



The Bulletin

Quarterly Magazine of the
Genealogical Forum of Oregon

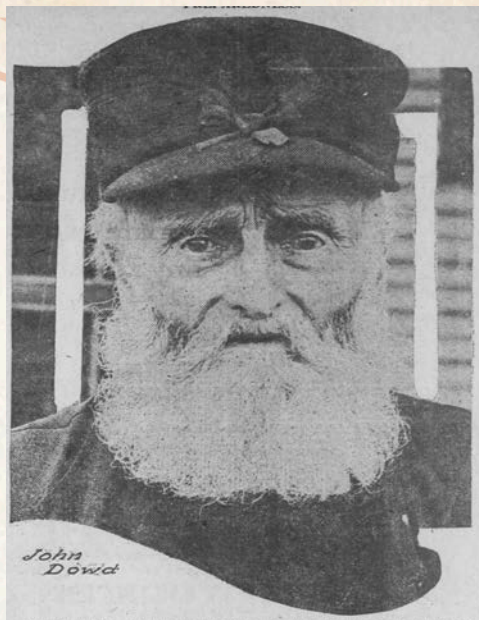
Volume 73, Number 4

June 2024

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- Book Reviews and More

The Oldest Man in Oregon? John Dowd, born in Ireland, died 21 February 1921 in Multnomah County, Oregon



by Keri Logan

The Bulletin: Quarterly Magazine of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon

2505 S.E. 11th Ave., Suite B-18

Portland, Oregon 97202-1061

info@gfo.org ♦ 503-963-1932 ♦ gfo.org

The Forum is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Gifts and contributions may be tax deductible.

Federal Tax ID# 93-6026015 • ISSN 2374-2453 (print) • ISSN 2374-2461 (online)

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Publishing and Printing: Loretta Welsh

Contributors: Frances Hart, Keri Logan

Labeling Crew: Gerald and Jane McGarvin

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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 and other graphics. Send submissions to bulletin@gfo.org. You may request the current "Instructions and Guidelines" by contacting us in writing or at the email address above. The information is also available at <https://gfo.org/learn/our-publications/gfo-bulletin.html>.

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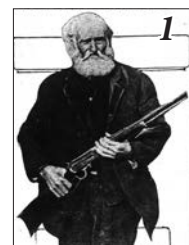
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GENEALOGICAL FORUM OF OREGON GENTALK

Let the Tower Lights be Burning

Genealogical Research for the Imprisoned



June 15, 2024


2:30 Annual Membership Meeting

- Induction of officers elected in 2024
- Hall of Fame awardee (if any)
- Adoption of budget for 2024-2025

2:45 GenTalk
Speakers: Keith and Darlene Pyeatt

Free Registration:
gfo.org/gentalk





FREE REGISTRATION - GFO.ORG/GENTALK

GENEALOGICAL FORUM OF OREGON GENTALK

FRIEDRICH EILER

Building an Identity from Scant Clues

 **Aug. 17, 2024 at 2:30 p.m. PT**

Jill Morelli, CG, CGL



Letter from an Editor

“Nobody says you must laugh, but a sense of humor can help you overlook the unattractive, tolerate the unpleasant, cope with the unexpected, and smile through the day.”

—Ann Landers

FALSE INFORMATION

Artificial intelligence (AI) assisted this “Letter from an Editor.” After exporting an InDesign document to a PDF, AI appeared in a pop-up as a new Adobe feature. Since I have previously summarized *Bulletin* submissions on this page, I was curious as to how AI would handle that task. Authors’ names were added to the following and some text was deleted with ellipses; I did not expect AI to add research.

“The Oldest Man in Oregon” [by Keri Logan] is a story about a man named John Dowd who lived to be 109 [sic] years old. The document provides information about his family and his descendants. “The Golden Nugget” [by Mark Goddard] discusses the importance of diaries, journals, and memoirs in family research. It emphasizes the value of these personal accounts in bringing family history to life. ... The article “German Churches for the Ancestors of Grandma Minnie, Part 2: Traveling in December 2023” by Mark Grafe is a personal account of the author’s trip to Germany to visit churches and conduct genealogical research. It includes details about the author’s itinerary, visits to Hanover, Stade, Oederquart, Hamelwörden, and Freiburg, and experiences with train and bus travel, church visits, and interactions with locals. “Making It Count—Writing Your Family History” [by Christina Rainer] offers tips for creating a valuable family history record.... The article emphasizes the importance of making the work citable and easy to navigate for future researchers. “The Native American Heritage of General Stevens ...” [by Nanci Remington] discusses the Native American heritage of General Isaac I. [sic] Stevens, who played a significant role in the development of the Pacific Northwest. The document provides information about his ancestry and the impact of his heritage on his life and career.

