements/>
8. The wife's maiden name. Did you know that in the Netherlands, women are required by law to use their maiden name on any legal documents? They can take their husband's name for everyday use, but they are required to record their maiden name on legal documents, including the Population Registers. All the people in the Dutch Genealogy Facebook group agreed that it makes it really easy to trace their female ancestors. I wish that were the law here.
9. Learning to read just a little bit of Dutch is helpful – and Dutch is very different from English. The Dutch Genealogy Group has been really helpful, but I have done quite a bit on my own. For records that are printed, it is fairly easy to use **Google translate** to find out what the records are about, but the written words are harder, just as in the USA☺. So I have contacted a certified genealogist and am planning to pay to have the major records that I found translated. I know basically what they say, but I would love to be able to read all of it. Depending on how that goes, I may actually decide to hire him to see what else he can find.

I have no doubt that I have barely scratched the surface on resources for Dutch research, but I hope that these will help you.

Genealogy Mystery Story With an Ark-La-Tex Connection
Contributed by Diane Tipton

Diane Tipton, in Helena, Montana, is searching for information and personal contacts that might help her locate 24 notebooks filled with research on the Tipton Family. The notebooks represent the life work of her grandfather Charles Junius Tipton, also of Helena, Montana. Charles Tipton is credited in the book, *The Tipton Family History*, composed by W. Hord Tipton, as an important contributor.

After Charlie Tipton passed on, Ema and Ennis Tipton of Bossier City requested in 1967 that the notebooks be sent to them for printing and duplication. Letters from Ema Tipton to the Montana Tiptons indicate that the notebooks arrived in Louisiana safely and that work had begun on them. Here is the mystery...the 24 notebooks apparently were not duplicated in Louisiana nor returned to Montana. There appears to be no mention of them in *The Genie* quarterlies, and they cannot be found by librarians in the genealogical collection at the Shreve Memorial Library where Ark-La-Tex members were so diligently working at the time to build up an outstanding genealogical reference library.

So the mystery remains. What happened to these 24 valuable notebooks, the lifework of one very dedicated and talented man? Miss Tipton would like to know so she can digitally link all the many other journals, letters, and Tipton memorabilia she has inherited via a Tipton genealogy website for that purpose.

Note: Ennis and Ema Tipton were active members of the Association from the 1960's until Mrs. Tipton's death in 1986 and Mr. Tipton's death in 1993.

Included are examples of the type of notebooks that are missing. The notebooks are believed to be 3 ring cloth bound and possibly of a denim blue or army green color.



If any Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association members or their friends knew Ema and/or Ennis Tipton between 1967 and 1993, remember any details from that time period, or know the whereabouts of (or what happened to) the 24 Tipton notebooks, please contact Diane Tipton by phone: **406-457-8474** or email: Tipton1968@icloud.com Miss Tipton hopes, in locating the notebooks, to help ensure her grandfather's research is made as widely available as possible.

Identities of anyone offering information will be kept strictly confidential.

Sometimes We Learn Too Late

Contributed by Glenda Efferson Bernard

“I think you need to wear a sweater today.” My grandmother’s words will never be forgotten. Those were the most directive words I have ever heard her say! She was quiet, kind, and considered herself a guest in my parents’ home. I remember winters when my grandmother left her rural home in Livingston Parish, Louisiana, to spend those months with us in our tiny, two-bedroom, wood-framed house in the city. Most family members viewed her in her twilight years as soft spoken and so very agreeable. She did not appear to be assertive or opinionated, and definitely was not argumentative.

The pleasant, soft-spoken grandmother who just always seemed to “be there,” was in fact, a woman before her time. Sadly, her redeeming qualities have only come to light to me within the last decade as I researched her life more thoroughly.

