

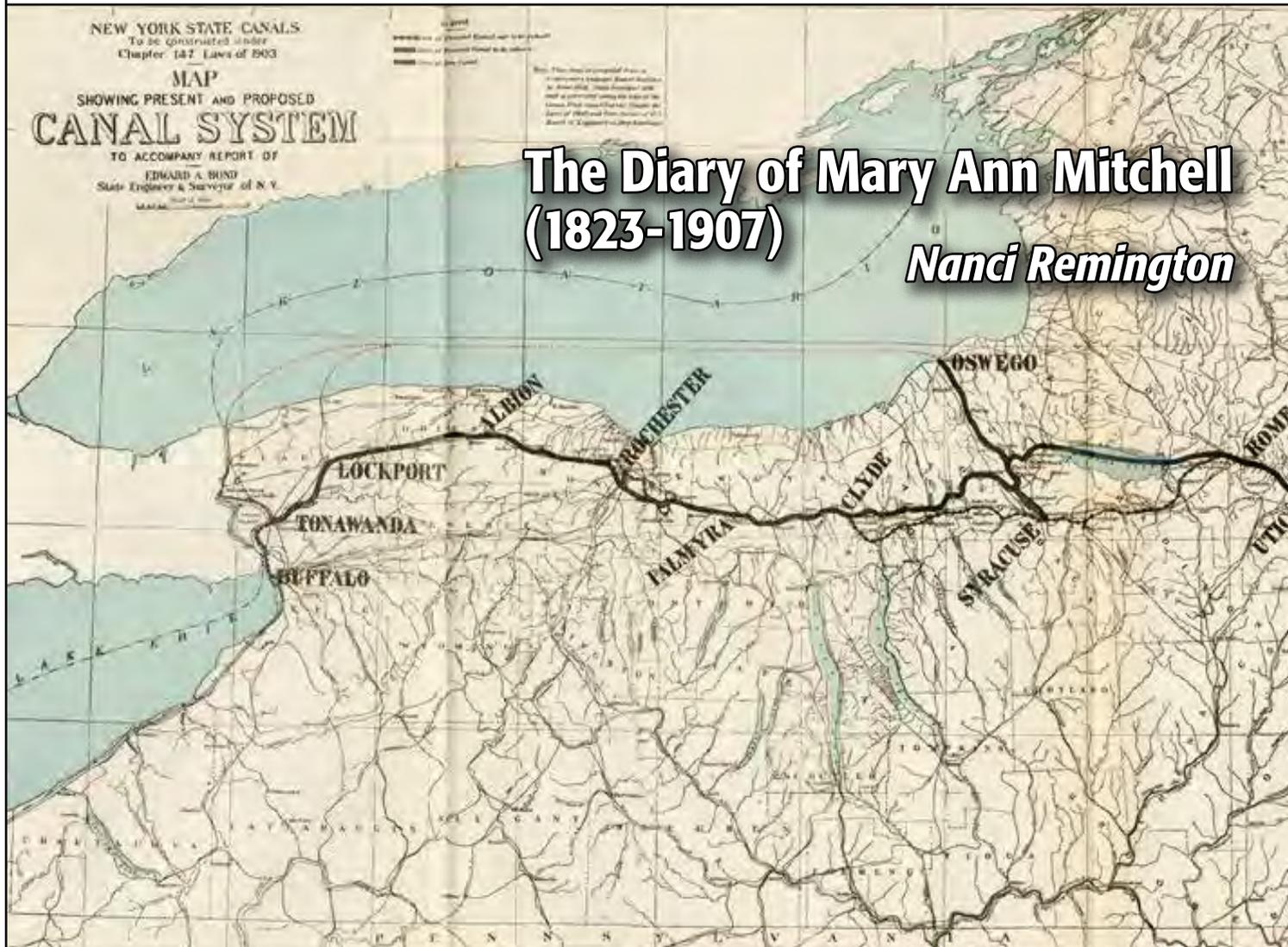


# The Bulletin

Quarterly Magazine of the  
Genealogical Forum of Oregon

Volume 66, Number 4

June, 2017



## The Diary of Mary Ann Mitchell (1823-1907)

*Nanci Remington*

### ***In this issue:***

- *The Diary of Mary Ann Mitchell (1823-1907)*
- *But I Thought He Was Already Dead!*
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- *Spotlight on GFO's Research Assistants*
- *Joseph Ellis 1841-1917*
- *Tools: Photographs*
- *Book Reviews*
- *And More!*

# The *Bulletin*: Quarterly Magazine of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon

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Portland, Oregon 97202-1061

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### Thank You

To all the people who helped put this issue together. This Periodical has been submitted to Allen County Public Library to be indexed in PERSI.

## CALL FOR ARTICLES

The Bulletin Editorial Group invites readers to submit articles to the *Bulletin*. We look for articles that are of interest to members of the GFO and those that encourage the sharing and research of family history. Possibilities include but are not limited to:

- memoirs and personal essays
- research articles and source guides
- how-to articles
- problem-solving articles
- articles on family history travel
- using technology

We also welcome book reviews, transcriptions or extractions from original sources, and posts from your blog. You are encouraged to attach photographs or other graphics.

Send submissions to [bulletin@gfo.org](mailto:bulletin@gfo.org). You may request a current "Instructions and Guidelines" by contacting us in writing or at the email address above. The information is also available at [gfo.org/learn/our-publications/gfo-bulletin.html](http://gfo.org/learn/our-publications/gfo-bulletin.html).

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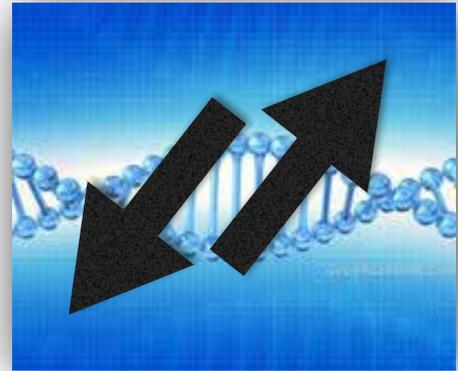
**Harold Hinds, Ph.D.**, was Distinguished Research Professor of History at the University of Minnesota-Morris, and is the author of several books, including *Crafting a Personal Family History: A Guide Plus A Case Study*, and *A Basic Guide to Genealogical and Family History Resources for Essex County, New York*.



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Add paper copy of Syllabus	\$3	\$3	\$3	\$3	
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**On the Cover:** Map of the travels of Mary Ann Mitchell, from “The Diary of Mary Ann Mitchell (1823-1907)” by Nanci Remington, starting on page 3.

## Letter from the Editor

The saying, “May you live in interesting times,” has been called a curse by some but is viewed as a blessing by others. We certainly do live in interesting times—in so many ways! Technological advancements are happening so quickly it is difficult for most of us to keep up. I was reminded of the difficulty multiple times over the past few months, especially while working on my own personal family history research. Access to online genealogical records can be a double-edged sword. On one hand, we need to remember that a very small percentage of genealogical records are available on the Internet; on the other hand, so much more is on the Internet today than was there only a few years ago. All these new resources make it a good idea from time to time to review the research you have already “done.” I wish all of you the best in your searching and hope that something in this issue may assist you in your personal research.

Our feature article this issue, by Nanci Remington, is about diary records found in our manuscripts collection. The diary’s author, Mary Ann Mitchell, did some extensive traveling considering the time period in which she did it. The diary gives us a better idea of how people of the period traveled and the cost of doing so. Other articles include a story about a surprising ancestral discovery found in the Calvin Cookson article by Wendy Peterson Negley. Carole Linneman provided an interesting article about how her research revealed a connection to one of East Multnomah County’s early pioneers in Linnemann Adventures.



Our columns this issue highlight a challenging German Bible translation by Steve Turner, who takes us through his thought process as he uncovers the secrets on the pages, a First Families of Multnomah County submission about the Ellis family by Judith Leppert, and our Tools column by Nanci Remington on how photos can enhance research. Our Spotlight column always focuses on a resource in the GFO Library. We felt it was time to feature GFO’s greatest asset—our Research Assistants. They truly, literally, help us keep our doors open every single day, and we are very grateful for their dedication to the library and to the assistance they provide to all of our patrons.

We also have several book reviews this time and two obituaries in this issue. Rena Rossi and Carolyn Bergeron were both well loved at the GFO and we will miss them.

I would like to finish with a shout out to everyone that attended our Spring Seminar with John Colletta. He was a dynamic speaker with a wealth of good information, and he gave us feedback that he was impressed with our collection and our volunteers. We invite you to visit the library someday soon and be impressed yourself. Maybe you will find that missing piece of information you really needed in your research.

Respectfully, Marti Dell

# The Diary of Mary Ann Mitchell (1823-1907)

Nanci Remington

In the spring of 1850, Mary Ann Mitchell left her home in Claremont, New Hampshire, to visit her brothers in Iowa. She was 26 years old and single, the youngest of at least 17 siblings and half-siblings. Her parents were both widowed with large families when they married, after which they had three more children. Her father died when she was eight years old. Her brothers Thomas and Henry moved to Iowa around 1840 and were some of the earliest settlers near the town of Fairfield in Jefferson County. Thomas later founded the town of Mitchellville in Polk County.

Mary Ann kept a diary of her travels including the route she took, the types of transportation, and the costs of the different legs of the trip. Using today's mapping programs, it appears she travelled more than 1,500 miles. Interestingly, most of this journey was made on water routes. Lois Craig transcribed her diary in 1952, and a copy was sent to Willis Corbitt from his aunt Etta and cousin Grace. The accompanying letter stated:

*It seems some time ago since Lois Craig was here leaving the diaries of Aunt Ann's . . . She typed all of Aunt Ann's diary and left us a copy and was going to send you one also. She said many words are left out as she was unable to decipher the fine handwriting and the ink has faded a great deal which leaves it too dim to read . . . In the old diary were several*



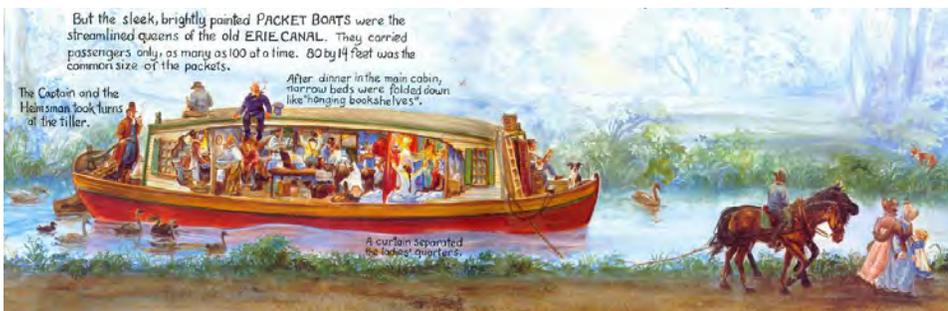
Claremont to Fairfield route map

*sheets of paper . . . Miss Craig suggested that I send them to you. She has made notes on two of them. The very yellow sheets were almost torn apart when I gave them to her but she pasted them on heavy linen before returning them to me.*

The originals were not included in the Corbitt Family History Papers (Accession 2012-06, Box 8, File 15) donated to the GFO before 2012, and their current location is unknown. However, while researching this article, the GFO obtained a copy of the original diary on microfilm at the State Historical Society of Iowa. It should be noted that the pages from the microfilm as well as the transcription were not in chronological order. For purposes of clarity, the entries included in this article have been rearranged by date.

## THE TRIP TO IOWA, 1850

Tuesday April 23 1855



Sample drawing of a packet boat

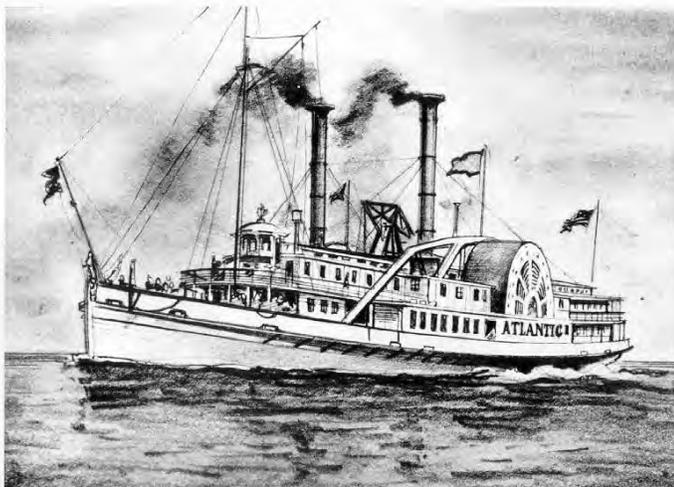
*Left Claremont for Iowa John went as far as Charlestown with me There met Mr Barnard & Mr Careys family Took Coach at Walpole to Brattleboro where we stopped over night—not being in season for the cars our baggage behind. Fare from Claremont to Springfield Mass. 3.15 Paid at Claremont From Spring—to Troy 2.75 from Troy to Schenectady .50*

*From Schenectady to Chicago 19 1/2 dollars Paid 15.00 first and then were obliged to add 4 1/2 more to get first rate passage*

Troy, New York, was an eastern access point for the Erie Canal, which opened in 1825 and dramatically decreased the time it took to travel across the state of New York. A packet was a boat pulled by horses that carried passengers through the canal. According to Wikipedia “. . . men and women boarded packets to visit relatives or solely for a relaxing excursion . . . Packet boats serving passengers exclusively reached speeds of up to five miles an hour and ran at much more frequent intervals than cramped, bumpy stages . . . The best examples furnished with carpeted floors, stuffed chairs, and mahogany tables stocked with current newspapers and books served as sitting rooms during the days. At mealtimes crews transformed the cabin into dining rooms. Drawing a curtain across the width of the room divided the cabin into ladies’ and gentlemen’s sleeping quarters in the evening hours. Pull-down, tiered beds unfolded from the walls, and additional cots could be hung from hooks in the ceiling. Some captains hired musicians and held dances. The canal had brought civilization into the wilderness.”

*We left Schenectady Wednesday April 24 about dark in the Packet Little Falls Capt Granger Reached Syracuse Friday 26 There took Packet Montezuma Capt Thos Wheeler Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> 5 o'clock reached Rochester There took the Boat Queen City Capt Stone Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> reached Buffalo Stopped at the Merchants Hotel in that city till Monday 29<sup>th</sup> at dark*

Buffalo was the western terminus of the canal. At that point, Mary Ann boarded the steamer Atlantic to cross



*The steamship Atlantic*

Lake Erie. After arriving in Detroit, she went by train across Michigan and then by steamer to Chicago. She continued by packet by way of the Illinois and Michigan Canal and then by steamboat south to St. Louis and north to Keokuk, Iowa.

*When we went on board the Steamer Atlantic we did not start till midnight We arrived in Detroit between 9 and 10 on the eve of the 30<sup>th</sup> of April Stopped at the Johnson House May Morning at half past seven left on the Michigan Central Rail Road We arrived in New Buffalo. Distance from Detroit to New Buffalo 218 miles traveled in twelve hours This Road is owned by a Boston Company*

*Left in Steam Boat we had reached Chicago at 4 o'clock in the morning distance 40 miles took Breakfast at Shermans Hotel Thursday May 2d Left Chicago in the Packet Prairie State Capt Grey. Friday morning took breakfast on board of a Steam Boat bound for St. Louis Sunday May 5<sup>th</sup> at twelve M. reached St. Louis There met a Boat Starting for Galena Arrived in Keokuk Tuesday May 7<sup>th</sup> from there to Fairfield in two and one half days being May 9<sup>th</sup> We started from Henrys on Thursday May 16<sup>th</sup> for Thomases reached there on Saturday May 18<sup>th</sup>*



Started April 25 arrived at Henry's 11 of May 1850	
Fare from Claremont to Springfield	3.15
One night lodging and breakfast at Br?	.87 1/2
Springfield to Troy	2.75
Troy to Skentady	.50
Schenectady to Chicago	19.50
One days board in Buffalo	1.00
Lodging and breakfast in Detroit	.50
Breakfast in Chicago	.50
Fare from Chicago to Lasalle	4.00
Lasalle to St Louis	4.00
St Louis to Keokuk	2.50
Keokuk to Fairfield	2.70
Amount	41.975

Mary Ann spent several months visiting her brothers in Iowa. On the 1850 Census, she was listed in the household of her brother Thomas in Polk County. Thomas was the first white settler in that county. The presence of Native Americans was surely a novelty to Mary Ann. She returned to New Hampshire in October, accompanied by her brother Henry.

**THE TRIP FROM FAIRFIELD TO CLAREMONT, 1850**

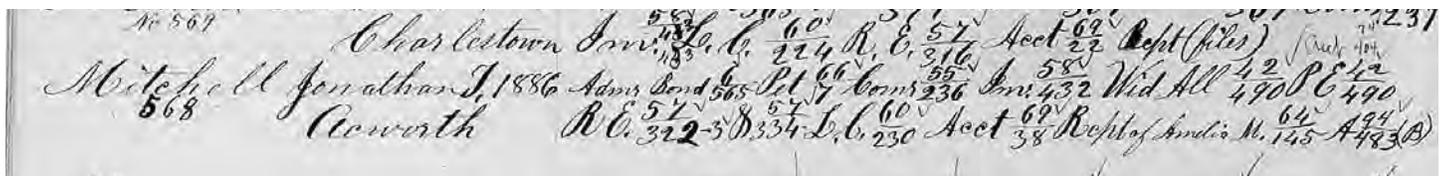
Left Fairfield for Claremont on Wednesday October 16<sup>th</sup> Brother Henry & Trullinger. Stopped at Mount Pleasant over night. Passed New London took dinner at Middle Town. Crossed the Mississippi at Burlington Stayed over night at Hagues five miles east of the Miss. River Came twenty miles took tea at Monmouth left there between ten & eleven the same night in Coach rode all night arrived in Peoria about twelve the following day Nineteenth of October 1850 twenty seven years old in Peoria Ill. Left Peoria Oct 20<sup>th</sup> in Steam Boat Prairie State S. Rider Master bound for Peru distance 70 miles Sunday Eve took Prairie State Packet at La Salle. Capt George M Gray the same on which I went down last May Monday took Steam Boat across Lake Michigan at Chicago. Arrived in New Buffalo at ten started in the Ea[?] for Detroit Arrived in Detroit at five being behind the time some hours Took Steamer Ocean Arrived in Buffalo at two in the afternoon took dinner at the United States Hotel kept by Z [?] Bonner Took Packet Saritoga Capt Warren Changes at Rochester Mr & Mrs Wright—Left at Lockport At Rochester took Packet Montezuma Capt Wheeler Steward Jones acting as the capting was at Syracuse Lock broke about five miles from Syracuse Got in on friday night took the Ohio Capt Watkins Miss Ehle whom I met at Chicago left the Boat at Fort Plain. At Little Falls lock broke which detained us a long time Reached Schenectady on Monday in time to take the Cars for Troy at eight—Saw Eben Everette last in Schenectady Monday 28<sup>th</sup> Oct 1850 he took the cars for Albany we for Troy. Stopped in Troy till four in the afternoon took cars for Albany changed and took cars for Springfield Mass Stopped at Cool-ey's Hotel Springfield Mass over night Distance of Springfield from Albany 102 miles traveled it in four hours reached Claremont at dusk of the day we left Springfield Henry left Claremont on his return to Fairfield the 20<sup>th</sup> of November 1850 Dorwell E. Tyler went with him They had a tedious trip to Fairfield.



Railroads 1850 1860

**VISIT TO THE INDIANS**

1850 July 13 went with Thomas & Almira & Mr Carey to see the Indians camped on Skunk River on their way back to their home beyond the Missouri two squaws and one Indian came to ask Thomas to go to their tent Thomas bought a pipe for John, paid fifty cents for it saw Poweshick the chief of the Sacks and Fox Indians I should judge him to be about fifty years of age good looking has coat and dress like white people when in company with the whites he had nothing but a blanket on when in the tent. Some Winnebago in company, ec went to see the Indian war dance in Ft Des Moines about seventy warriors rode into town and around and then danced about an hour; went to see the Indian war dance in Ft Des Moines about seventy warriors rode into town and around and them formed a circle and dance about an hour it was a novel scene [The passage was repeated and was followed by a list of words in "Indian" with their English meaning.]