I am not aware that our General Stevens has yet played a significant role in the development of the Pacific Northwest and that needs editing. AI appeared to add General Stevens’ middle name. A “command + F” search in Nanci’s article



A different General Stevens, 1861. *Library of Congress.*

did not find “Isaac” nor “I.” However, Google has a paragraph on a different “Major-General Isaac I. Stevens” (oops) who is now also mentioned in the *Bulletin*.

Another “AI Assistant Beta” prompt related to the excellent book review “Finding Your Hispanic Roots” by Harold Hinds,

The main subject of the book *Mastering Spanish Handwriting and Documents: 1520–1820* [italics added] is the study and interpretation of Spanish handwriting and documents from the years 1520 to 1820. The book provides guidance and examples for reading and understanding Spanish handwriting during this time period. It also explores the historical and cultural context of the documents and provides additional resources for further research.

Let’s try one more AI-suggested prompt, “What did the young guard say to the person with a knee brace?” The young guard exclaimed, “No, don’t pull down your pants here!”

Now, maybe you will read my travel log.

—Mark Grafe

Letters to the Editors

Dear GFO *Bulletin* editors:

I very much enjoyed the 2 articles about the WW1 Diary concerning a deployment to France with Base Hospital #70 by Courtney Clements.

As the author may know, the Portland medical community, and especially the faculty of the University of Oregon Medical School (now OHSU) were instrumental in standing up Base Hospital #46 which also deployed to France, to an area on the Eastern Front. Many of the pioneering physicians who built the medical establishment we have in Portland today were members of BH #46.

I have a copy of BH #46's "Year Book" commemorating their deployment along with a lot of other information that I have collected. And I am aware of the existence of a diary kept by one of the Hospital Staff Sergeants although I have not yet been able to get my hands on it!

I'm a retired Portland physician and alumnus of the U of O Medical School and I have been collecting information slowly about BH #46 for quite a few years. I would most appreciate it if I could communicate with the author, Courtney Clements and maybe exchange some information of interest. If she is willing to communicate with me, my contact information is given below.

My second point about this issue of the *Bulletin* concerns the interesting article about military plane crash deaths in Oregon by Loretta Welsh. I clearly understand that she in no way represented this as a listing of ALL the plane crash deaths suffered by military personnel during WW2. But IF she was interested in expanding her list of crashes to be investigated and have names possibly attached, I just thought I'd mention 2 that were talked about a lot when I was a boy and when I was a medical student up on "the Hill."

The first crash, which I think is probably known to all Boy Scouts who ever stayed at Camp Meriwether on the Oregon Coast was of a, I think, patrol bomber that crashed on Cape Lookout which is right adjacent to the camp. Back in the 1950's Scouts on Cape Meriwether hikes were always cautiously and respectfully allowed to view the crash site which was indeed awesome to a 10-year-old boy!

The second crash was of a, I think, pursuit fighter from Portland Air Base (so probably a P-38) which crashed on Marquam Hill a bit above and maybe 1/4-mile S. of the Medical school neighborhood ... in forest, I think. That crash site was never viewed by me, but it was talked about a lot when I was a medical student and some of my classmates claimed they'd been to it, where there was supposedly little evidence remaining.

Anyway, I thought of those 2 military crash sites from my younger days when I read Loretta Walsh's article. She may or may not be interested, but you could pass my comments on to her, for what they're worth!

William J. Prendergast, M.D.

Subject: Historic Columbian Cemetery Project

To: volunteer@gfo.org

I read about the project in the *Bulletin* today. I was delighted to see (a) that some records exist and (b) that they're in good hands. I have at least 6 relatives buried in the cemetery and have visited it several times. It is famous with one of my sons for a visit we made at sunset which totally freaked him out :) I live in Seattle, but my heart is in Portland. My relatives are all (but one) in the latter part of the alphabet (Schoneger, Smith (one of my grandmother's babies), Went, etc.) so you've probably not gotten there yet. I'm not sure I have time to volunteer for the project and maybe you have enough volunteers. I am happy to be asked, though, and happy to contribute information on those names as well as Ida Green.