Ms. Myrtle Eve Watts Smiley (1895-1983) was reared by endearing, Christian parents in a very small, rural community in south Louisiana. She was taught to always look her best and act like a lady. That she did! She married Lorin C. Smiley, thirteen years her senior, and together they reared five children. They lived closer to her husband’s family, and she seemed to be more involved with the Smiley side of the family due to the closer proximity. The Smileys were of solid stock, helpful to all in the area, but did not share the same religious fervor as Myrtle. I’ve often wondered if she regretted her marriage for this very reason. Perhaps she did not complain about this difference as she felt that she knew that fact before the marriage. This possibility would seem to “fit” with her overall “logical,” personal demeanor.

She was an excellent cook, seamstress, and rather fastidious lady of the house. Her tea cakes and six-layer, lemon cake from “scratch,” of course, were memorable by all who tasted them. When a hog was slaughtered, nothing was destroyed. Myrtle did her part to cook or preserve it all. She could make the most attractive dresses, pants, and jackets without the use of a pattern. She directed chores for every child and made certain that they were done well. Myrtle also knew how to handle grief. Losing a six-year-old child to diphtheria and helping her husband to deal with the depression which followed, must have been a difficult task.

She was quite the business woman! During the 1920s, Myrtle’s home was altered to make way for an entrance to a community post office. She became the first postmistress in Frost, Louisiana. This venture made possible extra income to provide opportunities for her children. As another example of her business prowess, her father, William Hardy Watts, had left each of his children a portion of his old home place. Myrtle engaged the Sun Oil Company to drill the first oil well in Livingston Parish on her property. Although oil was not found, this pioneering venture displayed her valiant spirit. Women seldom had activities that paid real money in those days!

She saved enough of her earnings to send her daughter to Spencer Business College in New Orleans until she graduated. Her vision was that women would soon move into the workforce, and she didn’t want her children to be left out. She encouraged education. A son served in World War II, helped liberate Dachau, and earned the Purple Heart during his service to our country. He later received his doctoral degree from Louisiana State University. She and her widowed daughter had a chicken farm built next to her home which provided income from eggs and chickens. Her youngest was given freedom from country life to move to the city to live in an

apartment in order to work in a war-related business. These attitudes and actions by a female did not happen often in American rural families prior to the 1940s.

Myrtle Watts Smiley was more than a demure, reserved homemaker, wife, and mother. She was the motivator, engineer, and tireless provider that this grandchild never really knew! As many family historians have said, “If we had only thought to ask our grandparents about their upbringing, what a better place we would be in our understanding and research!” My grandmother would probably have loved telling me all of the wonderful things I wish I knew today. Oh how I long to have had enough foresight to show my appreciation for her insight and care of her family. How delightful it would have been to have given her more attention and respect when the opportunity was there.

Sometimes we learn valuable lessons too late in life! My gratitude is overwhelming just to have learned of these admirable feats in Myrtle Smiley’s life. My family may never fully realize the great depths of determination, resilience, and tenacity within this grandmother of substance, but I am forever thankful to have known her!



Myrtle Watts Smiley, about 80 years old.



Myrtle Eve Watts, about age 16 years

August Genealogy Seminar

Contributed by Jim Johnson

Our annual seminar, held on August 11, 2018, was a huge success with a record attendance. Every seat was filled. We were fortunate to have Philip Adderley as our guest speaker. He holds dual national British and American citizenship and has over 40 years of archival and genealogical research experience. Mr. Adderley earned a certification from the Board for Certification of Genealogists in 2009 and served a five-year term as a Certified Genealogist, CG®. He also is a former president of the Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association. We were fortunate, as well, to have Barnes and Noble Booksellers with us again this year hosting the book fair. Their local management team assembled and offered a large selection of genealogy books for sale.

Mr. Adderley's first lecture was titled "From 'Baby' Genealogist to Older (Wiser?) Genealogist: Key Tips & Tricks Along the Way." He described how he made lots of errors his first 27 years as a researcher by following the "learn-as-you-go" method. In later years, his research became more focused using techniques he learned while enrolled in various structured genealogical courses. He then implemented measures to insure his work met the stringent requirements outlined in the Genealogical Proof Standards which are adopted by the Board for Certification of Genealogists. During this session, he offered numerous tips and suggestions to insure those standards are met.