John Mitchell Probate Index

Mary Ann Mitchell made at least two more trips to Iowa before moving there for good in 1887 after the death of her brother, John, with whom she had been living in New Hampshire. John died on December 24, 1886.

*Claremont March 15<sup>th</sup> 1886 I fell on ice and broke my right hip and right arm am now Oct 19 1887 able to walk some without a cane and can use my right hand for some things and am very thankful*

Mary Ann Mitchell died in Iowa on 28 March 1907 at the age of 83.

### MITCHELL BIRTHS AND DEATHS

In addition to the accounts of her trips, church news, and a few recipes, Mary Ann Mitchell recorded information about the marriages and deaths of her family members.

*1851-June 1<sup>st</sup> Mother was taken unwell but thought she would be better soon she continued to fail till the first of July when she was quite sick the fourth of July sent for Doctor Richards he ordered injections which gave no relief Saturday had Doct Jarvis he ordered an injection which moved her bowels but produced no lasting benefit She continued to suffer greatly till the 20<sup>th</sup> of August when she breathed her last about eleven o'clock Wednesday morning she was buried on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> the time appointed two o'clock but the Bishop being absent Mr Smith did not receive the notice in time to get here till three o'clock*

*Sunday August 24<sup>th</sup> 1851 Sunday following Mothers death heard Rev. H. Hudson preach two sermons in the morning from Hebrews 12-2 - Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith. Hymns 143.60.*

*July 8<sup>th</sup> 1852 Thursday Margaret died She had been insane one week Aged 42*

*November 5<sup>th</sup> 1852 Charles died, he had been unwell for a long time. Aged 57.*

*July 21 1855 Abby M. Patrick died Aged 18 She was sick wit shore throat and Canker She suffered very much.*

*Thomas' wife died June 11<sup>th</sup> 1860 with consumption. She had been sick a long time. In the 44<sup>th</sup> year of her age.*

*Brother Thomas married Carrie Mattern June 16<sup>th</sup> 1861 Mitchellville*

*Almira Mitchell, Thomas daughter died, Sep 4<sup>th</sup> 1868 Aged 9 months.*

*Ann Mitchell [Thomas's daughter] married to M. B. Hoxie Sep 16<sup>th</sup> 1868.*

*Orrin Mitchell died at Waverly Tennessee on the 17<sup>th</sup> of March 1864 of Typhoid fever. His age was 21 years*

*Willie Mitchell died at Fairfield Iowa Oct 24<sup>th</sup> 1865 His age was 10 years & 7 days His disease at first was typhoid fever & terminated in sinking chill. [He was Henry's son.]*

*Mrs. Lucie Mitchell died at Claremont Aug 6<sup>th</sup> 1866 Her disease consumption terminating in diarrhea*

*Marian B. Patrick married Dec 13<sup>th</sup> 1866 in Trinity Church*

*Anna M. Chase married to Julius N. Morse Oct 18<sup>th</sup> 1874 Sunday Morning by Rev Batchelder in church Dr Hubbard being gone to Convention*

*Mrs. Sylvia Mitchell died at Mitchellville Iowa Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 1867 She had Lung Fever sick but ten days She was 64 years of age*

*Lizzie Murdough died June 13<sup>th</sup> 1867*

*Charles W. Straw son of Albert and Ellen Patrick Straw died of typhoid pneumonia at Claremont N. H. Oct 23<sup>rd</sup> 1893*

*Julius N. Morse husband of Anna M. Chase died in Keene N.H. Feb 21 1896 Aged 56 years He had heart and lung trouble*

*She had been sick for long (Almira) in the 44<sup>th</sup> year of her age  
her Thomas married to Carrie  
June 16<sup>th</sup> 1861 Mitchellville*

**ORRIN MITCHELL DEAD!**—We are sorry to learn that Orrin Mitchell, son of Thomas Mitchell, Esq., of this county, died at Waverly, Tennessee about 10 days ago. He was a member of the 8th Iowa Cavalry, and belonged to the Quartermaster's department. His disease was typhoid fever. His age was 21 years. He was an excellent young man. His father has gone South to bring back the body.

*Almira Mitchell, Thomas daughter died,  
1868 Aged 9 months*

**DIED, 1860**  
Mrs. ALMIRA MITCHELL, wife of Hon. THOS. MITCHELL, in the 44th year of her age.  
Mrs. Mitchell removed from New England to Iowa, with her husband, in 1841, and had lived in Polk County since 1844, being one of the oldest residents in the State. Her life has been a bright illustration of the strict puritan principles in which she had been educated, and she was widely known as she was universally loved and esteemed. In her death, society has lost one of its brightest ornaments—her children a kind, indulgent mother, and her husband a devoted wife. The community will feelly mingle their tears with him who mourns the loss of one who was his comfort and his guide, but now is no more.

Obituaries for Orrin Mitchell and Almira Mitchell with hand written notes.

*Sister Almira Thomas' wife died June 11th 1860 with consumption. She had been sick a long time. In the 44th year of her age.*

*Sophia Mitchell wife of William Mitchell died in Claremont N.H. 1814 Aged 46*

*William Mitchell died in Claremont 1832 Age 64*

*Dolla Blake Mitchell Second wife of W. Mitchell died in Claremont N.H. 1851 Aged 73 years*

*Children of William and Sophia Mitchell*

*Lydia Mitchell Smith died in Cornish N.H. in 1874 Aged 84 years*

*Betsey Mitchell Thompson died in Claremont*

*Robert Mitchell died in Claremont 1841 Aged 47*

*Charles Mitchell died in Claremont 1852 Aged 57*

*William Mitchell died in Merrimac Mo 1879 Aged 82*

*Ira Mitchell died in Milford Mass 1876 Aged 76*

*Horace Mitchell died in Claremont NH 1844 Aged 44*

*Fanny Mitchell Starbird died in Boston Mass 1880 Aged 77*

*Sophia Mitchell died in Claremont 1830 Aged 25*

*Louisia Mitchell died in Claremont 1850 Aged 41*

*Sidney Mitchell died 1882 Aged 41—75 Claremont*

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*Children of Thomas and Dolla Mitchell*

*Margaret Mitchell Patrick died in Claremont 1852 Aged 42*

*Sylvia Mitchell died in Mitchell Iowa 186? Aged 64*

*Abigail Mitchell Chase died in Hinsdale N.H. 1883 Aged 70*

*John Mitchell died in Claremont N.H. Dec 24 1886 Aged 78*

*Elizabeth daughter of J. Dorwell Mitchell and Maggie [sic] Elizabeth daughter of J. Dorwell and Maggie Mitchell died Aug 3<sup>d</sup> 1898 aged nearly three months of Erysipelas*

*Mrs. Caroline Mitchell Kimbell died in Claremont N.H March 2<sup>d</sup> 1902 Aged 80 years she had been in feeble health for some time She was daughter of Robert and Lucia Mitchell her Nephew Robert Mitchell and Niece Mrs Foster[?] from Boston came to her funeral*



**Author's note:** Following are some vital records and other information Lois Craig typed from Mary Ann Mitchell's notes. There were handwritten corrections on the typed copy that have been omitted from this transcript. The formatting was again simplified for publication and readability.

*Copy from notes by Mary Ann Mitchell*

*Bishop Chase*

*Feb. 20, 1794—Jan.18, 1870 Funeral services in Trinity Church Claremont. N.H. Jan. 25, 1870 M.*

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*Aug. 27, 1864  
Claremont. N.H.*

*Miss Mary C. B. Jones 1827—Dec. 12, 1871*

*Bela F. Patrick  
1805—Sept.16, 1872  
He was living with Ellen on North St. in the house Anna Hoxie bought.*

*Timothy D. Kimball  
1810—July 30, 1872 Claremont. N.H.*

*Reuben Mitchell  
1834—Sept. 20, 1874  
Died of consumption. Had been at Mrs. Kimball's over two years.*

*William Mitchell  
1798—Oct.26, 1879 Meramec, Dent CO. Mo.  
At the residence of his son H. P. Mitchell.*

*Fanny Mitchell Starbird  
1803—June 8, 1880 Roxburg. Mass*

Frank Mitchell  
Nov. 14, 1859—April 17, 1881 Des Moines, Ia.  
Son of Ira and Kate Mitchell  
Died of Crebro Spinal Meningites.

Sidney Mitchell  
1807—May 27, 1882  
Died of cancer.

Cynthia Mitchell wife of William Mitchell  
1796—Dec. 1, 1881 at her sons home.  
Near Salem, Dent Co. Mo.

Walter Ainsworth Mitchell  
1858—Feb. 9, 1882  
Died of fever. Taylor, Texas.

Edwin Mitchell  
Jan. 27, 1836 Claremont. N.H.—Oct. 12, 1883 Mitchellville. Ia.

Sidney Mitchell 1807—May 27, 1882

Mrs. Abigail M. Chase  
(Born Dec 9, 1813 ?) [sic]  
Died Oct. 23, 1893. Hinsdale. N.H.  
She lived but five days after falling down stairs in which she suffered internal injuries and fractured hip. Age 70 years 10 M. 14 Days

John Mitchell June 22, 1808 Acworth. N.H.—Dec. 24, 1886 Claremont. N.H.  
He had Brights disease, had been failing for six months and suffered a great deal for the past two months

Horace Mitchell 1845 Claremont. N.H.—April 23, 1887 Detroit. Michigan.  
Son of Sidney and Catherine Mitchell  
He had been failing for some months but died quite suddenly

Mrs. Catherine M Mitchell wife of Sidney Mitchell  
Nov. 1812—Dec. 13, 1888 Claremont. N.H.

Dorwell E. Tyler  
1825—Sept. 14, 1888 Mitchellville Ia.

Wallace R. Mitchell  
Feb. 14, 1890 Scranton. Pa.  
Son of Robert and Lucia Mitchell

Judge John Mitchell  
Feb. 28, 1830 Claremont N.H.—Dec. 29, 1890 Des Moines Ia.  
Son of Charles and Sylvia Mitchell  
Died of typhoid pneumonia after a sickness of 12 days.

Charles M. Mitchell  
1849—Jan 6, 1891 Bastrop, Texas.  
Son of Thomas and Almira Mitchell He was 41 years old the October before he was killed by the train of cars while serving as brakeman.

Mrs. M. Jane Tyler  
1828—March 16, 1900 Mitchellville. Ia.  
Daughter of Charles and Sylvia Mitchell  
Buried March 19, 1900

George C. Way  
1830—April 6, 1900 Minneapolis, Minn  
He was buried in Claremont. N.H.  
Married Claremont. N.H.  
Sarah A. Mitchell daughter of Deacon Horace Mitchell

Cyrus M. Cook  
1847 Ages 33 years  
M. May 9, 1880 Westminster Vt.

Abbie Chase 1847

Richard Somers Hayes  
M. June 20, 1889 St. Louis Mo.  
Mrs. Anna M. Hoxie.

William H. Given  
M. June 2, 1892 Mrs. Caroline Mitchell Drabelle  
Des Moines. Ia. at her mother's home.

John Mitchell's 63<sup>rd</sup> birthday June 22, 1871 on Middle Street.  
64<sup>th</sup> " " " 1872 on Sperry farm.  
65<sup>th</sup> " " " 1873 " " "  
66<sup>th</sup> " " " 1874 " " "  
67<sup>th</sup> " " " 1875 " " "  
68<sup>th</sup> " " " 1876 " " "  
69<sup>th</sup> " " " 1877 " " "  
70<sup>th</sup> " " " 1878 " " "  
71<sup>st</sup> " " " 1879 " " "  
72<sup>nd</sup> " " " 1880 " " "  
73<sup>rd</sup> " " " 1881 " " "  
74<sup>th</sup> " " " 1882 living on the Sperry farm. Very pleasant. Wallace, Sophia, and Mrs. Henry Kimbale and baby here in the morning. We called on Mrs. Job Bond and Maria in the afternoon.

John Mitchell 75 years old June 22, 1883. Quite warm and pleasant. Staid at home all day. Mrs. Obed Barnes and son called at the door when riding past. Received a letter from Mrs. Spearing.

John Mitchell 76 years old June 22, 1884 at Thomas Mitchell's in Mitchellville Iowa. Sunday quite pleasant.

John Mitchell's 77<sup>th</sup> birthday June 22, 1885 Living on Hanover Street. in Claremont, N.H.

John Mitchell's birthday June 22, 1886 78 years old on Hanover St. Claremont. N.H. He is not well. Failing in health.

John Mithcell [sic] died in Claremont. N.H. Dec. 24, 1886, age 78.

May 29<sup>th</sup> 1872 moved to Sperry farm. Shut up the house on Middle St.

Saturday March 22 1884, left the Sperry Farm. Moved to the village on No. 13 Hanover St.

*Lived on the Sperry farm almost 12 years. Sold to Mr. John Smith of East Washington, N.H.*

*Saturday March 24, 1884 received a letter from Mrs. Chapin. Was very glad to hear from her. Received a call from Mr. Phelps and Lizzie, she is to return to her school in Newport on Monday.*

*William Mitchell was born near Boston and went to Claremont, N.H. when about twenty three years old (1791) He married Mrs. Dorothy (Dolly) Blake Mitchell who was born in New Hampton. N.H. They were both of Scotch-Irish descent. Their children were Thomas, Henry Blake and Mary Ann Mitchell.*



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**SOURCES:**

Corbitt Personal Papers, 1236-1982. Acc. 2012-06. Digital Manuscript Collections, Genealogical Forum of Oregon Library (Portland, Oregon). Box 8, File 15, Pages 68-74.

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Mitchell, Mary Ann. "Mary Ann Mitchell Diary 1850's-1858." MS. State Historical Society of Iowa Library, Des Moines. Misc Iowa newspapers roll 352.

For more information about canals, packet boats, and the steamship Atlantic, see:

The Erie Canal. [www.eriecanal.org/index.html](http://www.eriecanal.org/index.html)

Immigrants and the Erie Canal—<https://sitesandstories.wordpress.com/category/museums/erie-canal-museum/>

*Marco Paul's Voyages & Travels: Erie Canal* – a contemporary account of travels on the canal published in 1852 – available free on Google Books or for Kindle at Amazon.com.

The Wreck of the Steamer Atlantic—[www.valdressam-band.org/stories/emigrants/atlantici.htm](http://www.valdressam-band.org/stories/emigrants/atlantici.htm)

## But I Thought He Was Already Dead!

### *Finding my Great-Great-Grandfather's Father, Calvin Gray Cookson (c. 1820-1878)*

*Wendy Peterson Negley*

**M**y great-great-grandfather, John Marshall Cookson, was a colorful figure and a celebrity to his granddaughters. My grandmother named my father John Marshall Peterson after him. John Marshall Cookson died 2 October 1936<sup>1</sup> in Bentonville, Benton County, Arkansas. He knew his great-grandson namesake, who had been born in 1922, and he gave to him his Civil War sword, his pocket watch, and a Spanish American War flag. I still have the pocket watch, but my father gave the sword and flag to the Burke Museum at the University of Washington in 1962.

I grew up hearing stories about John Marshall Cookson; therefore, when I started investigating my family tree he was one of the first ancestors I researched. The family story of John's youth was that his father, Calvin Gray Cookson, went hunting one day and never returned. John's mother became ill and died, and John and his brother were placed in an orphanage. Several stories



*John Marshall Cookson and Elizabeth Hannah Buck*

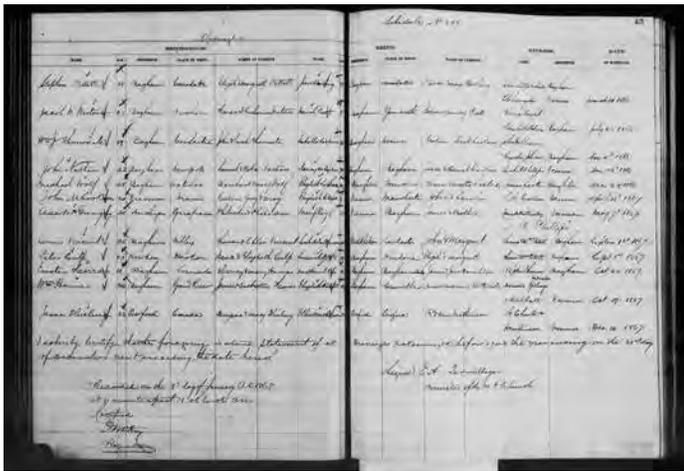
circulated of his life as an orphan, such as the one that at the age of 10 he was sent to live with a farmer, but he let the farmer's favorite horse get loose and so was sent back to the orphanage. Another was that sometime later John worked as a canal boy on the Erie Canal. Eventually he ran away and joined the Union Army, lying about his age to do so. The family never doubted that John was an orphan and that his father, Calvin, had died on a hunting trip.

The written information I had from my family indicated that John Cookson was born in Bangor, Maine, in 1846 so I went straight to the 1850 Census. I've since learned that one should start with the most recent census available and work back. But I didn't do that; I started with 1850.

This was in 1976, when there were no personal computers or Internet. I went to what is now the Family History Center in Oakland, California. They had both the 1850 U.S. Census on microfilm and an index. I searched for John Marshall Cookson in the index and found him in Brewer, Penobscot County, Maine, right across the river from Bangor.<sup>2</sup> When I viewed the image on microfilm, there he was, living in the household of a man named Gardiner Cookson, who I later discovered



*John Marshall Cookson's pocket watch*



Marriage record for John Marshall Cookson

was John's uncle. Gardiner, his wife and children, and John's mother, Mary, and his brother, Calvin W., were all living together. I found John's sister, Georgianne, living with another family three houses away; she was listed as a "pauper." John's father wasn't enumerated, and this fit nicely with our family story.

So I set out to find more information about John. Family records indicated that he had married Elizabeth Hannah Buck in Eden, Elgin County, Ontario, Canada. I ordered several microfilms from the Family History Library for this location. When I reviewed the 1861 Census, I made a shocking discovery. In a town called Vienna, next to Eden, I found Calvin Gray Cookson with a wife and four children. Three of the children had been born in Maine!<sup>3</sup> When I went through the vital records, I found John and Elizabeth's marriage in 1867, which recorded that his father, C. G. Cookson, was the witness.<sup>4</sup> I also found an 1868 marriage record for John's brother, Calvin W.,<sup>5</sup> and an 1876 deed to his sister's husband, George Crockett, "an innkeeper" in Vienna.<sup>6</sup> They were all there together!

After this turn of events, I decided to go back to the intervening years to see what could be found. I had not previously found the Cookson family in the 1860 Census, but was successful on my second attempt. John, 12, and Calvin W., 15, were living with a Thomas Adams, farmer, and his family in Linneus, Aroostook, Maine.<sup>7</sup> His sister, Georgiana, was living in Winterport, Waldo, Maine, and working as a domestic.<sup>8</sup> These findings seemed to corroborate the story that John and Calvin W. had been orphaned and were sent to live with a farmer.

I have never found any record of Mary Cookson's death. I have examined the vital records of Brewer, Bangor, and the State of Maine, as well as searching many cemeteries in the area that are posted online. I feel there



View on the Erie Canal, Public Domain, New York Public Library via Wikimedia Commons.

## JOHN MARSHALL COOKSON: AGE AND ERIE CANAL

John told his granddaughters that he ran away from work on the Erie Canal, lied about his age, and joined the Union Army.

Age: To the best of my knowledge, John was born on 2 February 1848. I have never found a birth or christening record for him.

In 1976, I sent for John's military and pension file from the National Archives. His stated age of 19 at enlistment in August 1863 suggests that he was born in 1844.<sup>10</sup> His pension papers indicate that no birth record exists, except for the family Bible. According to John, his stepmother, Sarah Cookson, took the Bible to Seattle. I am still looking for it!