Terri Smith-Weller

Hi Terri,

Thank you for taking the time to write. It's wonderful to hear from another HCC family member. My husband has four great-grandparents there, as well as numerous other cousins, aunts, and uncles.

There are never "enough" volunteers, but I certainly understand time limitations. We welcome any help you can provide with your own family members. We're adding documents to the memorials to help us verify, correct, and add data, and we're trying to link families together if possible.

I'm also doing a Find a Grave session for the GFO Open House.

Best to you, Terri.

Laurel Smith

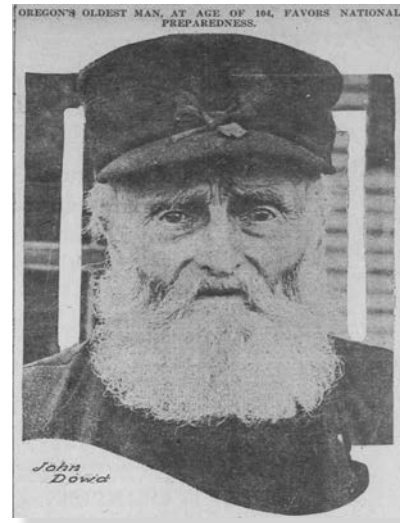
The Oldest Man in Oregon?

John Dowd, born in Ireland, died 21 February 1921 in Multnomah County, Oregon

Keri Logan

In 1916, a St. Patrick's Day celebration in Portland included an Irish-born centenarian, John Dowd.¹ Local newspapers delighted in his pioneer tales. According to Dowd's recollections, he came to Oregon in 1840 as a soldier and voted for American rule during the fateful 1843 vote for a provisional government in Champoeg, Oregon.² He picked hops for F. X. Mathieu, whose vote helped tip the balance to the Americans in 1843.³ The *Morning Oregonian* declared him the "the oldest man in Oregon, or probably on the Pacific Coast..."⁴

Believed to be 104 in February 1917, John Dowd was once again featured in the *Morning Oregonian*.⁵ His stories included a shack in Portland "when that city was surrounded by forest."⁶ When John Dowd died in 1921, the newspapers published lengthy obituaries repeating his pioneer tales.⁷ Yet, George Himes, first curator of the Oregon Historical Society, and Ed C. Ross, an Indian War



"Oregon's Oldest Man," *Morning Oregonian* (Portland, Ore.), 16 March 1916, p. 15, cols 2–3; *Historic Oregon Newspapers*.

veteran, both wrote letters to the editor decrying some of Dowd's claims, including his presence at the 1843 vote and arrival as a soldier in 1840.⁸ How much of John Dowd's stories were true and how much embellishment?

1. A note on names: Dowd was alternately spelled as Dowd, Dowed, Doud, Dawd, or Daught in the records. Except when directly quoting, Dowd will be used in this article. Similarly, Papin was Pappin or Pepin. Papin is used except when directly quoting. Julia was often referred to as Julie in the records, but Julia is used throughout this article for consistency.

"Centenarian to be Guest," *The Oregon Daily Journal*, 16 March 1916, p. 3 col. 2; image, *Historic Oregon Newspapers* (<https://oregonnews.uoregon.edu/> : accessed 9 February 2022); citing University of Oregon Libraries, Eugene.

2. Note the article stated the vote was in 1842. "Centenarian for Preparedness," *The Oregon Daily Journal* (Portland, Ore.), 15 March 1916, p. 3, cols. 2–3; *Historic Oregon Newspapers* (<https://oregonnews.uoregon.edu/> : accessed 9 February 2022); citing University of Oregon Libraries, Eugene. For information on the vote, see "Public Meeting at Champoeg, 1843," *Oregon History Project* (<https://www.oregonhistoryproject.org/articles/historical-records/public-meeting-at-champoeg-1843/> : accessed 11 November 2023).

3. For hops picking, see "Centenarian for Preparedness," *The Oregon Daily Journal* (Portland, Ore.), 15 March 1916, p. 3, cols. 2–3. For information as Mathieu's life, see H. S. Lyman, "Reminiscences of F. X. Mathieu," *The Quarterly of the Oregon Historical Society*, Mar 1900, 1(1): 73–104; *JSTOR* (<https://www.jstor.org/stable/i20609442> : accessed 27 September 2023).