The second lecture was "Five Basic Strategies for Research in the South." Successful research in the southern colonies and states is a challenge to anyone trying to prove parent-child relationships and substantiate family histories. Several factors that make research in the South unique were explained. Some of those factors include religion, Indian cessions, migration patterns, and racial and ethnic considerations. For effective research in the South, the following five areas of research should be a priority: migration, land records, tax records, legal records, and military research.

The third lecture was "____ward Ho!" Basics: Finding & Tracking Early American Settlers pre-1850." Research prior to 1850 offers many challenges. While most American settlers moved in a westward direction, many pre-1850 settlers migrated northward, southward, and sometimes eastward. Most migrations occurred in small groups banded together for protective security and collective assistance. Federal censuses prior to 1850 did not list names of family members other than the head of household. During this period, use of alternative records, such as land records, tax lists, and military records are vital to determine locations and migration patterns of early settlers.

The last lecture of the day was "____ward Ho!" Case Examples: Finding & Tracking Early American Settlers pre-1850." This lecture focused on a case study using the information that was presented in the previous lecture.

This year's seminar brought attendees from Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas. Mr. Adderley is an excellent speaker and well versed in all facets of genealogy research. He provided us with proven tips and tricks to prove relationships and establish kinships. He also advised us how to make the best use of available tools and records to arrive at conclusions which meet Genealogical Proof Standards.



Digging for your Roots at Haynes Cemetery
Contributed by Patsy Roberts

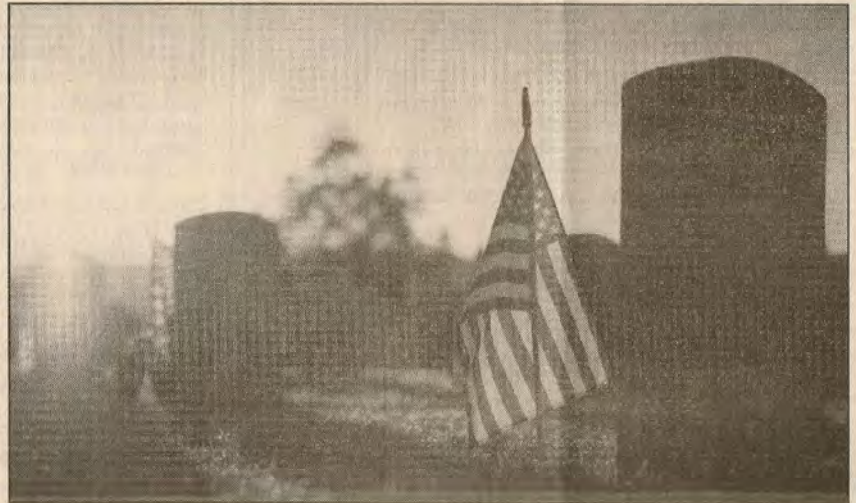
Patsy Roberts contributed this article to the *Springhill Press and News Journal*, June 7, 2018. It is used with her permission.

Digging for your Roots at Haynes Cemetery

There was a gathering at the HAYNES CEMETERY Saturday before MEMORIAL DAY. There were flowers put on every grave in the cemetery. The oldest veteran buried in the cemetery was David Matt Haynes (1842-1915). He served from 1861 to 1865 in the Civil War. Several ladies sung Dixie standing at the foot of his grave. After the war (1865) he came back home and married. David Matt was their second child and first son. David Matt and wife Mary had fourteen children. He became an Ordained Minister of the Missionary Baptist Church. Some is buried in the Haynes cemetery. Samuel Haynes was buried near his house in 1875. That was the beginning of the HAYNES CEMETERY. Caroline Haynes was buried beside her husband, Samuel in 1901. The Ark La Partners in Genealogy will Meet Tuesday, June 26, 2018 at 6:00 pm at the Mack Memorial Library. The Library has moved to South Arkansas St/

Highway 371 in Springhill, La. Everyone is welcome to come and visit with us. We will have a program each month. We will

have anyone get started in genealogy or You can come and just listen to the programs.