I believe that the correct birth year is 1848 because John is recorded as two years old in the 1850 Census. The census date in 1850 was 1 June; the enumeration date was 15 August. If John was two and had a February birth date, he must have been born in 1848. This would have made him only 15 years old when he joined the Army.

Reviewing the various muster sheets in his file, I noticed that in the earlier records he is noted as being 5' 2", and a year later he is 5' 6" tall—a growing boy!

Erie Canal: To date, I've been unable to verify the story of John working on the Erie Canal. The best supporting information is that John joined the Union Army in New York City, New York, while his brother Calvin W. enlisted in Houlton, Maine (near Linneus).<sup>11</sup> If John was working on the Erie Canal, I suppose it would have made sense for him to enlist in New York, while his brother enlisted near Linneus, where he had been living with the Adams family. The relative proximity of the Erie Canal to Eden, Ontario, also seems to be more than coincidental.

58

To THE HON. SECRETARY OF STATE OF MICHIGAN  
Return of Deaths in the County of *Bay*

Year	Month	Date of Death	Full Name of the Deceased	Sex	Age	Married	Single	Widow	Orphan	Place of Birth	Place of Death
1850	June	15	Calvin G. Cookson	Male	17					Canada	Canada
1850	August	8	Sarah F. Rich	Female	40					Maine	Maine
1850	August	20	John Cookson	Male	36					Maine	Maine
1850	November	20	Sarah F. Rich	Female	1					Maine	Maine
1850	August	15	Calvin G. Cookson	Male	6					Canada	Canada
1850	January	21	Isabella Rich	Female	20					Maine	Maine
1850	January	11	Mary Johnson	Female	38					Maine	Maine
1850	August	11	Sarah F. Rich	Female	36					Maine	Maine
1850	March	10	Calvin G. Cookson	Male	5					Au Gres	Au Gres
1850	June	9	Calvin G. Cookson	Male	54					Au Gres	Au Gres

Death of Calvin G. Cookson shown in the Bay County, Michigan Death Register.

must be a probate or guardianship record that consigns the children to the orphanage, but I haven't found that yet. It's on my "to do" list!

I have never found Calvin Gray Cookson in 1850. He may have been hunting in the wilderness of Maine and been missed in the census. I had thought he might have gone to Canada, but he was not found in the 1851 Census.

What I did find was a marriage record for Calvin Gray Cookson and Sarah F. Rich in Bangor on 20 November 1851.<sup>9</sup> This suggests that Mary might have died between the census enumeration date of 15 August 1850 and the date of the marriage. It has not gone unnoticed that Calvin and Sarah's oldest child, Isabella, was born on 8 February 1852 according to Isabella's death certificate.

So the family story of Calvin Gray's early death must be wrong. I reviewed the family account and found a later entry, after the Civil War stories. It said, "After the war John re-located his brother [and his father?]; lived in Canada near Niagara Falls." Obviously, there was more to the family story than I knew.

When the Civil War ended in 1865, John mustered out of the army in Virginia.<sup>12</sup> His brother, Calvin W., in another regiment, mustered out in Georgia.<sup>13</sup> Their sister, Georgiana, lived with her husband in Winterport, Maine.<sup>14</sup> John was likely in correspondence with his sister and perhaps his brother. Had one of them found out

that their father was now living in Canada? Through whatever means it happened, his family managed to reunite over a distance of many miles and two countries!

We don't know for sure who initiated the siblings' move to Canada, but the family story suggests that it was John. By 1870, John had moved his wife and children back to the United States, to Bay County (now Aranac County), Michigan, and the entire family soon followed—except his brother, Calvin W., who lived the rest of his life in Canada.<sup>15</sup> John's sister and her husband, John's father and stepmother, and all four step-siblings along with their spouses moved to that area of Michigan. We know that the family followed John back to the U.S. because John is in the 1870 U.S. Census in Michigan, while the family is still in Canada for the 1871 Canada Census.<sup>16</sup> Though Calvin Gray Cookson died in 1878 in Au Gres, Bay County, Michigan,<sup>17</sup> the rest of the extended family are all found in the 1880 Census.<sup>18</sup> If John indeed drew the rest to follow him to Michigan, he must have been a man of persuasion and charisma.

PLACE OF DEATH		CERTIFICATE OF DEATH		State Office No.	
County	Bay	MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICE OF VITAL AND HEALTH STATISTICS		1-58	
Township				Registered No. 252	
Village	Au Gres				
City					
FULL NAME Calvin G. Cookson					
SEX	Male	COLOR OR RACE	W	MARITAL STATUS	Married
AGE: YEARS	54	MONTHS		DAYS	
OCCUPATION OF DECEASED			DATE OF DEATH		
Farmer			June 9, 1878		
NAME OF FATHER			CAUSE OF DEATH		
Unknown			Consumption		
RESIDENCE OF FATHER					
Unknown					
NAME OF MOTHER					
Unknown					
RESIDENCE OF MOTHER					
Unknown					
			Filed June 14th 1879		
			W. M. Kelley		
I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct transcript of the record of death on file in the Michigan Department of Public Health.					
George Van Amburg State Registrar			W. M. Kelley Director of Public Health		
837-979		Lansing, Michigan		MAY 25 1899	

Calvin G. Cookson Death Certificate

I've often tried to imagine what the family reunion was like. Did John just show up at his father's doorstep with his brother and sister and say "Hello, Father, we're here!"? Was it a shock to Calvin Gray, or had they been corresponding? I'll never know, but if I hadn't thoroughly researched the records I would not have found Calvin and his second family. And I would not have discovered the truth about the long-accepted family stories.

## ENDNOTES

1. Online publication—Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2005. Original data—Division of Vital Records, Arkansas Department of Health. Arkansas Death Index, 1914-1950. Arkansas: Arkansas Genealogical Society. Microfiche.

2. Ibid.

3. Library and Archives Canada; Ottawa, Ontario, Canada; Census Returns For 1861; Roll: C-1019 p. 14, 28-33.

4. Genealogical Research Library (Brampton, Ontario, Canada). Ontario Marriage Index, 1858-1869 [database online]. Provo, Utah: MyFamily.com, Inc., 2004. Original data: Ontario, Canada. Marriage Registers 1801- 1944 County Elgin. Microfilm 1030056. Family History Library, Salt Lake City, UT.
5. Ibid.
6. LDS Microfilm 160617 Land records of Elgin County [Ontario], 1801-1954, Vienna Deeds 'B', p. 638, No. 868, Registered 26 Apr 1876.
7. Year: 1860; Census Place: Linneus, Aroostook, Maine; Roll: M653\_434; Page:48 ; Image: 10.
8. Year: 1860; Census Place: Winterport, Waldo, Maine; Roll: M653\_453; Page: 29; Image: 907.
9. Maine Marriages, 1771-1907 database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:F4X4-7V7> : 4 December 2014), Calvin G. Cookson and Sarah F. Rich, 20 Nov 1851; citing Civil, Bangor, Penobscot, Maine, reference ; FHL microfilm 10,584.
10. U.S. Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles Online publication–Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2009.Original data–Data compiled by Historical Data Systems of Kingston, MA from the following list of works. Copyright 1997-2009 Historical Data Systems, Inc. PO Box 35 Duxbury, MA 02331.
11. Online publication–Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2009.Original data–Data compiled by Historical Data Systems of Kingston, MA from the following list of works. Copyright 1997-2009 Historical Data Systems, Inc. PO Box 35 Duxbury, MA 02331.
12. New York State Archives, Cultural Education Center, Albany, New York; New York Civil War Muster Roll Abstracts, 1861-1900; Archive Collection #: 13775-83; Box #: 869; Roll #: 525.
13. Online publication–Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011.Original data–Civil War Muster Roll Abstracts of New York State Volunteers, United States Sharpshooters, and United States Colored Troops [ca. 1861-1900]. Albany, New York: New York.
14. Year: 1860; Census Place: Winterport, Waldo, Maine; Roll: ; Page: 29; Image: 907.
15. Year: 1860; Census Place: Winterport, Waldo, Maine; Roll: M653\_453; Page: 29; Image: 907.
16. Year: 1871; Census Place: Vienna, Elgin East, Ontario; Roll: C-9900; Page: 13; Family No: 44.
17. Online publication–Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011.Original data–“Michigan Deaths and Burials, 1800–1995.” Index. FamilySearch, Salt Lake City, Utah, 2009, 2010. Index entries derived from digital copies of original and compiled records.
18. Year: 1880; Census Place: Au Gres, Bay, Michigan; Roll: T9\_571; Family History Film: 1254571; Page: 272.4000; Enumeration District: 13; Image: 0127.

## Linnemann Adventures:

*Johann Gerhard Dietrich  
Linnemann (1827-1892) and  
Catherine Elizabeth Von Felde  
(1828-1926)*

*Carole Linneman*

Imagine my surprise upon moving to Gresham, Oregon, and finding that the dead can speak and tell their stories. These stories reveal the people who dedicated their lives to their dreams and so developed this community.

One of the early pioneers to share his past is Mr. Johann Gerhard Dietrich Linnemann, born in 1827, telling of his decision when he was 18 years old to leave his family, friends, and country. His journey begins as he departs from Quakenbrück in northern Germany. He boards the ship *Louise* in Bremen and makes the long trip across the Atlantic to America, equipped with tools of his tailor trade—a thimble, needles, scissors, and determination. He arrives in New York in 1845.

Mr. Linnemann soon begins practicing his tailor trade in Chester, Illinois, south of St. Louis, Missouri, and right on the bluffs of the Mississippi. He settles into this area, which is the starting point of many pioneers heading west. He dreams of owning his own land. Rooming at a boarding house and saving his money, he learns that Donation Land Claims—160 acres for a single man and 320 for a married man—are available in Oregon.

In 1851, Mr. Linnemann meets a young lady, Catherine Elizabeth Von Felde, born in 1828 in Gerde, Germany, as she arrives in New Orleans. He brings her up the Mississippi to Illinois and marries her in November of that year. He shares his dream with her, and together they prepare for a journey and join a group heading west in the spring of 1852.

After many grueling miles and difficult challenges, the Linnemanns strike out on their own. The oxen die, and they pull their own cart carrying a sick friend the last 800 miles. Mrs. Linnemann's skirt is tattered from the brush and brambles, and her feet are dusty and sore. Both of them have hands rough and splintered from the handle of the wagon. At last the Columbia River is in



*Johann Gerhard Dietrich Linnemann. Photos courtesy the author.*

sight, and boarding a barge they float to Portland in September of 1852, ending their four-month journey.

Mr. Linneman sets up a tailor shop with living quarters on Third Street in downtown Portland. In 1852 there are only 400 inhabitants in Portland, and Mr. Linnemann is the first tailor. Their land claim is filed in 1853 after they search and choose 320.43 acres 12 miles east of Portland. Land claim number 4186 is a dense forest that needs clearing. Cultivating and developing the land for four years is their part of the contract to own that land.

The land clearing starts on the weekends, and a small cabin is built. Mrs. Linnemann soon moves to the land and scratches out a garden. She spends lonely weekdays by herself as Mr. Linnemann travels the 12 miles to town by foot and ferry to make suits for the people of Portland. He carries supplies on his back on the weekend trips home.

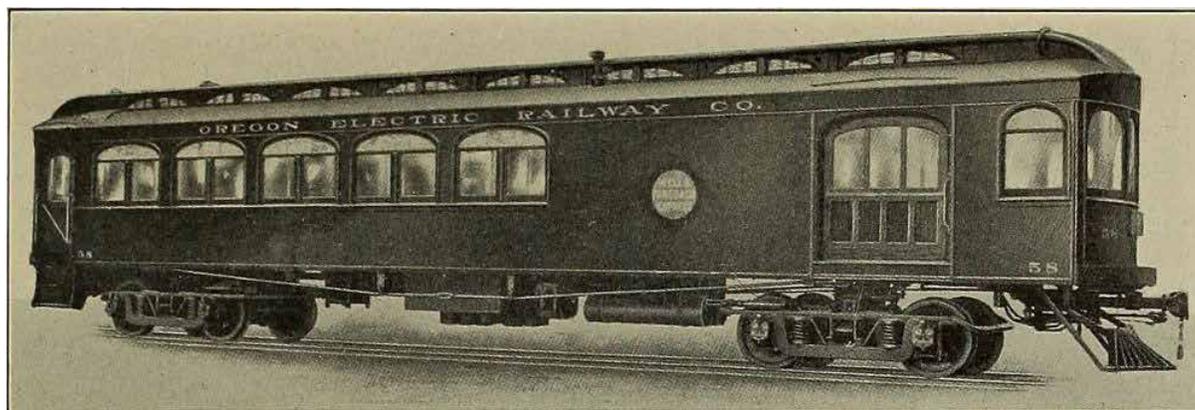
A man approaches Mr. Linnemann around 1857 with the request of caring for his daughter, whose mother has died. The Linnemanns have no children of their own. They welcome the small child, Iona McLaughlin, born in 1855, into their home when she is about two years of



*Catherine Elizabeth Von Felde.*

age and they raise her as their own. She adds cheer to their lonely life and completes their family.

Their land is rich and produces marketable vegetables and fruit, so Mr. Linnemann gives up his tailor business and stays home to farm. Devoted to their community, and wishing to be good neighbors, both Linnemanns help others settle and farm nearby. Mr. Linnemann farms successfully for 40 years and, dying at 65, is laid at rest in the Gresham Pioneer Cemetery. A few years after his death, Mrs. Linnemann moves into town and stays involved in community activity and growth. In 1902, she donates part of her farmland for the tracks of the first interurban, which helps connect the 150 residents in Gresham with the rest of Oregon.



58-ft. "Single-end" Smoking and Express, Mail and Baggage Car. Public domain image via Wikimedia Commons.

She lives to the age of 98 and in 1926 is buried next to Mr. Linnemann.

Besides these stories, there remains a street named Linneman(n) in Gresham and a recently renovated building (2006) that takes the place of the former train station at Linnemann Junction near the Springwater Trailhead where people in the past sheltered from the rain and sun as they got on and off the trains from their destinations. They also enjoyed coming for picnics in this area known as Cedarville.

The stories of these pioneers and their energy come to life as their amazing journeys are retold. Weaving it all together recreates a memorable story that is no longer lost. Hopefully they live on as our ancestors and pioneers, as they continue to talk to us and we continue to listen. May we leave as they did, a path for the future.

#### **AUTHOR'S NOTES-2017**

Arriving in Gresham, Oregon, in 1998, I discovered I am not the only Linneman(n) to come to the Northwest. The first surprise was finding that there are streets named Linneman, a well-known place named Linnemann Junction, and a historical building named Linnemann Station. Discovering Gerhard and Elizabeth's adventure and legacy was to be my "Linneman(n) adventure."

Meeting many local people who had stories to share has been fascinating. Listening to their memories, finding family members, working at the Gresham Historical Museum, digging into archives, getting genealogy help from friends and the volunteers at the Genealogical Forum of Oregon, and finding a researcher in Northern Germany have led me to many discoveries about this family—which is my family. I can feel their energy and history as I travel the area where we both have lived. After 20 years of research, I am delighted to find our families are indeed related. Gerhard and I are cousins four generations apart. This amazing journey with these courageous people and

their rich history was worth knocking on doors and hitting brick walls.

I owe many thanks to the community and families as well as experts who welcomed me into their lives and shared.

# Johann Karl Friedrich Grüschow: A Grischow Family Bible Record

*Steve Turner*

Das/Neue Testament/unsers/Herrn und Heilandes/Jesu Christi.

New York, herausgegen [sic] von der Amerikanischen Bibel-/Gesellschaft./1848

[The New Testament of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.  
New York, published by the American Bible Society.]

The title page transcribed above and its verso (which lists the books of the New Testament in order and gives the number of chapters in each) came to light during the recent process of organizing the GFO manuscript files. With this single leaf was also a double leaf with a fold line in the middle between two original pages on each side, all four pages headed “Familien-Register” (Family Record). The individual pages measure about 4.75” wide by 7.25” high. The family record pages contain entries in pen and pencil in at least two, probably three, different hands. Much of the writing is very faint and/or crudely formed, and all of it is in German. The handwriting uses forms of German script from the 1800s, for which some of the letters are similar to our handwriting and some quite different. It would clearly be a challenge to transcribe the writing, and because I have some experience with deciphering German documents and enjoy a good puzzle, I volunteered to see what I could do with this small German New Testament family record. I’m going to describe the process of deciphering this record in the hope that others who have difficult documents to transcribe, especially old German ones, may glean some helpful tips and techniques to meet the challenges.

## WORKING ON THE PUZZLE

The dates were, in most cases, easy to discern, eight of them preceded by “ist geboren den” (geboren twice abbreviated and den sometimes abbreviated or omitted),



*Title page from an old German New Testament*

meaning “was born [on] the.” So it was clear that two of the three pages listed births. The first two birth entries, from 1854 and 1856, were in dark brown ink, mostly legible, but the other six, in chronological order through 1872, were in a much different, often crude hand, in pencil. Some of the seventh entry was quite faint.

Clearly there were two, three, or four names for each date, some easy to discern and others initially quite elusive. I knew it was typically German to give more than two names to each child, and then to settle on one for common use; also, that some names given to an older son might be used for younger sons as well, and the same was true for daughters’ names. Three of these entries included “Friedrich” and two “Karl,” which were not hard to make out (although “Friedrich” can be rather well disguised in German handwriting). It looked as if the final name in two of the entries, one for a boy and

the other for a girl, might be the same, so possibly the surname, which was not present in the other six entries. If so, I couldn't make out the surname. At this point, I could recognize close to two-thirds of the names and could read all the dates for the birth entries except for one illegible month.

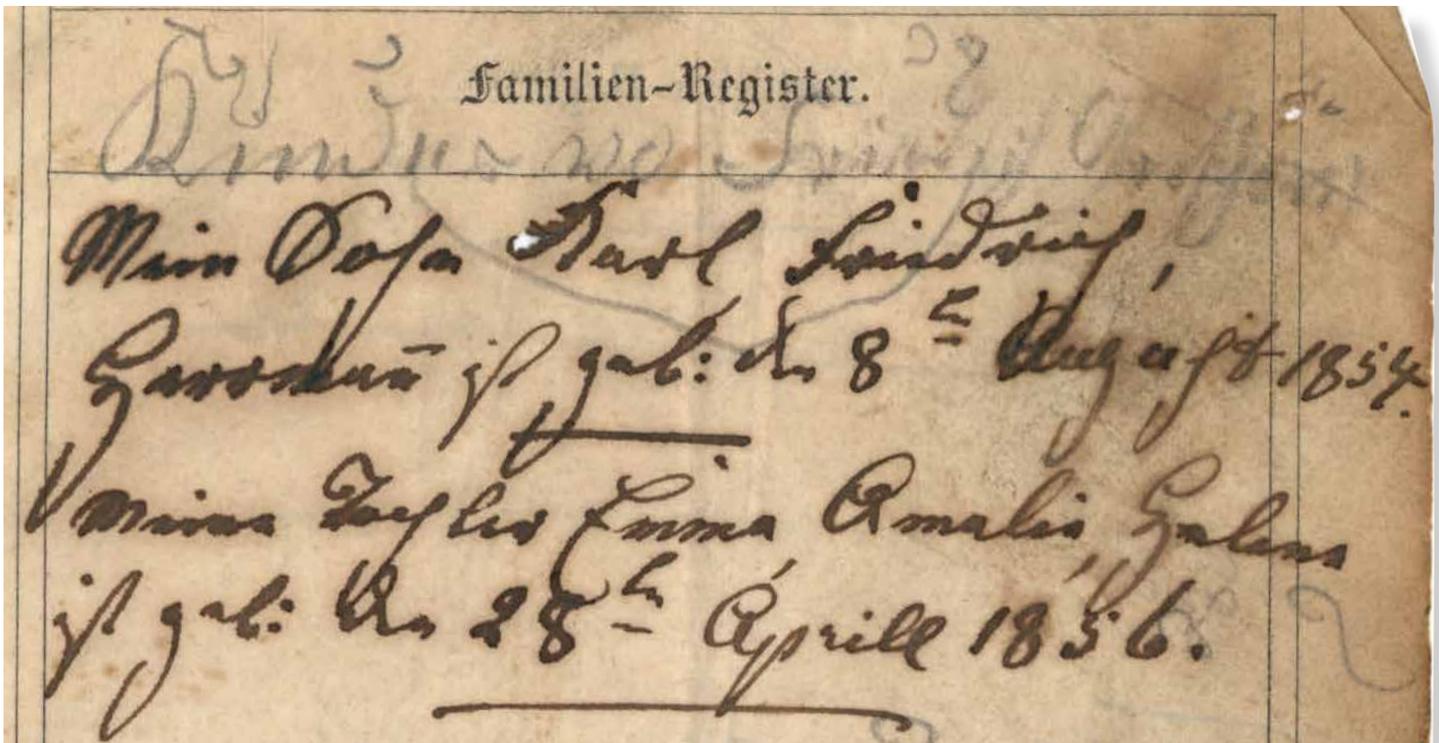
Another page, all in faint pencil, began clearly with a name, "Johann Karl Friedrich Grü . . ." The last name looked as if it could be the same as the possible surname in the two births, which appeared to begin with "Grisch . . .", the end being very unclear to me; the last part of the former possible surname was obscured by a well-worn fold line and considerable soiling. The next line read "gbr: d: 17ten: August 182[9] . . . in." At first glance, the last digit of the year, right on the old fold line, looked like o, but the o was a bit high and there appeared to be a faint tail on it. I checked with a strong lens and could clearly see the pencil trail of the tail of a 9. Furthermore, a clear 9 in 1849 two lines below was formed just the same way. So I'm pretty confident, though not 100 percent certain, the writer intended or at least wrote 1829. This date precedes by 25 years the earliest year in the eight births recorded on the other two pages.