4. "Oregon's Oldest Man," *Morning Oregonian* (Portland, Oregon), 16 March 1916, p. 15, cols 2–3; *Historic Oregon Newspapers* (<https://oregonnews.uoregon.edu/> : accessed 9 February 2022); citing University of Oregon Libraries, Eugene.

5. "Life at 104 Offered," *Morning Oregonian* (Portland, Ore.), 24 February 1917, p. 14, col. 5; *Historic Oregon Newspapers* (<https://oregonnews.uoregon.edu/newspapers/> : accessed 9 February 2022).

6. *Ibid.*

7. "Centenarian Who Slashed Brush on Broadway, Buried," *The Oregon Daily Journal* (Portland, Or.), 1921 February 24, p. 5, cols. 1–2; *Historic Oregon Newspapers* (<https://oregonnews.uoregon.edu/> : accessed 9 February 2022); citing University of Oregon Libraries, Eugene. Also, "Pioneer Dies at 109," *Morning Oregonian* (Portland, Or.), 24 February 1921, p. 4, cols. 2–3; *Historic Oregon Newspapers* (<https://oregonnews.uoregon.edu/> : accessed 9 February 2022).

8. George H. Himes, "Date Cannot Be Right," Letter to the Editor, *Morning Oregonian*, 17 March 1916, p. 10, col. 6; *Historic Oregon Newspapers* (<https://oregonnews.uoregon.edu/> : accessed 10 February 2022); citing University of Oregon Libraries, Eugene. Also, Ed C. Ross, "First Military Force in 1849," Letter to the Editor, *Morning Oregonian* (Portland, Ore.), 21 March 1916, p. 8, col. 6; *Historic Oregon Newspapers* (<https://oregonnews.uoregon.edu/> : 24 February 2022); citing University of Oregon Libraries, Eugene. For a biography of Himes, see Geoffrey Wexler, "George Himes (1844-1940)," *The Oregon Encyclopedia* (https://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/himes_george_1844_1940/ : accessed 27 September 2023), last updated 6 January 2023. For a biography of Ross, see *Transactions of the Forty-Fifth Annual Reunion of the Oregon Pioneer Association, Containing the Proceedings of the Thirty-First Grand Encampment of the Indian War Veterans of the North Pacific Coast and Other Matters of Historical Interest* (Portland, Oregon: Chausse-Prudhomme Co. 1920), p. 374, para. 2.

JOHN DOWD POST-1915

John “Patrick” Dowd is relatively well documented after his famed age made news in 1916. At age 107, he lived with Catherine Stowe, Elmer Stowe, John Olney, and Flora Olney in Lincoln County, Oregon, in 1920.⁹ Though the census reported that John was Elmer’s father, he was Catherine’s father.¹⁰

John Dowd died on 21 February 1921 at 109 years old.¹¹ He was pre-deceased by his wife Julia.¹² The death certificate states his name was Patrick, but one obituary clarified that Patrick J. Dowd was “known at times also as John Dowd.”¹³

Contradicting the age on the death certificate, the Catholic priest at St. Michael’s Church in Grand Ronde, Oregon stated “John Patrick O’Dowd,” was about 94 years old when he died on 21 February 1921—placing his birth about 1827.¹⁴

John was buried in Willamina, Oregon.¹⁵ According to obituaries, his wife had died 18 years prior, and he had thirteen children, ten surviving at the time of his death: Mrs. Nellie Shinville, Mrs. Mary Wolfe, Mrs. W. D. Mondy, Mrs. Anna Petite, Mrs. Kate Stow, J. P. Dowd, T. P. Dowd, Fred Dowd, George Dowd, and Joseph Dowd.¹⁶

Using the gathered biographical data, can he be located earlier than 1916?

JOHN DOWD IN 1910

In 1910, John Dowd would be about 98 according to his death certificate or 83 if the priest correctly reported his age. No men named Patrick Dowd were enumerated in Oregon.¹⁷ Four men named John Dowd/Doud were found in the state although none were between 83 and 98 years old:

- A 75-year-old widower named John Dowd Senior lived alone in Grand Ronde. He was born in Ireland, arrived in the United States in 1846, and naturalized in 1869.¹⁸
- A 39-year-old man by that name lodged in Portland. He was born in New York and worked a steam shovel.¹⁹
- A 30-year-old man, named John Doud Junior, lived with his wife in Grand Ronde. He was 3/4 White and 1/4 Wasco.²⁰
- A 41-year-old Kansas-born man named John A. Doud lived with his mother, Margaret, in Wallowa County, Oregon.²¹

9. 1920 U.S. census, Lincoln County, Oregon, population census, Siletz Precinct, enumeration district 270, sheet 4A, family 77, dwelling 77, John Dowd Senior in household of Elmer E. Stowe; “United States Census, 1920,” *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9RFQ-VV3> : accessed 25 April 2023).