A life that is not documented is a life that within a generation or two will largely be lost to memory. What a tragedy this can be in the history of a family. Knowledge of our ancestors shapes us and instills within us values that give direction and meaning to our lives.

~~Dennis B. Neuenschwander~~

Highlighting Our Members

Contributed by Johnnie Covington

Member Peggy LaCour was born into an Army Air Corps family at Honolulu, Hawaii. She has lived on three continents, but when her father retired, he moved the family back to Pollock, Louisiana, where Peggy graduated from high school. She attended Northeast in Monroe, LA, and graduated with a degree in psychology in 1969. Peggy went to work for the State of Louisiana in foster care, welfare, adoptions, and mental health, then she earned her master's degree in social work. In 1986, she was licensed as a Clinical Social Worker. Peggy then was the program director at a psychiatric hospital, worked at a counseling agency, and for mental health services, both inpatient and outpatient.

Peggy has a son who is a physician who has a family practice in Bossier City. There are five grandchildren; the youngest is in the eighth grade.

Peggy enjoys ballet and movement and has been involved with a dance studio in Shreveport. She is an avid reader and likes nonfiction and mysteries. Peggy loves documentary films and goes to a documentary film festival in Hot Springs, Arkansas, every year. She has even been involved in deciding what will be shown at the festivals.

Peggy has done a lot of research about her maiden name, LaCour, and knows that in about 1722, Nicholas LaCour came from France to Louisiana. Peggy's mother's maiden name is Appleton, which is English. The Appletons came from England to Massachusetts in the 1600s. Peggy's Swiss ancestor named Felder enabled her to be in the DAR since Felder was a Revolutionary War soldier from South Carolina. Other names in the family tree are Barron and Cable.



Member Brenda Kelly lives in Shreveport and is retired from Kodak. Her territory for Kodak was the entire West Coast including Alaska, so she has traveled there extensively. Brenda has visited London twice—once on the Concorde and once on the QEII.

When not traveling, she enjoys caring for her two cats and her dog, sewing, knitting, and walking two miles a day. Brenda is a member of two book study groups, and she prefers reading fiction.

Brenda is interested in researching her maiden name, Englehart, and her mother's maiden name, Hochmuth. She knows that her ancestors came from Germany into the Houston, Texas, area.



Member Leonard Gresens works for Cornerstone Financial Services, where he sells life and health insurance, does financial planning, and helps senior citizens understand Medicare and supplemental plans. He is a native "Shreveporter" who graduated from Woodlawn, attended Louisiana Tech, and studied one semester at Tulane.

Leonard is a huge LSU fan and plans to take his fourteen-year-old granddaughter to the LSU-Tech game September 29th. Leonard spends a lot of time with his six-year-old grandson. Their Saturdays together are called "Papa and Pancakes," and Leonard always squeezes in a history lesson of some sort.

Leonard is interested in learning more about his name Gresens and his grandmother's name, Ladwig. He is planning a trip to Rochester, N.Y. to learn more. Leonard's mother is a Fiduccia (which has at least four spellings) and many of the Fiduccias are from Cefalu and Messina, Sicily. There are many Sicilian immigrants in Shreveport and New Orleans. Leonard is active in the Cefalutanna Society in New Orleans, which is a benevolent society for those who emigrated from Sicily.

One day Leonard received a call from Baton Rouge from a Fiduccia who said, "I think we're cousins." Leonard then started attending the annual Fiduccia Family Reunion; there are more than 700 members. He would like to get a page/site setup so that everyone can see how they are related.