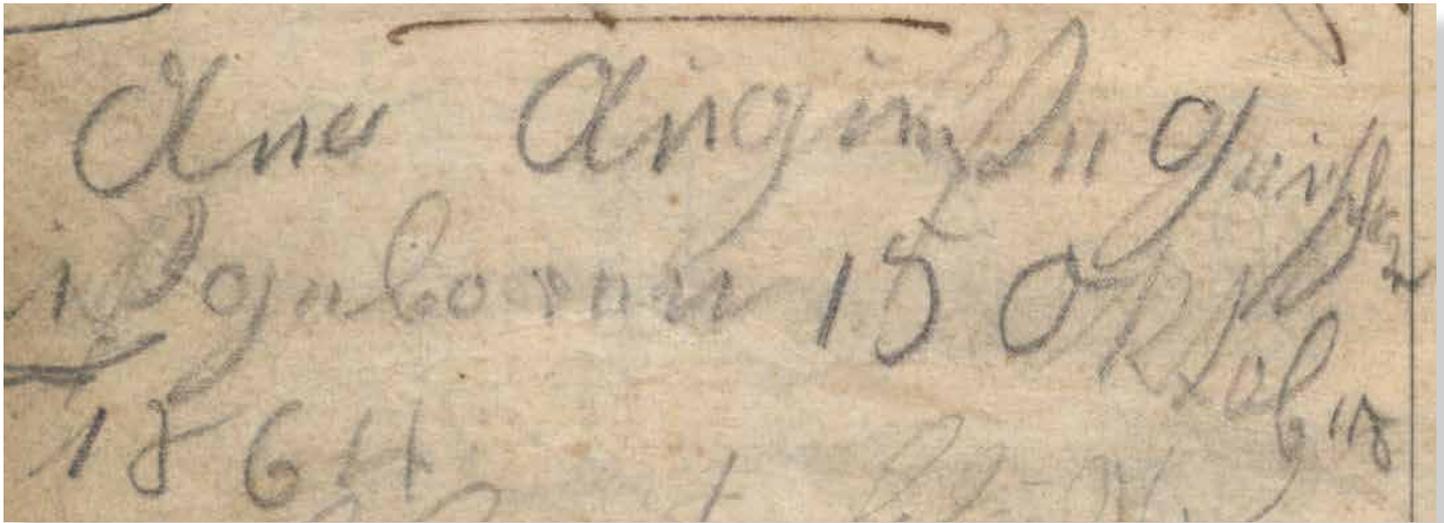
Once I got attuned to the handwriting, I perceived that the first two birth records, in ink, begin with the words "Mein Sohn" and "Meine Tochter" (My son and

my daughter). There is also a line of pencil above them which I had at first ignored, but now realized it started with "Kinder" (children). Then there's a word that looks like "wo," then Friedrich, and followed by what appears to be a smeared version of the same name, which I guessed was the surname in two of the later birth entries. "Wo" in German means "where," which would make no sense, whereas "von," meaning "of," would make perfect sense for a heading: "Children of Friedrich G . . ." When in doubt, I consult a table of German handwriting to check on some of the less common letters with which I'm not familiar. Sure enough, the lower case "v" in this type of handwriting looks like our "w," but there is no trace of an "n" after the "o." I have to conclude that the writer intended "von" but dropped a letter at the end. This is a good example of the kind of irregularity encountered in handwritten records that can make transcription and translation challenging and prevent 100 percent certainty for one's decipherment.

The alphabet table also helped me realize what I'd been taking for a capital "G" was actually an "H"! This quickly helped me recognize "Helena" in the female name in ink and "Herrman" twice among the penciled male names. "Herrman" with a double "r" and a macron over the final 'n' (sometimes used to indicate a double letter) also appeared in the son's name in ink; as it was the final name for him, and I had been thinking it started

*Detail of the first two birth records in ink and the line in pencil above.*





*Detail of the entry for Ana, the second daughter.*

with “G,” I had wondered if it was also a version of the surname, though it lacked the squiggles in the middle I guessed might be ‘sch’ in the other suspected surname occurrences. It was good to get this name out of the potential surname mix. At some point I also realized that, very faintly indeed, above the last given names of the second and third child in pencil, was written something that resembled the suspected surname, but it was too obscure to be of any help in working out the puzzle.

Another challenging name was the second name of “Ana,” the second daughter. It appeared to start with “Angin . . .” with perhaps a lowercase “l” a little further along, which had me thinking “Angela” or “Angeline”—until I realized that in this penciled hand, it closely resembled “August,” a name I had previously seen among the male names. The difference was that above the first assumed “n” was a tiny mark, like the dot over the assumed “i”—a minimalist version of a curved line often (but not consistently) used above a “u” (ü) to distinguish it from an “n,” to which it would otherwise (as in this case) look virtually identical. The “dot” was on closer inspection actually just such a curve, though smaller than most. So what was written here was not “Angin . . .” but “Augu . . .,” ending with “. . . ste,” but with an extra hump between the two which I can only explain as the product of a moment of indecision with a moving hand. I’m confident the name is “Auguste,” the female version of “August,” also often spelled “Augusta” in German.

One further observation on the given names: The last two boys recorded here, born in November 1869 and March 1872, both appear to be “Albert Eduar[t?] Herman.” I assumed the second was a replacement for the first,

who must have died, but I was to be surprised by later developments in the second phase of this decipherment.

What remained at this point was the fainter pencil page beginning with “Johann Karl Friedrich Grü . . . born the 17th August [complete with curves over the “u”s] 182[9] in . . .” The next line looked like a birthplace, with three place names given. The first I made out as Schönhagen, then “bei” (more or less equivalent to “by” or “near”), then “Goll . . . in . . .” —too obscure to hazard a guess. Searching Schönhagen on the Internet yielded a couple of possibilities, but nothing that fit with the second or third apparent place names.

This page gets fainter the farther down and the farther to the right you look, especially around the fold line, and there is dirty smudging to the right thereof. The good news was the writing was more regular and less scribbly than the other pencil hand. I worked to find words or parts of words I could read, and gradually began to fill in more and more until the emerging meaning began to help me recognize other words. The process is very like solving a cryptogram, where you try likely guesses until a correct guess adds some clarity. There was many an “Aha!” moment as I recognized an odd letter or combination that made sense in the context. What emerged was in fact a moving testimony and expression of faith, beginning with “in 1849 I traveled to America to seek my fortune . . .” Fortunately the German vocabulary used was not too challenging for my two years of college German, though I had to consult my dictionary for genders to be sure of some of the word endings. The last elusive word appeared to be “Liebes . . . ch . . .” I pored through the long list of words in

the German dictionary beginning with *Liebes-*, a prefix meaning “love.” The one that seemed to fit the best in both meaning and matching the uncertain letters was “*Liebespflicht*,” or “Christian duty.” This made fair sense in the context. But when I read the whole passage aloud to my wife and daughters, our middle daughter, Libby, was inspired to suggest “*Liebesbuch*” for the elusive word. Not only did this match the uncertain letters much better (there weren’t sufficient tall loops and tails for the ‘pfl,’ and anything after the “ch” had essentially to be imagined), but also the resulting phrase “*dieses Liebesbuch*” clearly referred meaningfully by the context to the New Testament itself: “. . . this book of love.” As is so often the case with transcription from difficult manuscripts, it can be quite unclear what the letters are until you make the right guess—it’s as if the doubtful letters come into focus—then it often becomes perfectly clear how the letters indeed fit the reading.

I had reached a full transcription and understanding of the record, with the major exception that I could not confidently read the surname nor two of the three place names of what was apparently the birth place of the first owner of this New Testament. Proper names can be a special challenge in old documents, because they are typically not predictable from the context in the way that ordinary words often are in the flow of language. But without the surname especially, the rest of the transcription could be of little use to anyone! This launched the second phase of the decipherment: to determine the surname and the place names by finding matches to an actual family and actual places.

#### IDENTIFYING THE FAMILY AND THE OWNER’S PLACE OF ORIGIN

I went to Ancestry.com to search for anyone who might match the nine sets of given names and birth dates from the Bible pages. I used wildcards, searching for “Gr\*sch\*” as the first vowel looked like “u” in one instance and “i” in two, and I had no firm guess for the ending. The first seven names and birthdates yielded no promising results, but Albert, born 1872, provided the following as the eighth of many possible matches:

1910 United States Federal Census Census & Voter Lists	Name:	Albert Grischow
	Spouse:	Anna Grischow
	Birth:	abt 1872 – Wisconsin
	Residence:	1910 - Portland Ward 1, Multnomah, Oregon

Not only was Portland where the Bible pages had ended up, but the “-ow” ending was a most satisfactory match to the letters for which I had been so unsure! Excited, I decided to look for Grischows in Wisconsin in the 1870 census, and I immediately knew I had found the family. Ancestry’s index listing started off with Frederick Grischow, born “abt 1815 Mecklenburg,” with Caroline born “abt 1832 Prussia,” and Frederick, Gustas [*sic*], William, Anna, and Hermann, born abt 1860, 1861, 1863, 1865, and 1869 respectively. This was virtually a perfect match for the five children in the Bible pages who were born from 1859 to 1869. “Gustas” (corresponding to August) was actually Gustav in the census, and Frederick Senior’s age more likely 50 than 55, although the second digit, apparently corrected, is unclear.<sup>1</sup> Further research quickly confirmed that by 1880 the “Grishow” family, now with the addition of Albert, eight, and Eddie, four (the latter born in Kansas), had moved to Oregon<sup>2</sup> via Douglas County, Kansas, where they were listed in an 1875 state census.<sup>3</sup> Despite the usual type of minor discrepancies, additional records further cemented the identification of this family as that of the New Testament record. Apparently *Grüschow*, the spelling in Germany, morphed into *Grischow* and *Grishow* in the U.S.

It remained to determine a reading for Frederick *Grüschow*’s place of birth. “Germany” and “Prussia” appeared as 1875 and 1880 alternatives to the “Mecklenburg” of the 1870 census. A Find a Grave page for Frederick Grischow’s wife Caroline (never named or mentioned in the New Testament record) gave her birthplace as “Schoenhagen, Pommern, Prussia” (Germany), now part of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, adding “She married Friedrich ‘Frederick’ Grischow (from Staffenhagen, Mecklenburg, Germany . . .”<sup>4</sup> The GFO’s new set of *Map Guides to German Parish Registers* proved just the thing to shed light on this final mystery. On the Internet, I’d identified towns named Schönhausen only in Thuringia, Schleswig-Holstein, and Brandenburg. But the second of two Pomerania (English version of Pommern) volumes in the set identified Schönhausen as a Lutheran parish in Kreis Naugard in the Stettin Registration District, not far from the town of Gollnow, and all now in northwestern Poland. Stevenhausen (apparently = Staffenhagen) is about 15 miles south of a line between Schönhausen and Gollnow. It is now clear to me that *Grüschow* named as his birthplace “Schönhausen bei Gollnow in Pommern.” The parish records hopefully should settle whether he was born in Schönhausen or Stevenhausen in 1820 or 1829 or . . . ?

**SOME OBSERVATIONS**

My guess is that the first person account of Johann Karl Friedrich Grüşow (in light pencil) and the first two birth entries in ink (perhaps both made at one time) are both in his hand. The pencil heading above them and the rest of the birth entries (in mostly darker pencil) are in a different, cruder hand, perhaps his wife's or one of the children's. Those dated 1859 through 1864 might all have been made at the same time; the last two more likely were made on separate occasions, as the next to last is significantly fainter than the others and in a possibly different hand.

The last page, I would guess, represents a child's handiwork, perhaps one of the two Albert Edward Hermans, known as Herman and Albert respectively; it may even pertain to a third child in that the Grischows'

apparent last son, identified as Eddie in the 1880 census, was not otherwise mentioned in this record. Perhaps he was born March or May 8 of 1876 or so? It seems odd to name two sons exactly the same three names, just choosing different ones to know them by, but the fact both survived through at least 1880 shows that the second was not a replacement for the first dying young. Might the Grischows have used the same three names yet again and chosen the remaining one for Eddie to use?

What sort of illness would so effectively have put the fear of God in young Friedrich Grischow? It occurs to me that while any serious disease could have done it, a venereal disease might especially have convinced a fellow that he was on a dangerous and wrong path. That the illness is unnamed may be another hint that it was perhaps somehow shameful.

**THE TRANSCRIPTION**

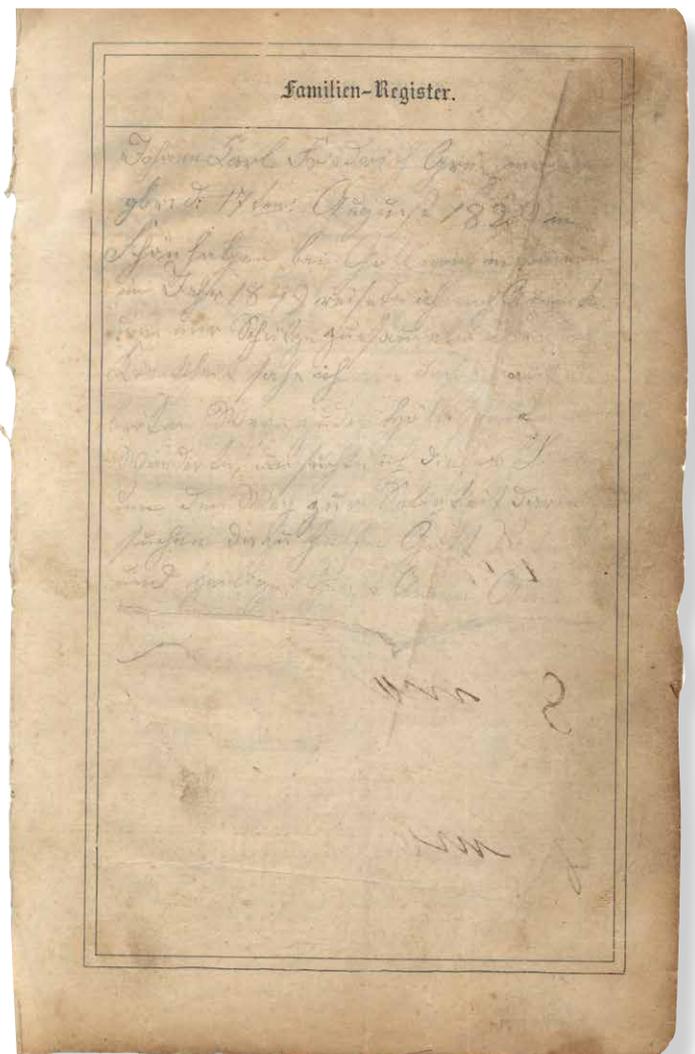
Here are my transcription and translation of this Grischow Family Record (original order of pages is unclear).

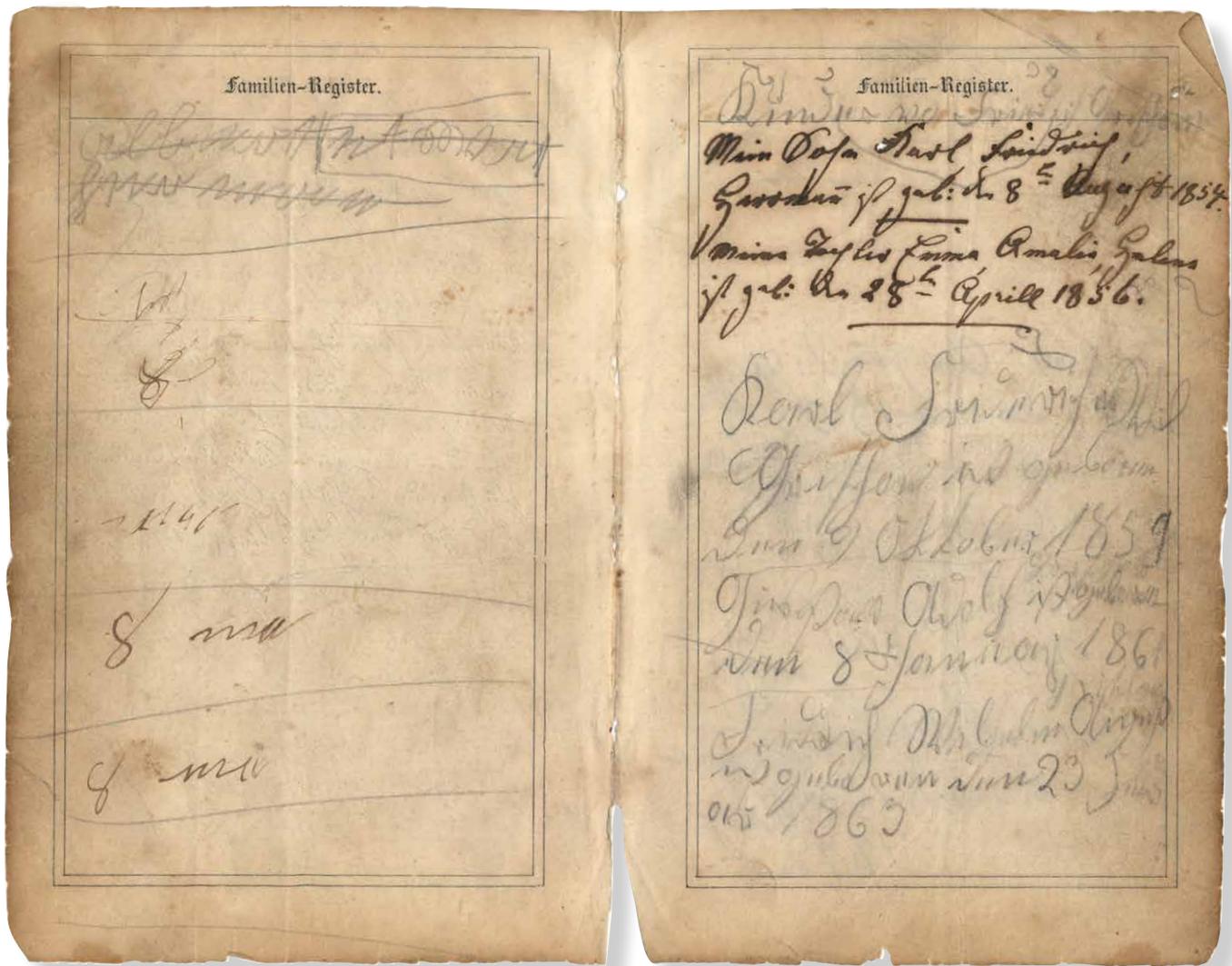
**FAMILIEN-REGISTER**

Johann Karl Friedrich Grüşow [war/ist]  
 gbrn d: 17ten: Aügüst 1829 [1820?] in  
 Schönhagen bei Gollnow in Pommern  
 im Jahr 1849 reisetete ich nach Amerika  
 üm mir Schätze zü sammeln aber dürch [eine?]  
 Krankheit sahe ich ein das ich auf dem  
 Breiten Wege zü der Höllischen [V]erdamnis  
 Wanderte, da süchte ich dieses Liebesbuch  
 Üm den Weg zür Seligkeit darin zü  
 Süchen dazu helfe Gott Vater [Sohn?]  
 Ünd Heiligen Geist Amen Amen