10. John Dowd was named as her father on her death certificate: Multnomah County, Oregon, Death certificate no. 3586, Catherine Stowe; “Oregon, U.S., State Deaths, 1864-1971,” *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/490761:61675> : accessed 11 November 2023).

11. The informant was one of his sons, J. P. Dowd: Multnomah County, Oregon, Death certificate no 441 (1921), Patrick Dowd; digital image, “Oregon, U.S., State Deaths, 1864-1971,” *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 25 April 2023). For son’s identity, see “Centenarian Who Slashed Brush on Broadway, Buried,” *The Oregon Daily Journal* (Portland, Ore.), 1921 February 24, p. 5, cols. 1–2.

12. Multnomah County, Oregon, Death certificate no 441 (1921), Patrick Dowd; digital image, “Oregon, U.S., State Deaths, 1864-1971,” *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 25 April 2023).

13. Multnomah County, Oregon, Death certificate no 441 (1921), Patrick Dowd. Also, “Pioneer Dies at 109,” *Morning Oregonian* (Portland, Or.), 24 February 1921, p. 4, cols. 2–3.

14. St. Michael’s Church, Grand Ronde, Oregon, Burial Book, “Burials 1922” John Patrick O’Dowd, p. 387; Catholic Church in Oregon collection, MSS 1580, microfilm reel 14; Oregon Historical Society, Portland, Oregon.

15. Multnomah County, Oregon, Death certificate no 441 (1921), Patrick Dowd. Also, “Indian Fighter Is Buried at Willamina,” *The Oregon Statesman* (Salem, Oregon), 25 February 1921, p. 2, col. 3; *Historic Oregon Newspapers* (<https://oregonnews.uoregon.edu/> : accessed 9 February 2022); citing University of Oregon Libraries, Eugene. See also *Find a Grave*, database, memorial no. 195883266, John Patrick Dowd (1812–1921), Buck Hollow Cemetery, Willamina, Yamhill County, Oregon, created by Mark Mueller.

16. “Pioneer Dies at 109,” *Morning Oregonian* (Portland, Or.), 24 February 1921, p. 4, cols. 2–3.

17. “United States Census, 1910,” *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1727033> : accessed 25 April 2023), negative search for Patrick Dowd in Oregon.

18. 1910 U.S. census, Yamhill County, Oregon, population census, Grande Ronde Precinct, enumeration district 301, sheet 1A, dwelling 1, family 1, John Dowd Sr.; “United States Census, 1910,” *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9RVC-ST8> : 25 April 2023).

19. 1910 U.S. census, Multnomah County, Oregon, population census, Portland City, enumeration district 128, sheet 9B, dwelling 38, family 44, John Dowd; “United States Census, 1910,” *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33SQ-GRKC-JMB> : 25 April 2023).

20. 1910 U.S. census, Yamhill County, Oregon, population census, Grande Ronde Precinct, enumeration district 301, sheet 4B, dwelling [blank], family 41, John Doud Jr.; “United States Census, 1910,” *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9RVC-SVF> : 25 April 2023).

21. 1910 U.S. census, Wallowa County, Oregon, population census, Promise Precinct, enumeration district 290, sheet 8B, dwelling 160, family 160, John A. Doud; “United States Census, 1910,” *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9RV2-9SDW> : 25 April 2023).