Leonard's hobby is hunting and collecting tokens. He travels to shows and conventions; he just returned from Milwaukee where he bought a Shreveport token. He's been to Salt Lake City, and in October he is going to Dayton, Ohio, in search of tokens.



Member Bonnie Chance lives on 17 plus acres near Waskom, Texas. There is a pond on the farm for the mallards; there are geese and chickens, too, as well as Lucky, a new rescue puppy. Bonnie has lived there since 1992 and loves doing outdoor things like gardening, but she was diagnosed with cancer recently, and her energy levels are sometimes too low to do physical things. She now enjoys resting in a favorite chair with her cell phone and Ancestry.com.

Bonnie was born in Haynesville, LA, near the Arkansas border where some of her family settled. She lived in New Orleans for grade school when her father attended LSU Medical School, and then she lived there again when her husband, who is now deceased, took his medical training. Bonnie is a registered nurse and worked at the VA in New Orleans. Later she earned her Master's in Behavioral Therapy and retired at age 70 from Brentwood Hospital. She is now widowed and has two grown children, a daughter named Farris, who teaches at University Terrace, and son, John Chance, who is an insurance broker.

Bonnie had her DNA tested and learned that a large part of her DNA is from the South of France in the Pyrenees Mountain region. She is interested in researching the name Modisette, which is

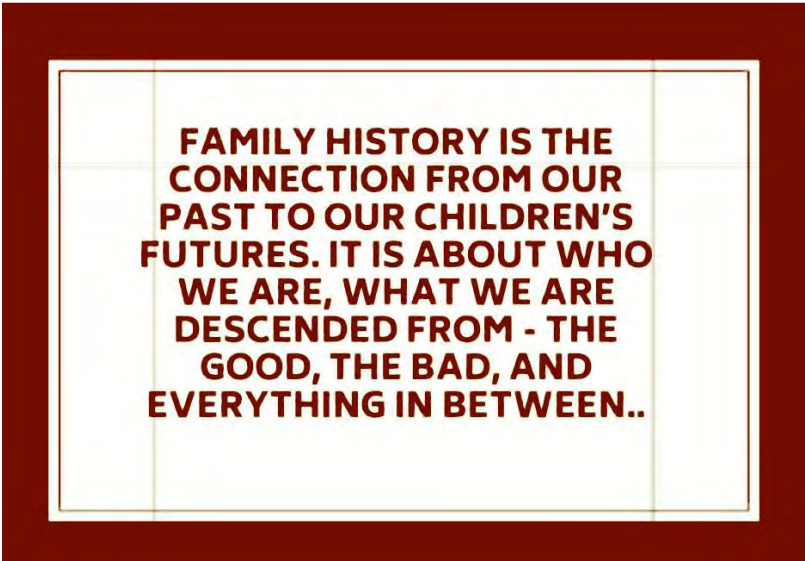
also spelled Moderset, Motershed, and Mottersett. Her ancestor is Charles Monroe Mottersett, who was born in 1770 and died before the 1820 census in the Kershaw District of South Carolina. Bonnie's great-grandfather was named Ellen or Ellenberg and lived in southern Arkansas. Bonnie's maiden name was Hand, and she knows that they were sailors and whalers near Long Island, New York. The name "Hand" may come from "deck hand" or "He's a good hand." Bonnie said the Hand men were said to be quite handy. They suffered at the hands of the British Army who confiscated land, crops, livestock, and other property.



Member Dave Montgomery was born in Brazil, Indiana, but when he was a toddler, his mother followed her brothers to work in the shipyards of Houston during WWII. He grew up in San Antonio, and after 30 years in the Air Force, he retired and settled in Bossier City. Dave was interested in business and management and earned a Bachelor of Arts in business management and then his Master of Arts in Human Relations. Dave worked at the VA Hospital 10 years and then became the Business Manager at LSU School of Medicine.

He used to be an avid bowler, but his health prevents that now. He gets exercise by working in his yard, and he also keeps the large cement drainage ditch behind his home neat and clean.