**FAMILY RECORD**

Johann Karl Friedrich Grüşow [was]  
 born the 17th of August 1829 [1820?] in  
 Schönhagen near Gollnow in Pomerania[.]  
 In the year 1849 I traveled to America  
 to seek my fortune but through an  
 illness I realized that I on the  
 broad path to Infernal damnation  
 was wandering, then I sought this Book of Love  
 in order the way to happiness therein to  
 seek[;] thereto help [me] Father[, Son]  
 and Holy Ghost, Amen, Amen





**FAMILIEN-REGISTER**

albert etwart  
 herman  
 [ist?]  
 8  
 ma[r?]  
 8 ma  
 8 ma

**FAMILIEN-REGISTER**

Kinder vo[n] Friedrich Grüschow  
 Mein Sohn Karl, Friedrich,  
 Herrmann ist geb: dn 8<sup>m</sup> August 1854.  
 Meine Tochter Emma, Amalie, Helene  
 ist geb: dn 28<sup>m</sup> Aprill 1856.  
 Karl Friederich Wil  
 Grischow ist geboren  
 den 9 Oktober 1859  
 Grischow  
 Güstav Adolf ist geboren  
 den 8t Januar<sup>^</sup>[y?] 1861  
 Grischow  
 Friedrich Wilhelm August<sup>^</sup>  
 ist geboren den 23 [Febru?] <sup>^</sup>  
 ar 1863

**FAMILY RECORD**

Children of Friedrich Grischow[:]  
 My son Karl Friedrich  
 Herrmann was born the 8th of August 1854  
 My daughter Emma Amalie Helena  
 was born the 28th of April 1856.  
 Karl Friederich Wil[helm]  
 Grischow was born  
 the 9th of October 1859  
 Gustav Adolf Grischow was born  
 the 8th of January 1861  
 Friedrich Wilhelm August Grischow  
 was born the 23d of [Febru-?] <sup>^</sup>  
 ary 1863

**FAMILIEN-REGISTER**

Ana Aügüste Grischow  
ist geboren 15 Oktober  
1864

[Al?]bert Edü[Ar?] t

Herman ist geboren  
d 23 November

1869

Albert Edüart Herman  
i[st] geboren d 16 März

1872

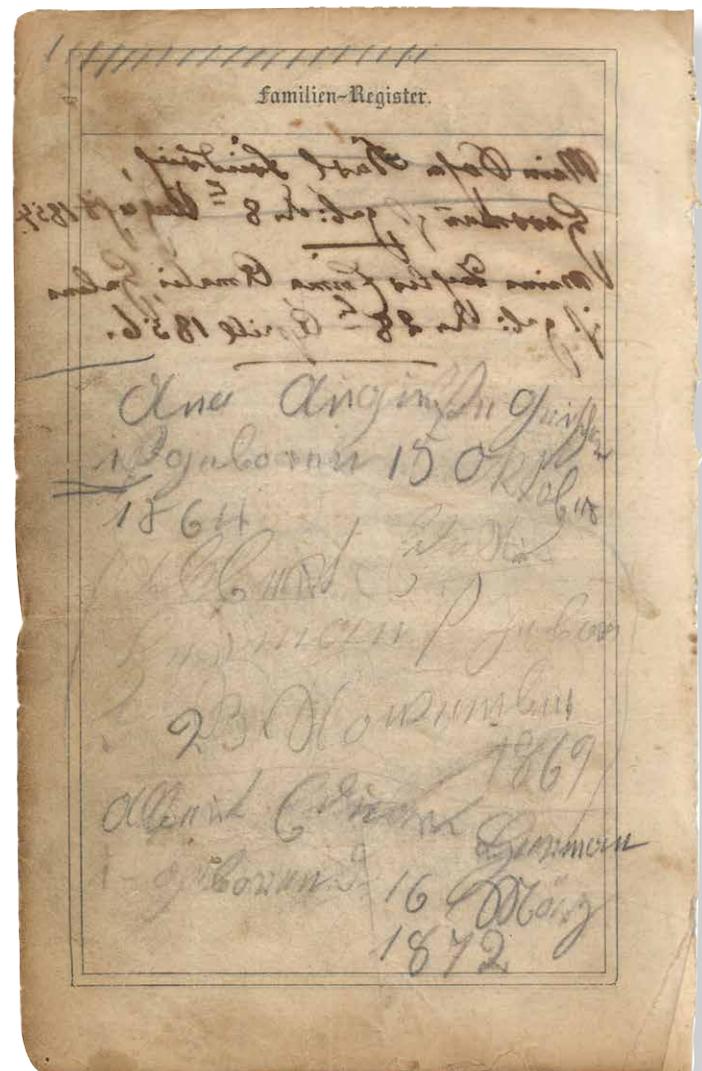
**FAMILY RECORD**

Ana Auguste Grischow  
was born 15 October 1864

[Al?]bert Edu[ar]t

Herman was born  
the 23d of November 1869

Albert Eduart Herman  
was born the 16th of March 1872

**A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE FAMILY STORY**

Though the records I found tend to show Friedrich born about 1820, I am still fairly confident he wrote his own birthdate as 17 Aug 1829, and he says he came to America in 1849. Apparently there was a good deal of migration at the time from Pomerania to Wisconsin. There is a record in the Hamburg Passenger Lists on Ancestry.com of an F. Grischow born in Stavenhagen leaving Hamburg 31 July 1850 on the Howard bound for New York,<sup>5</sup> which there's a fair chance to have been him; if not, then surely a relative? Perhaps he left home in 1849, but it took well into 1850 to get to New York?

Friedrich married Caroline Grützmacher, not quite 21, on 21 March 1853 in Manitowoc County, Wisconsin.<sup>6</sup> She reportedly was also from Schoenhagen and had also

immigrated to Wisconsin in 1850.<sup>7</sup> They were in the town of Newton in 1870;<sup>8</sup> their first eight children, through Albert in 1872, were apparently all born in Wisconsin, though the first two were not listed with them in the 1870 census. By 1875 they had moved to Eudora, Douglas County, Kansas,<sup>9</sup> and by 1880 to "East and West Butte" in Washington County, Oregon.<sup>10</sup> Frederick was consistently listed as a farmer in these censuses.

Frederick Grischow was naturalized in Washington County on 3 October 1882.<sup>11</sup> The family apparently moved soon after, as daughter Anna married Joseph Baear on 14 June 1883 at the home of "the" (= her?) parents in Multnomah County.<sup>12</sup> Widowed "Cataline" Grischow owned her own home in the Fulton Park Addition in Portland in 1900, and her son William, a teamster, was

living with her. She reportedly had borne 14 children, of which only five were still living.<sup>13</sup> Gustav and Albert, both married and with children, were also living in Portland.

The Oregon State Archives' online Oregon Historical Records Index indicates Herman, Edward, and a Ray Fredrick Grischow all died on the same day, 15 February 1899, in Portland.<sup>14</sup> *The Record-Union* of Sacramento, California, had a one-paragraph front-page story from Portland on 16 February 1899, reporting that "Herman and Edward Grischow, brothers aged 28 and 22, respectively, died this afternoon [15 February] at Fulton from some mysterious cause. The physician who attended them expressed the opinion that they were poisoned by eating canned meat."<sup>15</sup> A much fuller story in the *Morning Oregonian* of the same date indicated that the brothers' mother and father, "Fritz," were at

home with them when Herman and Edward grew sick and died. The article noted the parents had lived in Fulton for seven years, were hardworking modest people in moderate circumstances, and did not understand English.<sup>16</sup> Thus, Frederick apparently died later in 1899 or in 1900 before the census. I didn't find records for his death or burial.

Caroline lived until 26 January 1921; she is buried in the Greenwood Hills Cemetery in Portland.<sup>17</sup> Despite the discouraging odds for the next generation, her five children who survived past 1900 appear to have given rise to a goodly number of Grischows in Portland by 1940.

What thoughtful or thoughtless process led to this family Bible record being acquired by the GFO remains a mystery; perhaps it can now be restored to an interested descendant.

## ENDNOTES

1. Frederik Grischow household, 1870 Census, Newton, Manitowoc Co., WI. NARA microfilm M593, Roll 1723, stamped p.341A. Online, Ancestry.com.
2. Fred Grishow household, 1880 Census, East and West Butte, Washington Co., OR. NARA microfilm T9, Roll 1084, stamped p.373A. Online, Ancestry.com.
3. Frederick Grischow household, 1875 Kansas State Census, Eudora, Douglas County, p.25. Online, Ancestry.com.
4. Caroline Grutzmacher Grischow, Greenwood Hills Cemetery, Portland, Multnomah Co., OR, seen 27 Jan 2017 on online database *Findagrave.com*: <https://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=6910287&ref=acom>, record created by Kenneth J. Gruschow.
5. Staatsarchiv Hamburg. *Hamburg Passenger Lists, 1850-1934* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2008. F. Grischow on 11th line of image 53 of 167; Oeconom appears to be the occupation given, which seems unlikely for our subject Friedrich Grischow, but at the time it apparently meant a bailiff rather than an economist. If he was only 20 that still seems a stretch, though perhaps not so much if he was as old as 29.
6. Maniwitoc County, Wisconsin, Genealogy (online website), *Marriages and Births, GR: Grischow, Friedrich*; <http://www.2manitowoc.com/marGr.html>, seen 28 Jan 2017. Cites "co. mar. index v.1 p.25." It is not clear how much of the information given here came from said county marriage index or corresponding marriage record; some clearly did not.
7. See endnote 4.
8. See endnote 1.
9. See endnote 3.

10. See endnote 2.
11. Balfour, Gwyneth S., "Washington County, Oregon: Index to Naturalizations." In *Genealogical Forum of Portland, Oregon, Bulletin*, Vol. 33:3 (Mar. 1984), p.125; cites "County Court Journal No.1 p.406."
12. Multnomah County, OR *Marriage Record*, v.5, June 1883-Dec 1885: 16. *Multnomah County Marriage License Index 1855-1885* for this marriage additionally gives Anna Grischow's age as 18½, which agrees with her birth date record in the New Testament, 15 Oct 1864. The Witness or "Affiant" listed in the Index is C. F. Grischow, who I believe was an older brother rather than her father, perhaps due to the latter's not knowing English. Both volumes are part of the GFO's large set of original Multnomah County marriage records.
13. Cataline Grischow household, Fulton Park Add[ition], Portland, Multnomah Co., OR (E.D. 67). NARA microfilm T623, Roll 1350, stamped p.34A.
14. Oregon Historical Records Index (online database), Oregon Secretary of State, search on Grischow 27 Jan 2017: <http://genealogy.state.or.us/displayResults.php?name=grischow&fromdate=&category=&county=&child=&parents=&nothing=Search>, cites Portland Deaths as source.
15. *The Record-Union* (Sacramento, CA), 16 Feb 1899, p.1, col.4. Online, *ChroniclingAmerica.com*: <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn82015104/1899-02-16/ed-1/seq-1/#date1=1789&in dex=0&date2=1924&searchType=advanced&language=&sequence=0&words=Edward+Grischow&proxdistance=5&state=California&rows=20&ortext=&proxtext=&phrasertext=&andtext=edward+grischow&dateFilterType=yearRange&page=1> Seen 27 Jan 2017.
16. *Morning Oregonian*, Portland, OR, 16 Feb 1899, p.12, col.1. Microfilm at Wilsonville Public Library.
17. See endnote 4.

## Spotlight on GFO's Research Assistants

*Marti Dell*



As you may know, GFO has no paid staff. Everyone who works at the GFO is a volunteer, and volunteers are the heart and soul of the organization. In this issue of the *Bulletin*, we're recognizing one segment of our volunteer force: our research assistants (RAs). RAs keep the doors of our library open seven days a week, and we are very grateful to them. They open the library each morning, greet everyone who comes in, shelve books, assist with labeling books and work on other specific projects, but—most importantly—assist our patrons. They answer the telephone, respond to questions, suggest avenues of research, help people figure out how to use the computers or find books, and provide assistance with printing that online document you just found. RAs help keep the GFO open and running smoothly for all our patrons.

Because these wonderful volunteers are frequently genealogists in their own right and have their own interests, we're highlighting as many as we can. That way, if you need assistance and would like someone with more experience in a specific area, you can try to get into the library when that RA is working.

RAs are listed according to when they are most likely to be at the library, starting with our roving volunteers, then on to Monday and throughout the week. Note that

some RAs did not want to be mentioned and others didn't want their picture used; some wanted to list only their given name while others provided their full names. So if you know any RAs who aren't profiled here, don't worry, we didn't forget them. We are very appreciative for every single person who assists the GFO.



**Judith Leppert:** Judith has been doing genealogy for about ten years. She has been volunteering for at least six years at the GFO (maybe more) and is nice enough to fill in whenever she is available and we have a hole in the schedule. She has been told she gives a good tour of the library (she does!) and can help with Swedish and German records. Judith has also done some English genealogical research, and with an MA in medieval English literature, she is a good resource for help with some of the language in older records. If you are having trouble locating a book, ask Judith, as she's constantly shifting shelf contents to make room for new arrivals. By one estimate, she has moved every book in the GFO Library at least six times! She is often over-

heard saying, “Who needs a gym membership?” Judith wears many other GFO “hats.” You may have seen her serving as hostess at our Open House, managing the raffle table at our seminars, or read some of her “First Families of Multnomah County” articles in the *Bulletin*.



**Carol Mikama:** Carol has been volunteering at the GFO for about a year without a set schedule. We are so lucky to have people who are willing to fill in when and where needed. Carol has nine years of experience in special libraries and school libraries, and she has certification in educational media. She held an assistantship cataloging instructional materials

while earning a Master’s degree in special education. She also set up and managed a special education instructional materials library for Linn-Benton Education Service District in Albany, Oregon; managed a film and video library for a six-county region in southwest Washington; and was school librarian for one year in Portland Public Schools. Carol enjoys research, but admits that she wants to work on catching up in the computer arena because her training predates current technology.



**Cherill Vencil:** Cherill has been an RA for approximately five years and is another of the wonderful people who fills in when she can. Cherill has a library degree with a concentration in archives. She interned at the New England Historic Genealogical Library, where she worked in the archives, and she has been doing genealogical research for 30 years. As might be

expected, she considers her strongest area of expertise to be New England colonial research. However, as a trained librarian, she can also conduct research in most databases, although she does not consider herself to be a “master” of any one. She really enjoys helping people get started with genealogy. She is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), and one of her primary personal projects is documenting her more than 20 patriot ancestors!

**Elizabeth Stepp:** Liz has been volunteering for about four years and is in the GFO most weeks. She enjoys being an RA, especially making people who call on the

telephone or come into the library feel welcome. Liz tries to add value to their experience with the GFO by listening and asking questions. She tells us that the benefits of working as an RA include learning so much about research, helping people realize the importance of clarifying objectives, and finding different ways to approach a research challenge or question. Liz says she knows “more than the average GFO member about the history, geography, and people of the state of Hawaii.”

**Barbara Jones:** Barbara works on the first Monday of each month, which is GFO’s Free Monday. She has been an RA for about seven years, and she especially likes helping people break through their brick walls. She also enjoys introducing patrons to databases other than Ancestry.com. Barbara’s personal areas of interest include French Canada, New England, New York, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois, and the West Coast states.



**Angie:** Angie has been an RA since September 2016 and works on the first Monday morning of each month, welcoming patrons as they come in the door. Because she is relatively new to the GFO, she says she doesn’t feel she’s found where she fits in yet. However, Angie’s general library experience is of great service, as she worked as a clerk at the Mult-

nomah County Library for 37 years. Her passion is mending books and preserving them for future generations. She is a very detail-oriented person, so she loves putting labels on books and making each one look neat. She has experience with some of our online databases because she has worked with them doing her own research. She also knows a lot about the Multnomah County Library’s website and resources.



**April Ober:** April’s usual shift at the library is on Monday mornings, and she has volunteered in that capacity for about three and a half years. April commented, “I like to solve puzzles—jigsaw, Sudoku, and word puzzles. Genealogy puzzles are more intriguing to me as they involve people and stories. My curiosity is challenged to find answers. I retired from *The Ore-*

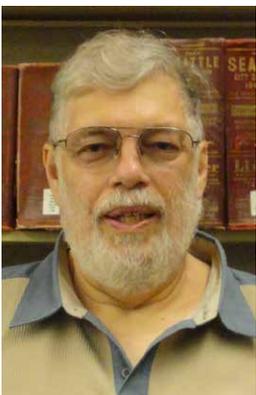
*gonian* newsroom where I went to mini-classes on

research, and I am pretty good using Google to get answers and at thinking outside the box.” Friendliness and humor are two of her family traits—great assets for welcoming everyone to the GFO.



**Kristin Parks:** Kristin’s normal shift is Monday mornings, and she also has been an RA for about three and a half years. Kristin has a good working knowledge of the Genealogical Proof Standard—the bases that need to be covered before research can be considered “reasonably exhaustive.” She is very good at helping patrons plan their research strategies, analyzing

the types of records that their ancestors should have generated based upon their unique life events, including when and where they lived. She then enjoys showing people how to go about finding those records both online and in person.



**Harold E. Hinds, Jr.:** Since he moved to Portland about three years ago and started volunteering with us, Harold can be found at the library on Monday afternoons. He has about 20 years of experience volunteering for other genealogical organizations. Harold shared these thoughts about his greatest strengths, “I have been doing historical research, including

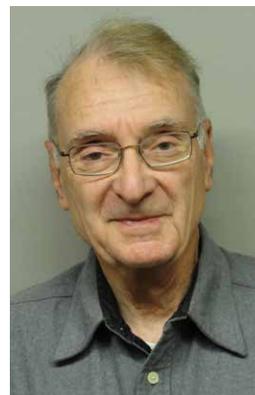
extensive work with archival records, for over 50 years, and more specifically with genealogical records for 20 plus years. I’ve done extensive research in upstate New York, Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky, the Pacific Northwest, Wisconsin, and French Canada for the 26 genealogical volumes I’ve published. My primary areas of genealogical expertise, which include on-site archival research, are the following: New York, Vermont, Minnesota, Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, Idaho, South Dakota, Alaska, Wisconsin, North Carolina, Georgia, Texas, Oregon, Washington, the Republic of Ireland, England, and French Canada. I’ve also, generally as part of my preparation for teaching an annual course at the University of Minnesota-Morris on family history and genealogy, done advanced course work in the following: land records, military records, National Archives records, New England, U.S. Mid-West, U.S. Mid-Atlantic, Canada, Scotland, England, Colonial U.S., Migration,

Western U.S., and advanced problem solving.” Although he is not a computer tech, he is also very familiar with Internet research generally, including Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.