The man touted as the oldest in Oregon claimed residency since 1840. Surely he must have lived in Oregon in 1910. The most likely man to be the research subject was the 75-year-old. Ages are notoriously discrepant in the census. The 75-year-old John Dowd's place of birth corresponds with the centenarian, and one newspaper mentioned a move to Grand Ronde.²²

CONNECTING THE JOHNS

Very few men named John or Patrick Dowd were found in the state prior to 1900. One John Dowd stands out as a

likely candidate for the centenarian. As in the 1910 census, he is a much younger man than a man claiming to be 104 in 1916 should be. He apparently first appeared in Oregon in 1863.²³

John Dowd purchased 330 80/100 acres from the Marion County sheriff, Samuel Headrick, in 1863.²⁴ Several actions in 1865 imply John was settling in the area. To begin, early in February 1865, Susan and Peter Pappin of Marion County granted permission for their daughter Julia to marry John Dowd.²⁵ Samuel Headrick, the sheriff, attested to Dowd's identity and his age as over 21.²⁶ John married Julia on

State of Oregon } ss
County of Marion }
I Peter Pappin of said County being first
Duly Sworn say: that I am personally acquainted
with Mr. John Dowd, that he the said John Dowd
is Contracted to be married to my Daughter Julia
Pappin that he has my Consent to apply for a
marriage license and also that she is above 16 yrs
of age, and that the said Julia Pappin has
resided in Marion County for the past six months
and said Peter Pappin further swears that he
knows there is no legal impediment to their marriage
his
Peter Pappin
mark
Subscribed and sworn to } P. D. Huxley
before me this 6th day } Justice of the Peace
of February 1865. }

Marion County marriage affidavit for Julia Pappin, 6 February 1865. Courtesy of FamilySearch.

22. "Oregon Man, 104, Is Ready to Fight," *Morning Oregonian*, 15 March 1916, p. 1. col. 4; *Historic Oregon Newspapers* (<https://oregonnews.uoregon.edu/>: accessed 9 February 2022); citing University of Oregon Libraries, Eugene.

23. In 1860, no men named Patrick Dowd were found in Oregon: "United States Census, 1860," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/>: accessed 30 October 2023), negative search for Patrick Dowd in Oregon. One man named John Dowd lived in Umpqua County, Oregon. He was 24 and born in Canada. It is possible this could be the same John Dowd with an incorrect birth location. More research is needed for confirmation: 1860 U.S. census, Umpqua County, Oregon, population schedule, p. 588 [stamped], dwelling 308, family 308, John Dowd in the household of P.C. Parker; "United States Census, 1860," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9BS6-9YQX>: accessed 30 October 2023).

Neither John nor Patrick Dowd were found in Oregon in 1850: "United States Census, 1850," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/>: accessed 30 October 2023), negative search for John or Patrick Dowd in Oregon.

24. Marion County, Oregon, Deeds, 6:360-2, Headrick, Sheriff of Marion County, to Dowd, recorded 22 July 1863; "Oregon, Marion County Records, 1849-1976," browsable images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33SQ-GYQL-1GK>: accessed 1 May 2023).

25. Marion County, Oregon, marriage consent for Julie Pappin, 4 February 1865; "Oregon, Marion County Records, 1849-1976," browsable images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9Y3T-3QW6>: accessed 1 May 2023). Also, Marion County, Oregon, marriage affidavit, approval for marriage license given by Peter Pappin for John Dowd to marry Julia Pappin, 6 February 1865; "Oregon, Marion County Records, 1849-1976," browsable images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9Y3T-3QQ6>: accessed 1 May 2023).

26. Marion County, Oregon, marriage affidavit for John Dowd, 8 February 1865; "Oregon, Marion County Records, 1849-1976," browsable images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9Y3T-3QWT>: accessed 1 May 2023).

13 February 1865 at St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church, Marion County, Oregon, the first Catholic church in the area.²⁷ He was enumerated in Marion County with one female over 18, likely Julia, although he was not listed as a property owner as might be expected for a man who bought property in 1863.²⁸

By the end of 1865, John declared his intention to become a citizen of the United States. Like the centenarian, he was born in County Kerry, Ireland. Like the 75-year-old John Dowd enumerated in 1910 he reportedly arrived in New York in 1846, and he was awarded citizenship in 1869.²⁹

By 1870, John and Julia's fledgling family was well underway. They lived in the Dayton Precinct of Yamhill County with three presumed daughters.³⁰ Eventually, John and Julia—like the centenarian—would have thirteen

children: Hélène,³¹ Mary,³² Bridget Catherine,³³ Joseph,³⁴ Annie Suzan,³⁵ Elizabeth,³⁶ Mary Rosa Veronica,³⁷ John Peter,³⁸ Theodore Patrick,³⁹ Daniel Thomas,⁴⁰ George Bartholomew,⁴¹ Agnes Gervasia,⁴² and Frederic Augustine.⁴³