Dave enjoys genealogy and has learned that he is 45% British. He wants to learn more about Montgomery and his mom's name, Hagerman, as well as the names Edwards, Miles, and Aycock.

A quote box with a thick dark red border and a thin gold inner border. The text inside is in a bold, dark red, all-caps serif font.

**FAMILY HISTORY IS THE
CONNECTION FROM OUR
PAST TO OUR CHILDREN'S
FUTURES. IT IS ABOUT WHO
WE ARE, WHAT WE ARE
DESCENDED FROM - THE
GOOD, THE BAD, AND
EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN..**

Writing Your Own Obituary

Contributed by Sarah (Sally) Greene Hamer

Since you are like no other being ever created since the beginning of time, you are incomparable.

– Brenda Ueland



How is our story told? Sometimes, the only opportunity we have is through an inch-high notice in the newspaper – an obituary – which may be written during the throes of grief by our families.

Writing your own obituary can be difficult. After all, it's "The Last Hurrah," and for most of us, it may be the only time we're mentioned

in the newspaper. Do you really want it to be nothing more than your birth and death date, funeral arrangements, and names of close family?

Imagine if you could tell your own story. If you could:

- have the opportunity to say what you want to say about yourself
- include items that your family may not be aware of or have forgotten
- exhibit your personality instead of a resume
- leave a lasting legacy for your descendants
- alleviate some of the stress of your death for your family
- have your wishes honored
- exhibit your personality instead of a resume

How do you write an obituary? By creating a document that reflects who you really are. Here are four tips to get you started:

1. Face your own mortality

Most people who attend my classes to write their own obituary are courageous, genuine, and caring. They realize that death is just part of living and that by taking care of their business, they are relieving their loved ones of a sad duty. They're willing to take some of the burden away by documenting the important things so their family doesn't have to.

2. Gather information

A lovely lady who is a true force to be reckoned with in my home town decided to write her obituary and asked me to help. She had scrapbooks full of newspaper clippings and pictures that documented her years as a community leader and business owner. We sat together, and as I took notes, we laughed and cried over her accomplishments, the foremost of which was her great pride in her sons. She knew that her loved ones may not easily and quickly find all the information they'd need to create the massive obituary she wanted placed in the paper, so we put it into order for them. They won't have to worry about missing something important when the time comes.

Your own endeavors may not include speaking before Congress, as hers does, but no matter what you have accomplished, your family will find it important.

3. Just do it

We'd all like to think that we're immortal or that 'I have plenty of time.' But chances are that neither is true. I suggest that today is the day for you to sit down and write down your thoughts.

Take your time. Write some today and some tomorrow.

Think about the things that are important to you. The people you loved. The achievements that make you proud. The things you'd like to be remembered for.

These are the things that people want to know about you, now and in the future.

4. Final Tips



Don't worry that whatever you write isn't perfect. You're not perfect either.

Make it real. Make it sincere. Make it you.

Write as you feel comfortable, like you're sitting across the table from someone you love, telling them the story of your life. If you're funny, be funny. If you're philosophical, be philosophical. But be yourself, no matter what.

Don't worry about length. Write what you want. It can be shortened for the newspaper later.

Remember, this may be the greatest gift you can leave your family. And it allows you to tell the world how incomparable your life actually was.

Have you written your own obituary? Why not?

I wish to express gratitude to the giants whose shoulders I stand on and who taught me so much about the writing craft. I would list every one, if it were only possible.



Sarah (Sally) Hamer is a lover of books, a teacher of writers, and a believer in a good story. Most of all, she is eternally fascinated by people and how they 'tick.' She's passionate about helping people tell their own stories, whether through fiction or through memoir. Writing in many genres - mystery, science fiction, fantasy, romance, medieval history, non-fiction – she has won awards at both local and national levels, including two Golden Heart finals.