**Rhonda Stone:** Rhonda has been volunteering as an RA for the GFO for about five years. If you ever need someone to greet you with a great big smile, come to the GFO during her regular shift on Tuesday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Rhonda is a member of the Portland Chapter of the DAR, the National Society Colonial Dames XVII Century, and the

General Society of Mayflower Descendants. Rhonda uses Legacy Family Tree software to organize her family history research and would be happy to answer questions about this tool.



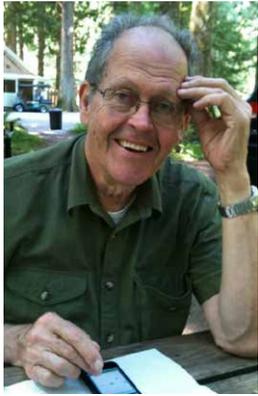
**Ridgeway “Dick” Foley:** Dick has been a member of the GFO since 1985, volunteering as an RA for the past five years. You can usually find him in the library on the first and third Tuesday mornings of each month. Dick is a fourth-generation Oregonian and is very knowledgeable about local resources. He primarily uses Ancestry.com and census records,

and says he’s learning more skills all the time. He has provided different kinds of assistance to the GFO in the past, including legal services and participating on various committees.



**Sharyl Swope:** Sharyl has been an RA for almost three years, and you can usually find her at the library on Tuesday afternoons. Her personal research is focused on North Carolina and Missouri as well as Scotland, Germany, and Italy, with some exposure to Scandinavia. She has a lot of experience searching the U.S. Census. Sharyl uses Legacy Family Tree genealogy

software and is most familiar with Ancestry.com, although she can also get people started on FamilySearch, Cyndi’s List, Newspapers.com, and various other sites.



**Richard Eckman:** Richard has been an RA since 2014 and works on Tuesday afternoons. Richard shared, “My employment prior to retiring was as a full-time supervisor for an army reserve hospital. It has helped me as an RA because I know where to go to access military records, and I understand what I am looking at when a question is asked about a particular

document. It has also helped me understand many of the records that are encountered when dealing with genealogy. I like helping people who come into the GFO with little or no information, and they are simply curious about their own individual family history. Most times I have been successful in finding something for them. I find the census to be a very good starting document to help people connect to past generations. I can make most of the technology work, even if it’s being a problem. I don’t quit until several unsuccessful attempts using different approaches.” Richard went on to say that success when helping others with research is having someone say, “I didn’t know that about my grandfather!”

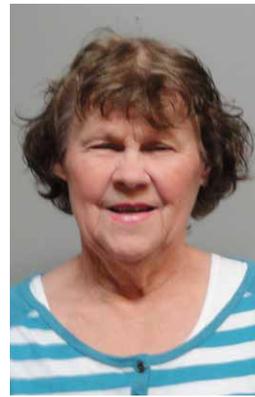


**Jane McGarvin:** Jane has been an RA since 2013 and usually works on Wednesday mornings. She enjoys working with newbies, trying to suggest ways to solve problems and where to look for answers. Jane is a member of the DAR, and always tries to provide service with a smile. Although she admits to not knowing everything about the library, she enjoys providing tours, and she certainly knows a lot about it. She is also good with Ancestry.com and FamilySearch. She uses Family Tree Maker for her personal research. Jane adds, “Sometimes I do best solving problems by the seat of my pants, asking questions, and ferreting out where to look.”

document. It has also helped me understand many of the records that are encountered when dealing with genealogy. I like helping people who come into the GFO with little or no information, and they are simply curious about their own individual family history. Most times I have been successful in finding something for them. I find the census to be a very good starting document to help people connect to past generations. I can make most of the technology work, even if it’s being a problem. I don’t quit until several unsuccessful attempts using different approaches.” Richard went on to say that success when helping others with research is having someone say, “I didn’t know that about my grandfather!”

**Tracy L. Buckner:** Tracy has been volunteering as an RA for about three years. She works on Wednesday evenings, when the library stays open until 8 p.m. Tracy can help those who are deaf or hard-of-hearing get started on their family histories or with any genealogy help they may need. She is very proficient with the flatbed scanner and she uses Photoshop, FindaGrave, Ancestry.com,

Newspapers.com, Fold3, FamilySearch, and Family Tree Maker for Mac.



**Barbara Forster:** Barbara has been involved with the GFO just a few months and volunteers most Wednesday afternoons. We’re glad to have her on board! Barbara teaches a “Beginners Class” at the Happy Valley Library for the genealogy club there, and she loves helping newbies get started on their family history search. She also enjoys inspiring people to

write their stories. Hers are called “Storybooks,” and you can find a few of them at her website [www.atkinsfamily.club](http://www.atkinsfamily.club). Barbara justifiably prides herself on always providing a smile to patrons and making them feel welcome. She has experience researching in Missouri, Virginia, Connecticut, and many other states. She drove across the United States for six weeks in 2015, stopping in all the places she wanted to conduct research. She says she is good at troubleshooting and finding the answers to puzzles.



**Jackie Phillips:** Jackie is at the GFO on Thursday mornings and has been an RA for about three and a half years. She has been doing genealogical research for more than 20 years. Her particular interests are Maine, Utah, and Upper Canada between 1818 and 1840. A lot of her work involves Mormon history, as both sides of her and her husband’s families are

LDS. She also has several family members who are members of Daughters of Utah pioneers—and although she qualifies, she is not a member of that group. Jackie has ancestors who were in the United States by 1645, who were accused as witches, and who fought in the Revolutionary War. On her Canadian side, she has ancestors who arrived in 1818, some of whom later moved to the United States. She loves working at the GFO and helping patrons achieve their own family history successes. As she says, sometimes the smallest find can be the most satisfying.

**Bonnie Randolph:** Bonnie (or Bonie) is usually at the GFO on Thursday mornings. She has been a research assistant since about 2010. She enjoys helping people who come

in as well as working on the manuscript collection when she doesn't have patrons to assist. Her own research has focused on Oregon and on the Prussian area of Europe. She says that because she is very visually oriented, she might write down what you tell her so she can picture recommendations for next steps.



**Gerry Lenzen:** Gerry's regular shift is each Thursday from 1 to 5 p.m. He also works on fifth Sundays when they occur. Gerry has been volunteering with the GFO in multiple capacities since the 1980s. He and his wife, Connie Lenzen, have been researching genealogy together for more than 50 years. Gerry is very knowledgeable about most things in the library and is our local expert on Donation Land Claims.



**Joann Taylor:** Joann's regular schedule is on Thursday afternoons from 1 to 5 p.m., and she is one of our newest volunteers. Joann says, "I am a relatively new member of the GFO RA staff; however, I have been doing genealogy seriously for 12 years. I have a lot of experience with Irish research, including immigration to the United States, Irish records, and tracing roots back to Ireland. My Irish kin settled in Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York, so I have a lot of experience with records from those states. In my own work, as well as for other families, I have encountered a bunch of interesting genealogical puzzles over the years (ask me!). My husband's family has much deeper roots in New England, Canada, and Great Britain, so I have experience with those locations, too. I really enjoy applying research techniques to help people discover their pasts, whether they are new to genealogy or have been at it a while. I have experience with the online research tools we have at the GFO, especially Ancestry.com, American Ancestors, and FamilySearch, as well as many others. For my own family research, I have been a long time user of Family Tree Maker but am in the process of evaluating a new program. I am a chemist/color scientist by profession as well as a member of New England Historic Genealogical Society, Association of Professional Genealogists, and National Genealogical Society, and I obtained a Certifi-

cate in Genealogical Research from Boston University in 2013." We are glad to add Joann's expertise to our remarkable pool of talent.



**Nanci Remington:** Nanci has volunteered at the GFO for about eight years. Her usual shift at the GFO is on Fridays. In her own words: "I really enjoy working with patrons—both beginners and those who are struggling with a brick wall. My greatest strength is doing Internet research on Ancestry.com, FamilySearch, and other sites, such as those offering newspapers or local resources. I have done a lot of research in Ohio, Michigan, New York, and Germany. I use Legacy Family Tree software and can help others with it." Nanci also assists in other ways throughout the library—as many of our volunteers do—including orchestrating GFO seminars, ongoing organization of the manuscript collection, and providing a wealth of articles to *The Bulletin*.



**Joan Galles:** Joan has been volunteering at the GFO for about five years, and you can usually find her in the library on Fridays. Joan was a history major and taught in the Portland Public Schools. She is knowledgeable about Finland and some Finnish databases, and is also familiar with Italian genealogy and databases. She is fond of geography, is good with general genealogy, and loves to indulge the curiosity that rises when presented with a query by a patron.



**Doris:** Doris usually (but not always) works on Saturdays. She is not sure how long she has been volunteering for the GFO, but we are certain it's been more than five years. When asked her areas of experience, she replied that she has researched in Wales and is familiar with the records there, and she is somewhat familiar with English records. She also does five minute tours of the library. Our president, Laurel Smith, also noted that Doris is the lead on our flat maps cata-

logging effort with Cathy Lauer; when asked her about map expertise, Doris replied, “Well, I can read them. I have a fair idea of what we have in the collection.”



**Cathy Lauer:** Cathy is one of our star RAs. Her normal days are Saturdays, Sundays, and Monday afternoons. She is a star in part because of how long she has been an RA at the GFO (38 years) and because she also is our volunteer coordinator. She makes out the RA schedule every month and finds new RAs and other volunteers when we need them. I am in

complete awe of her ability to get things done. As for her skills as an RA, she has general knowledge of how to research family history, specializing in preparing application papers for lineage societies. She is a member of the Mayflower, Colonial Dames, and Daughters of the American Revolution societies. She also enjoys working on other people’s family research. Cathy uses Legacy software to record her own research, but also has limited knowledge of Family Tree Maker. Cathy says that most of her time at the library is spent with cataloging and scanning book covers or working on other organizational projects. For instance, she has also organized our entire collection of microfiche and all the microfilm land records.

**Debbie:** Debbie assists at the GFO on the first Sunday of every month (and sometimes on the first Monday), and has done so for more than 10 years. Debbie enjoys assisting genealogy newbies and providing tips for finding birth parents.



**Jeannette Hopkins:** Jeanette’s usual shift is on the first Sunday of every month. She has been volunteering for the GFO for about 14 years in a variety of roles. With regard to helping patrons as an RA, she says, “I have advanced computer skills to assist you in your research in the various databases to which the GFO subscribes. I have researched my German and

Canadian ancestors, so I have experience in those areas as well as land records, probate, and military records.”



**LauraDenise White:** LauraDenise works most Sundays. She has been volunteering for about three years now. We were thrilled when LauraDenise volunteered, as she has a degree in Archives and Information Management. She is always willing to share computer skills and to teach tips for patrons to more easily save, manipulate, and ensure long term preserva-

tion of the digital copies of their research work. She also works on the GFO’s website, and she assists with our manuscript collection. Oh, she is also the current secretary for the GFO’s board of directors—another volunteer who wears many hats.



**Shelley Hoffman:** Shelley has been volunteering as an RA for about 15 years, and you can usually find her on the third Sunday of each month. She enjoys helping others with their research and seeing their eyes light up when they discover something they hadn’t previously found. She also enjoys learning the new databases, although it can be hard to keep up

with all the new ones coming out. Shelley is originally from Montana, so she gets excited when she hears of anyone who may be searching for family in that state. She has used Family Tree Maker for years.



I hope you’ve enjoyed this introduction to our RAs. Please give them a thank you for their service the next time you’re at the GFO.

## First Families of Multnomah County

# Joseph Ellis 1841-1917

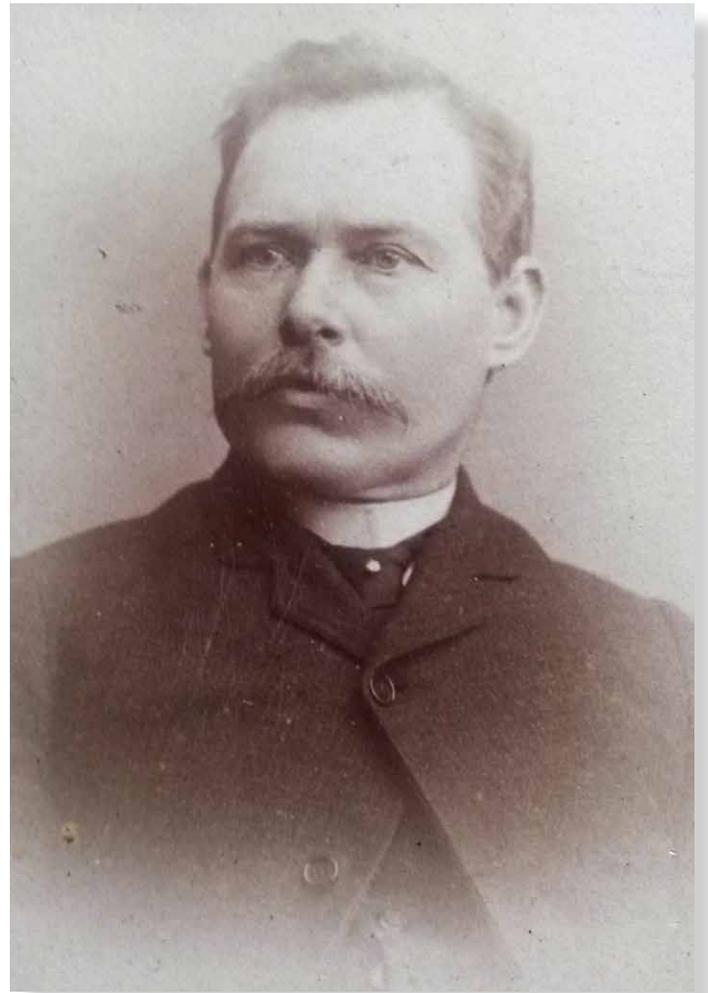
Judith Leppert

Joan Ellis Benner submitted a portion of her Ellis family research to apply for a First Families of Multnomah County Lewis and Clark Exposition Certificate, as she had ample proof that her Ellis ancestors arrived in East Multnomah County prior to the October 1905 close of the Exposition.

Joan sent us a copy of her birth certificate, which showed her parents to be Kenneth Victor Ellis and Frances Elizabeth Bradley, who were living in Corbett, Multnomah County, Oregon, at the time of her birth. Kenneth declared he was born in Corbett in 1908. Frances was born in Hillsboro, Traill County, North Dakota, in 1909.

Joan's application included a copy of the 1910 U.S. Census for the Victor Ellis family to prove her father's parentage. Kenneth V. Ellis, age one and seven-twelfths and born in Oregon, is shown with his parents (Joan's grandparents) Victor E. and Myrtle M. [Evans] Ellis. Victor is listed as 33 and born in Pennsylvania, working as a farmer. Myrtle is shown as 27 and having been born in Iowa. The census data indicate this is a first marriage for the couple and that they have been married six years. The family is living in Hurlburt' in Multnomah County.

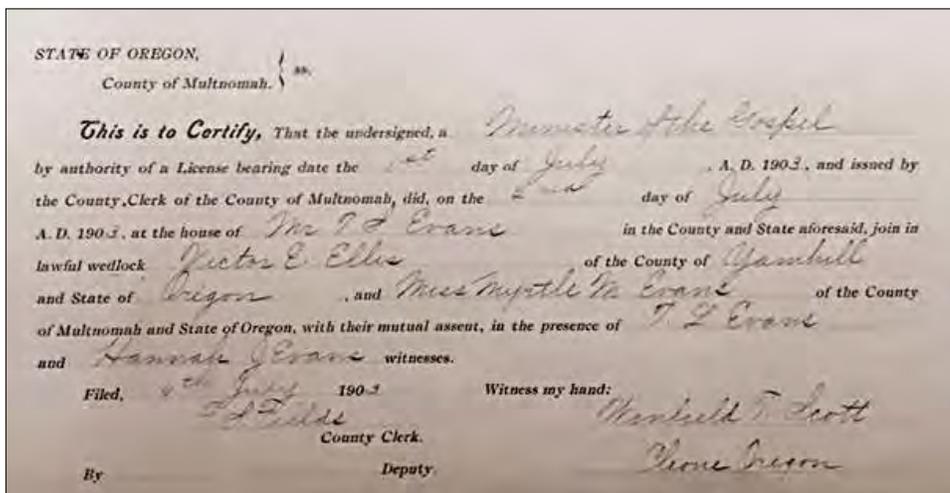
The U.S. Federal Census for 1900 is the next document Joan provided, and it features two generations of the Ellis family. Head of the household is Joseph Ellis,



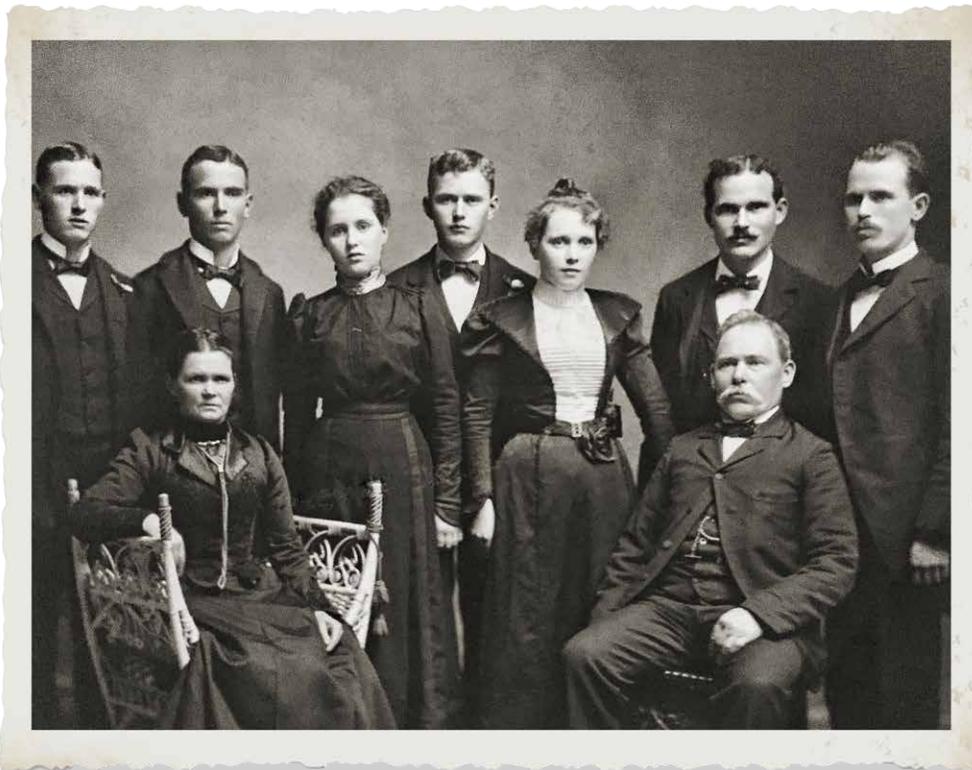
Joseph Ellis

age 59, with his wife Francis [sic] Ellis, age 46. These are Joan's great-grandparents. Her grandfather, Victor Ellis, is also shown with his brothers and sisters. He is just 24, and he and his siblings, according to this census, were born in Pennsylvania. The family is living in Brower,<sup>2</sup> Multnomah County, Oregon, and this is the document that proves Multnomah County residence prior to 1905.

Frankly, these three documents were sufficient to establish the Ellis family's early presence here. Still, the genealogy bug bit, and I had to learn more. Joan's grandparents, Victor Emanuel Ellis and Myrtle May Evans, married in Corbett on July 2, 1903. GFO has the original marriage records in the library. Additionally, Newspapers.com, one of the computer databases available at the GFO, provided an *Oregon Daily Journal* obituary



Marriage Certificate of Victor Emanuel Ellis and Myrtle May Evans.



Joseph Ellis Family

of Joan's great-grandfather, Joseph Ellis, for Thursday, September 20, 1917. GFO's Polk City Directories for the Portland area list the couple in several volumes. From our shelves, I found several books about East Multnomah County by Clarence E. Mershon. *Living East of the Sandy, Volume 1*, published for the East Multnomah Pioneer Association in 1999, features several pages about the Ellis family, complete with photographs. Most of the directly relevant information in that book is about Joan's parents. Another interesting source of informa-

tion about the Ellis family is *East Multnomah County Pioneer Association [biographies of early settlers] Volume 1*. Some articles are signed, but the one featuring Joseph Ellis, the great-grandfather, is not. Pages 62-65 give a splendid account of Mr. Ellis and his family.