Three of the Dowd children were baptized by Father Adrien-Joseph Croquet, a Belgian-born priest who ministered to the Grand Ronde Indian reservation and whose work “constitutes the most complete genealogical record of the period (1860–1898).”⁴⁴

The Dowds with eight of their children, Ellen, Mary, Bridget, Joseph, Anna, Lizzie, Rosa, and Peter, lived in Marion County in 1880 where they likely remained until about 1888.⁴⁵ In that year, John Minto, Marion County Sheriff, auctioned property in Marion County belonging to John and Julia Dowd to pay their debts.⁴⁶ That same year,

27. Harriet Duncan Munnick and Mikell Dolores Warner, compilers, *Catholic Church Records of the Pacific Northwest: St. Paul, Oregon 1839–1898*, 3 vols. (Portland, Oregon: Binford & Mort, 1979), III: “1st & 2nd pgs,” marriage entry for M-1 Dowd–Papin. This book, containing marriage, baptisms, and burials, encompasses three registers, termed “volumes” by the compilers. Each volume follows the pagination of the records it transcribes. Therefore, each book page may be headed by more than one page number. Numbering restarts for each volume. The index and appendix are paginated separately. John was the son of Patrick and Hélène Dowd of Ireland and Julie daughter to Pierre Papin and Susanne Gaudriche. For St. Paul's, see Timothy Bergquist, “St. Paul Roman Catholic Church,” *Oregon Encyclopedia* (https://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/st_pauls_church/#.YeC3rf7MJhE : accessed 13 January 2022), updated 14 May 2019.

28. 1865 Oregon State Census, Marion County, population schedule, p. 20, [line 2], John Dowd; Oregon State Archives, Salem.

29. Marion County, Oregon, Declaration of intention, p. 107, John Dowd, 1 December 1865; Oregon State Archives, Salem, Naturalization: Declaration of Intention, ca. 1840s–1894, box 10, folder 16. Marion County, Oregon, Circuit Court, Naturalization, John Dowd, 1869; Survivor's Service Pension Indian Wars, Claim no. 8082, John Dowd, p. 4; “Case Files of Indian Wars Pension Applications, 1892–ca. 1926,” Record Group 15, Records of the Department of Veterans Affairs, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

30. 1870 U.S. census, Yamhill County, Oregon, population schedule, Dayton Post Office, p. 101 (penned), dwelling 806, family 703, John Dowd household; “United States Census, 1870,” *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-XHLQ-V49> : accessed 13 January 2022).

31. “3d Reg. of Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals St. Paul, Oreg. From 1865–1899,” p. 12, baptism entry for B8 Hélène Dowd, 1867; Catholic Church in Oregon collection, MSS 1580; Oregon Historical Society (OHS), Portland, Oregon. The register book lists baptisms, marriages, and burials together in chronological order. These books in the OHS collections are bound copies of microfilmed records. The copies are on folded, chemically treated paper, possibly from a thermal printer. OHS also holds the microfilm for the register book.

32. “3d Reg. of Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals St. Paul, Oreg. from 1865–1899,” p. 22, baptism entry for B9, Mary Dowd, 1868.

33. “3d Reg. of Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals St. Paul, Oreg. from 1865–1899,” p. 35, baptism entry for Bridget Catherine Dowd, 1870.

34. “3d Reg. of Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals St. Paul, Oreg. from 1865–1899,” p. 51, baptism entry for B25, Joseph Dowd, 1871.

35. “3d Reg. of Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals St. Paul, Oreg. from 1865–1899,” p. 73, baptism entry for B10, Annie Suzan Dowd, 1874.

36. “3d Reg. of Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals St. Paul, Oreg. from 1865–1899,” p. 94-95, baptism entry for B9, Elizabeth Dowd, 1876.

37. “3d Reg. of Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals St. Paul, Oreg. from 1865–1899,” p. 114, baptism entry for B9, Mary Rose Veronica Dowd, 1878.

38. “3d Reg. of Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals St. Paul, Oreg. from 1865–1899,” p. 129, baptism entry for B1, J. Peter Dowd, 1880.

39. “3d Reg. of Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals St. Paul, Oreg. from 1865–1899,” p. 146, baptism entry for B12, Theodosius Patrick Dowd, 1882.