A teacher of memoir, beginning and advanced creative-fiction writing, and screenwriting at Louisiana State University in Shreveport for over twelve years, she also teaches online for Margie Lawson at www.margielawson.com. Sally is a free-lance editor and book coach, with many of her students and clients becoming successful, award-winning authors.

You can find her at hamerse@bellsouth.net



An obituary should be
an exercise in
contemporary history,
not a funeral oration

Peter Utley

Spring Street Museum

Contributed by Jim Johnson

We were fortunate to have Mr. Marty Loschen, curator of the Spring Street Museum, as our guest speaker at our September 8 meeting. He presented a very informative overview of the museum, including its history, artifacts collection, and its overall mission of keeping Shreveport's history alive. He also discussed and showed photographs of several archaeological projects that he participated in and around the Shreveport area which has uncovered more of Shreveport's past. Make plans to visit this museum at 525 Spring Street in Shreveport!

Spring Street Museum

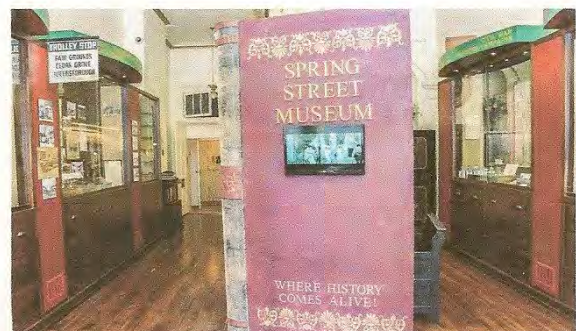


Housed in the oldest surviving building in Shreveport

- 525 Spring Street in downtown Shreveport
- Corner of Spring and Milam
- Open Tuesday - Saturday, 10am - 4pm
- (318) 424 - 0964
- Group tours are welcome. Please call to schedule.
- Extensive collection of items and artifacts from north west Louisiana history.
- Lectures & events
- Maria Schmelz, Director
- Marty Loschen, Curator



Victorian Parlor, upstairs at Spring Street Museum



It's like stepping into a history book, full of Shreveport history!

Cemetery Preservation in Louisiana

Contributed by Sarah Zeagler White

In researching the current conditions of historic cemetery preservation in Louisiana, one fact is clear: there is little governmental help. In June, 2010, the state legislature passed the **Louisiana Historic Cemetery Preservation Act** that is administered through the Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism with an advisory board and trust fund established by donations. It gives the state jurisdiction over “historic cemeteries that are not under the jurisdiction of the Louisiana Cemetery Board, are not on state lands, and are not solely comprised of unmarked graves”.

Dr. Charles McGimsey, State Archaeologist and Director of the Division of Archaeology, said that the law was passed to take care of abandoned cemeteries, but the board and trust fund were never established. Groups applying for the free permits to clean up cemeteries need to submit written details of their plans. Dr. McGimsey said few people have requested the permits, and the state doesn’t help with the clean-up.

The **National Center for Preservation, Technology & Training** (<https://www.ncptt.nps.gov/>) has a wealth of information on its website for those interested in cemetery conservation. They do not help with the work or cost of cemetery preservation. Jason Church, a material conservator at their headquarters in Natchitoches, LA, will be conducting a workshop next year on September 27, 2019, at Shreveport’s Greenwood Cemetery. He also has a private gravestone cleaning and preservation business.

The **Louisiana Chapter of the Association for Gravestone Studies** was formed by the international group last year. Jason Church is one of the board members. The nonprofit organization was founded in 1977 “for the purpose of furthering the study and preservation of gravestones.” They are pictured on their Instagram account working on headstones at the Chalmette National Cemetery. According to their Facebook page, they are hosting a Gravestone Studies at 10 a.m. on Saturday, October 13, 2018, at the main branch of the Lafayette Public Library to view Jeremy Broussard's documentary, “Grave House Legends.” The documentary explores the last of Louisiana’s Cajun Grave Houses. After the documentary, they will be traveling to Istre Cemetery in Morse, LA, to see the grave houses featured in the documentary.