The 1910 Census also reveals that Joseph and his wife had moved into Portland and were living on Fremont Street. Joseph and his wife are both shown to be born in England. The Ellis family will probably chuckle at the fun I had with that information because Frances is sometimes listed as being from Ireland, New York, England, and . . . you get the idea. Joseph is fairly consistently listed as being from England, though some re-

records point to Wales as his homeland.

Joseph was an apprentice in his trade (which I take to be machinist) and then traveled to America where he worked in Titusville, Pennsylvania, as a foreman of an engine shop associated with the oil industry. From there, he came to East Multnomah County to farm. He purchased 200 acres and subsequently added another 160 acres. He was a farmer and floriculturist extraordinaire, with trees and flowers to his credit that were exhibited from the New Orleans Exposition to the Oregonian In-

**Pedigree Chart for  
Joan Ruth ELLIS**

**Joan Ruth ELLIS**

b: Abt. 1933 in Oregon, USA

**Kenneth Victor ELLIS**

b: 06 Oct 1908 in Corbett, Multnomah, Oregon, USA  
m: 28 Jun 1930 in Marion, Oregon, USA  
d: 09 Jun 1990 in Portland, Multnomah, Oregon, USA; Age: 81

**Frances Elizabeth BRADLEY**

b: 16 Mar 1909 in Hillsboro, Traill, North Dakota, USA  
d: 12 May 1959 in Multnomah, Oregon, USA

**Victor Emanuel ELLIS**

b: 24 Apr 1876 in Titusville, Crawford, Pennsylvania, USA  
m: 06 Jul 1903 in Corbett, Multnomah, Oregon, USA; At the Evans's home  
d: 28 Dec 1956 in Corbett, Multnomah, Oregon, USA

**Myrtle May EVANS**

b: 16 May 1882 in Winterset, Madison, Iowa, USA  
d: 21 Dec 1976 in Troutdale, Multnomah, Oregon, USA; Age: 94

**Joseph ELLIS**

b: Abt. Jul 1841 in England  
m: Abt. 1872 in Pennsylvania, USA  
d: 19 Sep 1917 in Portland, Multnomah, Oregon, USA; at daughter's home

**Frances GILLIGAN**

b: 1848 in England  
d: 12 Dec 1920 in Portland, Multnomah, Oregon, USA



*Joseph Ellis House, Larch Mountain, Oregon*

dustrial Exposition in 1908. He learned these skills from his English father, who worked at Brook Park Hall as head gardener. Later, Joseph moved into Portland and worked in the railroad industry. He was active in bettering his community through politics, jury service, Odd Fellows, and Grange, and he influenced the powers that be to get free mail service in East Multnomah County. He also wrote poetry that demonstrates the aptness of a First Families of Multnomah County designation for the family of Joseph Ellis.

*Oregon, the golden  
The land we love the best,  
The fairest in the Union,  
And in the distant West.*

*Thy springtime sun is bracing,  
But night holds balmy rest,  
And when the day is waning,  
We dream upon thy breast.*

*Uplifted sight shows hillsides  
And mountains we adore,  
Where waves of lake and river  
Break lightly on the shore.*

*The hidden springs send streamlets  
Adown the shadowed woods,  
Which grow in might and power  
And break in thundering floods.*

*The Great Willamette Valley  
In beauty blooms below.  
The towering peaks of mountains  
Encrowned with gleaming snow.*

*The wealth of gold and silver,  
And fisheries so great,  
Make up the most beloved  
Wave-washed Pacific state.*

#### (ENDNOTES)

1. Hurlburt Post Office was located in Multnomah County "about three miles southeast of Springdale . . . a half mile northeast of Sandy River and about 800 feet west of what was later Hurlburt School," as stated in *Oregon Geographic Names* (McArthur and McArthur, 2003) which also relates: "Hurlburt post office was established in the [John A.] Hurlburt home on June 20, 1899 . . . . The office was closed November 14, 1903, apparently because of the extension of rural free delivery."
2. Brower was a mill town during the late 1890s. According to *Oregon Geographic Names* (McArthur and McArthur, 2003): ". . . Brower was the name of a post office in the hills about two miles south-southeast of Bridal Veil at the north base of Pepper Mountain. It was named for George W. Brower, who, with Eldridge H. Thompson, had a logging and lumber business thereabouts in the 1890s. Brower post office was established December 20, 1889, with Robert C. Bell first postmaster. The office was closed December 22, 1896." Despite closing in 1896, it was still the Post Office or locale named on the 1900 U.S. Census.

## Tools for Genealogy

# Photographs

*Nanci Remington*

**P**ictures have a way of bringing stories to life. Whether it's a photo of a special event, a sketch of the house where you grew up, or a painting of a famous ancestor, images will add interest to your family history.

So how do you find them? There is no single best way, but there are many places to look. How hard it will be depends on time and place, but it is absolutely worth the effort. Thanks to suggestions from librarians, archivists, and members of the GFO, here are some strategies to try.

### **1. ASK FAMILY, FRIENDS, ASSOCIATES, AND NEIGHBORS (FAN CLUB)**

Contact distant cousins you know and even those you don't. This means you need to research all the descen-

dants of your ancestors, going up at least two generations and back down to the present (or as close as you can get).

Contact friends of your parents or grandparents. I recently received a photo of my brother, then five years old, from a childhood friend whose mother had just come to live with her. It was from a newspaper article, and we had never seen it.

If your family was in the same location for many years, try posting on a message board or the *Facebook* genealogy page for the area (search county + genealogy). People often post school pictures there. I've also seen pictures from town events like picnics, reunions, and parades.



*Baker County Sewing Circle - <http://www.bakeroregonhistory.info/exhibit5/e51688b.htm>*

*Photo credit Baker County Library, Baker County, Oregon*



*Kalida High School graduating class, probably 1913.*

Check with local libraries and historical societies for yearbooks and old postcards. Look where your ancestors lived and also where descendants lived, since it is common for heirs to donate locally. Be sure to ask about vertical files and manuscript collections. Ask if there are other local museums that may be useful. Maybe the company where your ancestor worked has a collection of photos or newsletters. Research the church and other organizations to which they belonged—both professional and social—as these groups often keep archives. Also check local history books for the area where they lived.

If you do get a photo, be sure to ask for the provenance, especially if it is not labeled or if you think the label may be incorrect. Maureen Taylor, in her *Photo Detective* blog, suggests the most important question to ask is “who had the photo before you did?”

An example of a mislabeled photo is one attached to many online family trees purporting to be my third great-grandfather, John D. Myers, and his wife Mary. Because John died in 1839, it is highly unlikely the picture could be of him. (Photographers were just establishing studios in the major cities and in some small towns of Ohio at that time). A local photo expert dated the photo much later. So though it may be *a* John Myers, it is not *my* John D. Myers.

On a side note, the expert pointed out that two photos had been combined to create this one image—similar to how we would use Photoshop to merge two people into one image today. The wife’s portrait was taken in

a studio. The hay at the husband’s feet and his style of clothing indicate that his picture was taken at a different time and place, likely a farm yard. One theory is that the wife had the photo made after the death of her husband so that she could have one of them as a couple.

## **2. FIND LOCAL NEWSPAPERS AND PHOTO COLLECTIONS**

Newspapers have had images since the mid-1800s, though they became more common after 1880. More and more of these can be found online. For an overview of how to find and use historical newspapers, see *The Ancestor Hunt*. ([www.theancestorhunt.com/](http://www.theancestorhunt.com/))

*The Ancestor Hunt* also has a page dedicated to photos. There are links to sites that discuss re-



*Labeled as John D Myers and Mary Dillon.*

searching photos as well as to sites that collect vintage photos with both identified and unidentified subjects, such as *Dead Fred*. ([deadfred.com/](http://deadfred.com/)) There are also links to collections by state. For Oregon, links include:

- Baker County Historic Photographs  
[bakeroregonhistory.info](http://bakeroregonhistory.info)
- Beaverton Historical Photo Gallery [apps.beavertonoregon.gov/HistoricPhotos](http://apps.beavertonoregon.gov/HistoricPhotos)
- Lane County Photo Catalog [lanecountyhistoricalsociety.org/research-photocatalog.html](http://lanecountyhistoricalsociety.org/research-photocatalog.html)
- Oregon Encyclopedia [oregonencyclopedia.org](http://oregonencyclopedia.org)
- Oregon Historic Photograph Collections photos. [salemhistory.net](http://salemhistory.net)
- Oregon Historical Society Photograph Gallery [ohs.org/research/library/photograph-gallery](http://ohs.org/research/library/photograph-gallery)
- Oregon History Project [oregonhistoryproject.org](http://oregonhistoryproject.org)
- University of Oregon Libraries—Historic Photograph Collections [library.uoregon.edu/speccoll/photo/index.html](http://library.uoregon.edu/speccoll/photo/index.html)
- Washington County Heritage Online [washingtoncountyheritage.org](http://washingtoncountyheritage.org)

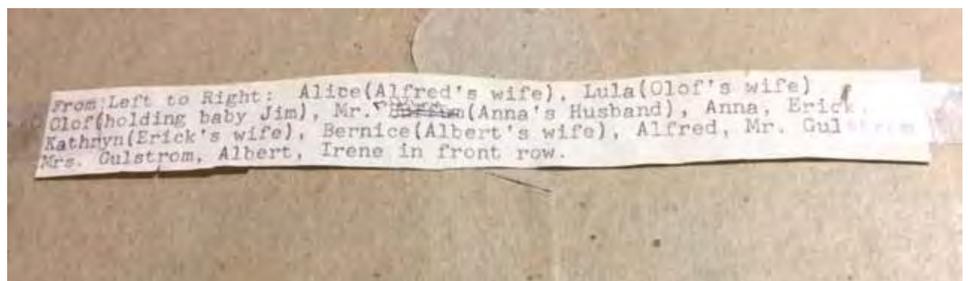
### 3. DO A GOOGLE SEARCH

It can be tricky to find people on the web. You need to use search terms that will limit your results so they are pertinent but not so much that there are no results at all. The easiest way could be to go to Google Advanced Image Search. ([google.com/advanced\\_image\\_search](http://google.com/advanced_image_search)) (I originally was going to suggest searching for images using multiple search engines, as I have had luck doing that for other purposes. But my attempt with images was disappointing, so Google does seem to be the way to go.)

When I entered the terms “Myers” and “Putnam County,” the search produced many images but they were all recent. I added 1880, and the results were much better.



Another example of the melding of two images, this photo was taken in 1920—the woman in the back row (4th from right) died in 1919.



People in the 1920 photo.

Clicking on an image gave links to the pages where the image appeared, including some *Rootsweb* family pages. For suggestions about doing *Google* searches for genealogy, see the series of articles in James Tanner’s blog, *Genealogy’s Star*. ([genealogysstar.blogspot.com/2017/01/how-to-do-custom-searches-with-google.html](http://genealogysstar.blogspot.com/2017/01/how-to-do-custom-searches-with-google.html))

*Google* is also a good way to find yearbooks and local histories. Do a general *Google* search first, then try a search on *Google Books* and *Worldcat*.

Search engine results sometimes lead to commercial sites, some of which are free with registration while some require a subscription. You will have to decide if an image you may find on these types of sites is worth the cost of payment. I once subscribed to *Genealogy Bank* ([genealogybank.com](http://genealogybank.com)) just for a snippet of a story. It was quicker and easier than tracking down the original

image, plus I found the site useful for other people I was researching.

#### 4. BE CREATIVE

If you never find pictures of your ancestors and still want to illustrate your family history, you can use other images that reflect what their lives might have been like. For a story about an ancestor who lived in the 1600s, I found a period map and an image of a reader she may have used in school. Perhaps your aunt could sketch an image of the farmhouse when no photo exists. Or you can surely find images of the town where they lived, the type of housing—from tenements to sod huts—or everyday items pulled from the probate inventory.

#### 5. SHARE

Many genealogists love to share what they know about their families, so be sure to look for family websites and blogs. There are many photos posted on *Ancestry* and *Find a Grave*, and they are beginning to show up on *FamilySearch*. You may have success finding photos or yearbooks on sites that sell them, like *eBay*.

If you plan to publish the images, you will need to learn about copyright. Judy Russell has covered the topic in her blog, *The Legal Genealogist*, in particular the article “Copyright and the old family photo.”

([legalgenealogist.com/2012/03/06/copyright-and-the-old-family-photo/](http://legalgenealogist.com/2012/03/06/copyright-and-the-old-family-photo/))

Photos and other images are probably the best way to get family members interested in your research. Make sure to share those you find. Add them to your family tree. Submit them to *Find a Grave* or post them on your favorite photo sharing site—a great job for the younger members of the family. Other researchers will be very grateful!



To learn more about finding, dating, and preserving photos:

- Steely, Karen Wallace. *The Past Matters*. [thepastmatters.com/](http://thepastmatters.com/)
- Taylor, Maureen. *Uncovering Your Ancestry through Family Photographs*. GFO call number 770 Tayl

To read about popular photo sharing websites:

- CNET. *Flickr, Google Photos, Photobucket and iCloud: Which photo storage app is right for you?* [cnet.com/how-to/comparing-the-best-ways-to-store-your-photos-online](http://cnet.com/how-to/comparing-the-best-ways-to-store-your-photos-online)

BOOK REVIEW

# One Immigrant's Legacy: The Overmyer Family in America, 1751-2009

## A Revolutionary American Family: The McDonalds of Somerset County, New Jersey

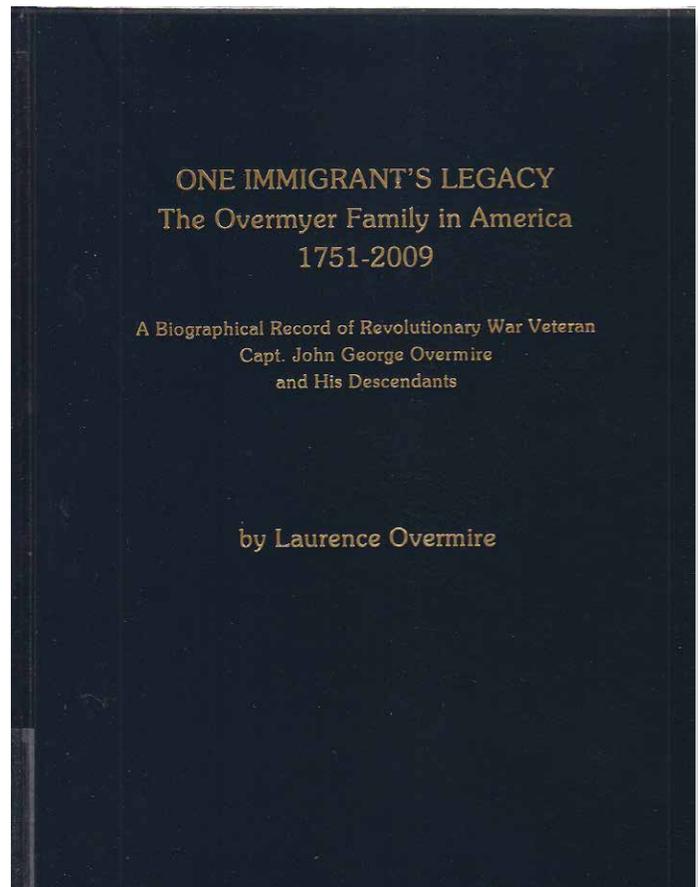
*Reviewed by Steve Turner*

**Author:** Laurence Overmire  
**Publisher:** Indelible Mark Publishing  
West Linn, Oregon  
**Publication date:** 2009; 2015  
**Pages:** 339; 463  
**Price:** \$125.00 each  
**Order from:** [imarkbooks.com](http://imarkbooks.com)

**A**uthor Laurence Overmire recently donated two family histories to the GFO that I felt deserved my admiring reviews.

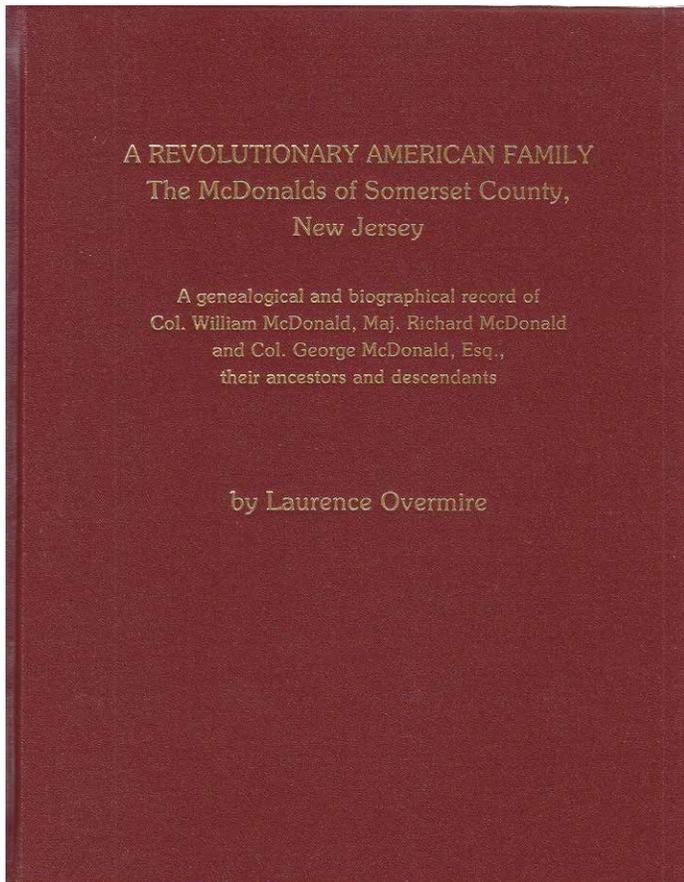
*One Immigrant's Legacy* is an exemplary family history by an inspired genealogist who is also a poet, actor, director, and educator. Overmire's thoughtful vision of family history and genealogy—as a way to discover and deepen our bonds with the entire human family—shines through every page of this well-researched and beautifully presented genealogy. The rather inventive organization is effective, and the layout is attractive, with numerous well-placed and clearly printed portraits, photos, maps, and other illustrations.

Chapter 1 presents what is known of the German origins of Johann "Hans" Georg (I) Obermyer, 1681-1743, father of Captain John George (II) Overmire, the immigrant ancestor of the title. The author often uses sidebars to present related material, such as "What does DNA tell us about our ancient history?" in this chapter. Facing the beginning of each chapter is a page listing the chapter's



focus ancestor, along with the spouses and children for each of that ancestor's marriages.

Chapter 2 proceeds to the immigrant Capt. John (II) and his two wives, and includes a section on "The Captain's Children Whose Fates Are Unknown," which presents what is known, speculated, and not known about these loose ends. The succeeding chapters treat each of the "known" children in turn, with subparts for each of the grandchildren, and subsections of each subpart following selected descendants down each respective line. Each chapter, subpart, and subsection treats an individual and his or her downline, giving often extensive genealogical and biographical information. Each chapter also concludes with up to three additional sections, the first a more comprehensive listing of "The Military Honor Roll," descendants of the chapter's ancestor who served in the military, with their line of descent and military service data. The second concluding section for each chapter is for other "Notable Descendants" of the chapter's ancestor, listing selected individuals alphabetically, with their descendancy, usually brief biographical information, and often a portrait photo. The third concluding section for each chapter is for "Family Researchers Descended from . . .," a useful



feature for those interested in pursuing genealogical material not included in the chapter.

Following the various chapters is a multi-page “Poet’s Corner,” featuring poems by the author and other Overmyer descendants; a page of “Family Mysteries” presenting unsolved genealogical questions; “In Memoriam,” listing those descendants who died in military service; a beautifully written afterword; 28 pages of endnotes; a page of additional sources; a complete full-name index; and a page “About the Author.”

*A Revolutionary American Family* is a more ambitious undertaking, devoted to the genealogically challenging ancestral family of the author’s wife, Nancy McDonald. Book I, *The Known World*, treats the known American portion of the story and is organized similarly to *One Immigrant’s Legacy*, with chapters on each of the three related McDonald progenitors of the subtitle and nine additional chapters following major lines of descent. Some of these nine chapters are subdivided into “Branches,” and again, selected individuals are treated with often extensive biographical and genealogical material. (The three concluding chapter sections of *One Immigrant’s Legacy* are not included in this work.)

Overmire, though not a descendant of the featured progenitors, gives himself a couple of pages, following three for his wife Nancy McDonald. He outlines his experience as a genealogist and his descent from the progenitor of Clan Donald in Scotland as well as from many other Scottish lines. His biography is relevant to the content, as Book II, *The Unknown World*, is an extensive examination of various claims regarding the Scottish origins of the McDonalds of Somerset County, New Jersey. Weighing the evidence in light of a detailed look at relevant circumstances of New Jersey and Scottish history, Overmire effectively, though not unkindly, debunks some of the claims of earlier researchers and builds a case—strong but not claimed to be proven—for the probable humble origins of the three immigrant ancestors to New Jersey.

I found Book II a most fascinating read, an especially fine example of genealogical research guided by insight from thorough analysis of the relevant historical background. Book II ends with chapters “Solving the Mystery” and “Summary and Speculation,” which thoughtfully weigh what can be concluded from the evidence marshaled and what remains so far unknown. A solid base for further research is the result. End matter includes a fine epilogue; six appendices providing related material (the last on the possibly related MacDaniels of Woodbridge, New Jersey, disambiguating two different William M(a)c Daniels); a list of images; acknowledgements; 78 pages of endnotes; a complete full name index; and another final page “About the Author.”

I like the quote he offers on that final page: “History remembers only the celebrated; genealogy remembers them all.” Although those about whom the most is known get the most press (even in these two family histories), the author’s egalitarian philosophy honoring all our ancestors and fellow humans great and humble is evident in many ways in both works, as well as in his latest effort, an introduction to genealogy entitled *Digging for Ancestral Gold*. I found both these family histories to be admirable examples of genealogical research, presentation, and writing, inspired by a real love for our shared heritage as humans. Along with those qualities, Overmire’s carefully balanced and well-qualified treatment of material—from the thoroughly documented through the probable and possible to the quite speculative—makes these books especially commendable examples of genealogy as an art.

BOOK REVIEW

# Plantagenet Ancestry of Seventeenth-Century Colonists

Reviewed by Shannon Leonetti

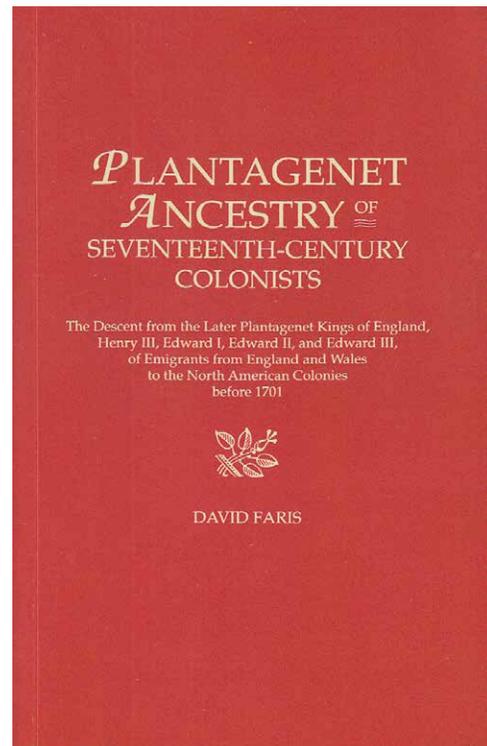
**Author:** David Faris  
**Publisher:** Genealogical Publishing Co.  
**Publication date:** 1996  
**Pages:** 334  
**Price:** \$35.00 + shipping (paperback)  
**Order from:** [genealogical.com](http://genealogical.com)

**P**lantagenet *Ancestry of Seventeenth-Century Colonists*, by David Faris, provides information about the legitimate descent of from Plantagenet ancestors 100 individuals who immigrated to the North American colonies by the end of the seventeenth century and who are believed to have many descendants living in the United States today. It is a successor to *Ancestral Roots of Certain American Colonists Who Came to America Before 1700* (Frederick Lewis Weis, author; Sheppard and Faris, editors; 1992).

The House of Plantagenet was established in 1126. The Plantagenet bloodline goes back to Geoffrey Plantagenet, Count of Anjou, and has houses throughout English, German, Welsh, and French history. It is responsible for the major kings of England, France, and Spain, and can be linked to pharaohs, other royal families, and the Knights Templar. Plantagenet migration to the New World can be traced back to at least 1632.

This resource is not a narrative history, but many of the annotations read like short stories. Even the shortest provide a lot of biographical information. The histories are drawn from extensive published secondary sources but come with enough credibility and reliability that anyone could use them without concern for authenticity. When available, the biographical information includes personal and domestic life, and participation in political and military activities such as the Wars of the Roses.

Many of the citations are perfunctory, but others tell great tales. For example, Roger de Mortimer (born in 1374) was:



“ . . . summoned to Parliament on 15 Oct. 1397 and had a great popular welcome. He was careful to do nothing to justify the King Richard II’s suspicions, but feeling his position to be somewhat insecure, he returned to Ireland, whither his enemy, the Duke of Surrey (his brother-in-law) was ordered to follow and capture him. Ireland was Mortimer’s chief concern, but he possessed little power there, the estates having been devastated and engaged in petty campaigns against the native chieftains . . . The Wigmore chronicler says that he was riding unattended, attired in the Irish manner, in front of his army and was slain by one of the Duke’s men. The death of the heir to the throne at the hands of the Irish induced King Richard II to undertake his last fatal expedition to Ireland.”

*Plantagenet Ancestry of Seventeenth Century Colonists* is an excellent resource for both the novice and the experienced genealogist, and can be valuable for anyone whose ancestry includes colonists from England who lived in or passed through New England during the seventeenth century. Genealogical researchers will find this book amazing because of the reach of the family lines, not only through the gateway relatives but also through their interconnecting marriages. It is easy to use, and for novelists it can provide unlimited fodder for plot ideas or narrative details in their stories.

## BOOK REVIEW

# The Surnames of Wales

## Updated & Expanded

Reviewed by Doris Cruickshank

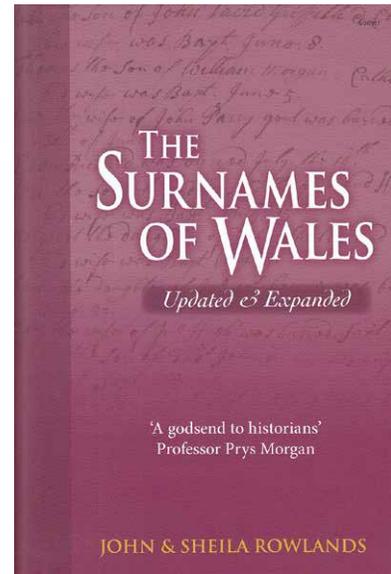
**Author:** John and Sheila Rowlands  
**Publisher:** Genealogical Publishing Company  
**Publication date:** 2013  
**Pages:** 323  
**Price:** \$39.95 + shipping  
**Order from:** [genealogical.com](http://genealogical.com)

Anyone researching in Wales knows the difficulty with Welsh surnames and the Welsh patronymic naming system. If you are stumped as to where your Jones, Pugh, George, etc., ancestor originated in Wales, this book is for you.

Compared to the 1996 edition, this 2013 edition has added more than 100 new pages of material. Chapters include “Welsh Names and Origins,” “Early Surnames,” “Patronymic Naming,” “A Survey of Surnames,” “Other Work on Distribution,” “Glossary of Surnames,” “A Survey of Given Names,” “Glossary of Given Names,” “Further Uses of the Surveys,” “Migration,” “Emigration,” and “Place of Origin.”

The Rowlands explain the methodology they used, which is helpful in understanding the glossary listings. In the glossaries, each surname or given name includes a brief history of its origin and where the name was found in Wales. Select surnames have colored maps that provide visual images of their distribution throughout “the hundreds” (the ancient geographic divisions in Wales, of which there are 89). An example:

“DAVIES (See also Fig. 5-5) The most common modern surname derived from the forename David (see DAVID). The spelling Davis most frequently suggests English origin, but there are Welsh exceptions; emigrants from Wales sometimes adopted this spelling, especially in the USA. (WGI xxv, WG2 xii, Dwnn ii, Nicholas.) 1813-37(I): This surname is found in significant numbers through Wales, and it is only on the northern tip of Anglesey that the incidence falls below one percent. The main concentration of the name is centered on south



Cardiganshire and extends over the majority of that county as well as north Carmarthenshire, north Pembrokeshire and west Breconshire where the incidence is in the 15 to 20 percent range. There is also one area of high incidence in north Montgomeryshire. The lower-than-average incidence of the name in parts of south Wales reflects the high incidence of the surname David in those areas.” (Note that abbreviations are explained in the beginning of the book.)

An exciting part of the book for me was the extensive material on the changeover from patronymics to settled surnames. The transition was not on a specific date or year but stretched over at least 150 years. The Rowlands have dated the likely year when names had settled in each geographic hundred. This information explains my own research challenge for my Howell/Williams transition in Pendryn, Breconshire, where the year is 1805, rather late in the change.

An extensive bibliography, subject index, surname index, and several very useful appendices finish off the book.

The Rowlands have published well-known classic books on Welsh research, such as *Welsh Family History: A Guide to Research* and *Second Stages in Researching Welsh Ancestry*. Both of these books and the 1996 version of *The Surnames of Wales* are available in the GFO library.

Using marriage registers from 1813-1837 as well as information from other studies, the Rowlands have put together a unique resource. The writing is very easy to read and understand, just as in their earlier works. *The Surnames of Wales* 2013 edition is a welcome update with valuable new material to aid Welsh researchers. I highly recommend it.

BOOK REVIEW

# Ohio Genealogy Research

Reviewed by *Elsie Deatherage*

**Author:** Michael A. Ports  
**Publisher:** Genealogical Publishing Company  
**Publication date:** 2015  
**Pages:** 4  
**Price:** \$8.95  
**Order from:** [genealogical.com](http://genealogical.com)

This addition to the *Genealogy at a Glance* guides will be useful to any genealogist who is researching in Ohio. The publication provides historical background, record sources, and a detailed explanation of where records might be found.

Dr. Michael A. Ports became interested in genealogy while in graduate school in 1972. He has produced 22 publications for Genealogical.com since 2013.

This particular publication provides “Quick Facts,” settlement background, record sources, supplementary sources, major repositories, and online resources. The author has packed a great deal of helpful information into four pages.

The first third of the guide covers the settlement history of Ohio, including people’s predominant ethnic backgrounds and prior residences. This is followed by a page describing where you can find birth and death records, marriage and divorce records, land records, and probate court records. A section on supplementary sources includes common pleas court records, quadrennial enumerations, and naturalization records. The major repositories section includes the names and locations of four repositories. The online section includes six websites. Each of the major sections ends with a pertinent helpful tip.

This is a very worthwhile resource to consult before embarking on Ohio research.



## BOOK REVIEWERS NEEDED

The GFO has an agreement with a few genealogy book publishers. In exchange for providing us with free books, we agree to provide them with reviews of the material. Recently, the donated books have begun to pile up. Please help us get caught up (and stay caught up) on this project that benefits the GFO library. If you can help, please contact Joan Galles at [bookreviews@gfo.org](mailto:bookreviews@gfo.org), or call her on Fridays at the GFO, 503-963-1932.

*In Memoriam***Carolyn Joyce Bergeron****27 October 1939–15 April 2017**

Carolyn Bergeron got hooked on genealogy when the mini-series *Roots* first aired in 1976. She joined the Genealogical Forum of Oregon in 1979 and considered it her own personal clubhouse. She became a research assistant at the GFO, assisting others with their genealogical work and helping to keep our doors open by performing administrative and clerical tasks. But Carolyn did more: She helped form the German special interest group, which is still meeting all these years later. She also helped with Bible transcriptions, one of which, "The Bennett Family Bible," was highlighted in the March 2016 *Bulletin*. What a devoted and talented lady!

GFO member Jan Fenter recalls, "Carolyn volunteered at the front desk when I first joined. As a beginner at genealogy, I really appreciated any suggestions she had to help me in my research. Later, we were part of a small group that got together to help each other on our individual family research. We would talk about where we had found helpful information, and soon other people in the library started coming over to ask questions regarding their own investigations. Carolyn was wonderful, always very giving of her time and knowledge to any

and all who might ask her assistance."

Carolyn was born 27 October 1939 to Cletus and Ruthe Johnson. She was a member of Wilson High School's first graduating class (1957) and went on to Oregon Agricultural College—now Oregon State University. On 7 February 1959, she married Leonard John Bergeron, who preceded her in death in 2016. They are survived by Len's brother, Ed; three children, Ted (Lessa) Bergeron, Joanne (Bryan) Shepherd, and Steve (Toni) Bergeron; as well as three grandchildren—Alaina Miller and Alan and Caledonia Bergeron.

Carolyn was a very sweet, quiet person with a lovely smile. She died in a memory care unit in the Portland area. Her family donated her research and books to the GFO. She will be missed by the many GFO members who knew and worked with her.



*In Memoriam*

## **Rena M. Rossi**

*9 November 1925–3 February 2017*

“It was all about the hats,” remembers Judith Lepert. “Every time I looked up at the GFO’s front desk on certain Saturdays, there was the lady with the hat. She didn’t wear a hat just to protect from the weather. She liked hats and wore hers all through the meeting she was attending that day. Well, it worked: That hat got me talking with her, and she certainly stuck in my mind. She was polite, engaging, and seemed to know her stuff. She didn’t like to waste time and wanted to get to her meeting. Good for Rena!”

GFO volunteer Janis Robertson recalls, “I had the privilege of meeting Rena when the GFO changed the venue of the Joshua Taylor seminar last October. Rena was prepared to take a bus to the original venue in SE Portland, but there were no Saturday buses to the new site in Milwaukie. Giving Rena a ride to hear Mr. Taylor speak, I found her to be a very independent lady, smart as a whip, and very easy to talk with. She was a very special woman.”

Rena was a long-time member of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. The Mount Hood Chapter described Rena as dedicated and patriotic of spirit. The Multnomah Chapter remembers Rena as cheerful and upbeat. Though Rena split the year

between Portland and Vacaville, California, Beverly Przybylski describes the group’s feelings about her: “She was always full-time in our hearts.”

Rena M. Rossi was born 9 November 1925 and passed away 3 February 2017 at Vaca Valley Hospital. Her parents were Rena and Rolf Price of Klickitat, Washington. She came to Portland, Oregon, in 1945. She and her husband, Alex P. Rossi, were married in 1949 and lived in Warren, Ohio. Her genealogical bent led her to join several organizations including the DAR, Colonial Dames, and the National Genealogical Society. Her son, David A. Rossi, and her brother, Merle Price, survive her. Services were held at Zion Lutheran Church in Portland.

A relative describes Rena’s kind words, gentle touch, and impish smile. “. . . when she talked or wrote about genealogy . . . the passion and love of history she felt burned brightly.”



## CALL FOR ARTICLES

The Bulletin Editorial Group invites readers to submit articles to the *Bulletin*. We look for articles that are of interest to members of the GFO and those that encourage the sharing and research of family history. Possibilities include but are not limited to:

- memoirs and personal essays
- research articles and source guides
- how-to articles
- problem-solving articles
- articles on family history travel
- using technology

We also welcome book reviews, transcriptions or extractions from original sources, and posts from your blog. You are encouraged to attach photographs or other graphics.

Send submissions to [bulletin@gfo.org](mailto:bulletin@gfo.org). You may request a current "Instructions and Guidelines" by contacting us in writing or at the email address above. The information is also available at <http://gfo.org/bulletin/index.htm>.

Deadlines for submission to the *Bulletin*

March issue: December 15

September issue: June 15

June issue: March 15

December issue: September 15



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## GFO CALENDAR: JUNE-AUGUST 2017

Sat 6/3	10:00am Virginia Group 1:00pm German Group	Sun 7/2	9:00am Library Work Party – Manuscripts	Wed 8/2	Open until 8 pm 10:00am Learn & Chat 1:00pm DNA Q&A
Sun 6/4	9:30am US/UK Census Workshop	<b>Mon 7/3</b>	<b>Free to Non-members</b>	Sat 8/5	9:30am Genealogy Tips, Tricks, and Pitfalls 1:00pm German Group
<b>Mon 6/5</b>	<b>Free to Non-members</b>	<b>Tue 7/4</b>	<b>4th of July - LIBRARY CLOSED</b>	Sun 8/6	9:00am Library Work Party – Manuscripts
Wed 6/7	Open until 8 pm 10:00am Learn & Chat 1:00pm DNA Q&A	Wed 7/5	Open until 8 pm 10:00am Learn & Chat 1:00pm DNA Q&A	<b>Mon 8/7</b>	<b>Free to Non-members</b>
Fri 6/9	11:30am Mexican Ancestry Group	Sat 7/8	9:30am Illinois Group 1:00pm Writers’ Forum	Tue 8/8	6:00pm Board Meeting (open to the public)
Sat 6/10	9:30am Illinois Group 1:00pm Writers’ Forum	Sun 7/9	9:00am Library work party – Maps	Wed 8/9	Open until 8 pm 1:30pm Photoshop Elements Group
Sun 6/11	9:00am Library work party – Maps	Tue 7/11	6:00pm Board Meeting (open to the public)	Fri 8/11	11:30am Mexican Ancestry Group
Tue 6/13	6:00pm Board Meeting (open to the public)	Wed 7/12	Open until 8 pm 1:30pm Photoshop Elements Group	Sat 8/12	9:30am Illinois Group 1:00pm Writers’ Forum
Wed 6/14	Open until 8 pm 1:30pm Photoshop Elements Group	Fri 7/14	11:30am Mexican Ancestry Group	Sun 8/13	9:00am Library work party - Maps
Sat 6/17	9:30am Genealogy Problem Solvers - A Monthly Support Group 1:00pm Annual Meeting 2:00pm GenTalk - Farm Ancestors	Sat 7/15	9:30am Genealogy Problem Solvers - A Monthly Support Group 12:00pm Italian Interest Group	Wed 8/16	Open until 8 pm 10:00am Learn & Chat 1:00pm DNA Q&A
<b>Sun 6/18</b>	<b>Father’s Day - LIBRARY CLOSED</b>	Sun 7/16	9:00am Library work party 1:00pm Family Tree Maker Beginning Class	Sat 8/19	9:30am Genealogy Problem Solvers - A Monthly Support Group 12:00pm Italian Interest Group
Wed 6/21	Open until 8 pm 10:00am Learn & Chat 1:00pm DNA Q&A	Wed 7/19	Open until 8 pm 10:00am Learn & Chat 1:00pm DNA Q&A	Sun 8/20	9:00am Library work party
Sat 6/24	12:00pm Italian Interest Group	Sat 7/22	9:00am Advanced DNA 1:00pm British Group	Wed 8/23	Open until 8 pm
Sun 6/25	9:00am Library work party	Sun 7/23	9:00am Library work party	Sat 8/26	9:00am Beginner DNA
Wed 6/28	Open until 8 pm	Wed 7/26	Open until 8 pm	Sun 8/27	9:00am Library work party
Sat 7/1	1:00pm German Group	Sun 7/30	9:00am Library work party	Wed 8/30	Open until 8 pm

See the GFO calendar at <http://gfo.org/who-we-are/calendar.html> for other dates this quarter.