40. “3d Reg. of Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals St. Paul, Oreg. from 1865–1899,” p. 159, baptism entry for B11, Daniel Thomas Dowd, 1884.

41. “3d Reg. of Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals St. Paul, Oreg. from 1865–1899,” p. 170, baptism entry for B13, George B. Dowd, 1886.

42. “St. Michael's Church Grand Ronde, Oregon Parish Record Book 1886–1965,” p. 52, baptism entry for B3, Agnes Gervasia Dowd, 1889; Catholic Church in Oregon collection, MSS 1580, microfilm reel 14; Oregon Historical Society, Portland, Oregon. This register book listed baptisms and marriages in chronological order. Burials were separate.

43. “St. Michael's Church Grand Ronde, Oregon Parish Record Book 1886–1965,” p. 69, baptism entry for B10, Fredericus Augustinus Dowd, 1891.

44. David Lewis, “Fr. Adrien Croquet (1818-1902),” *Oregon Encyclopedia* (https://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/croquet_fr_adrien_1818_1902/ : accessed 29 September 2023), esp. para 7.

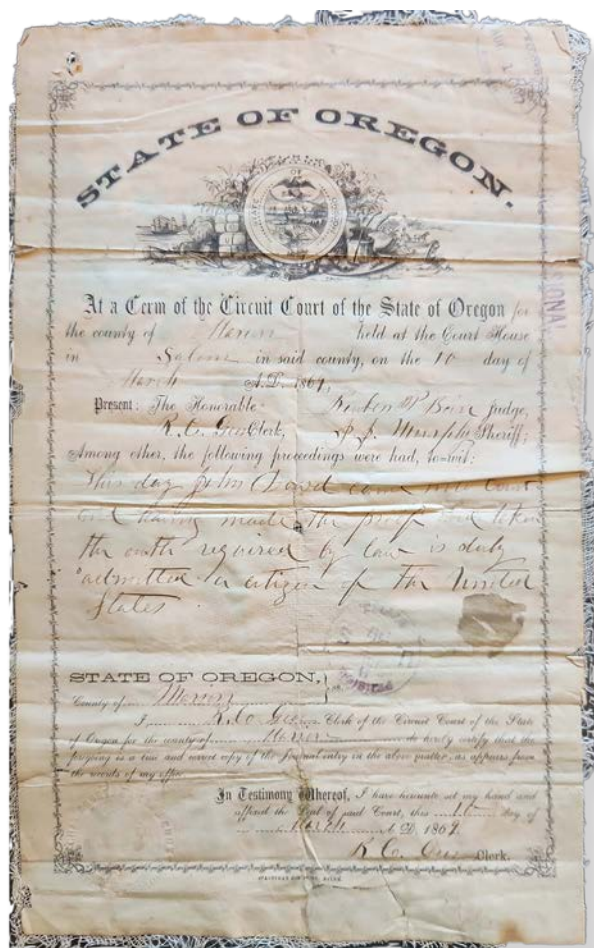
45. In 1880 they were enumerated in Marion County: 1880 U.S. census, Marion County, Oregon, population schedule, Champoeg, p. 8 (penned), enumeration district (ED) 82, dwelling 67, family 68, John Doud household, “United States Census, 1880,” *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33SQ-GYB5-QJH> : accessed 14 January 2022).

46. Marion County, Oregon, Deeds, 37:111-112 Minto, Sheriff, Marion Co. to Gregoire, recorded 16 June 1888; “Oregon, Marion County Records, 1849-1976,” browsable images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33SQ-GY3R-9L9> : accessed 1 May 2023).

John and “Isely” Doud appeared on the census rolls for Grand Ronde. They were both reportedly members of the Umpqua Tribe.⁴⁷ However, only Julia and her presumed children, Joseph, Lizzie, Rosie, John, Patrick, Thomas, and George, were included in the “Schedule of Allotment at the Grand Ronde Indian Reservation” register that year.⁴⁸ This land was granted to the Dowds under the Dawes Act of 1887, which segmented reservation land to be given to indigenous individuals.⁴⁹ John Dowd Senior apparently did not receive land, which would be expected as a White man born in Ireland.

The birth of John and Julia’s children correspond with a move between 1886 when George Dowd was baptized at St. Paul Catholic Church in St. Paul, Oregon, and 1889 when Agnes was baptized at St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church on the Grand Ronde Indian reservation. When the Dowd family was listed in the reservation census in 1889, they had a new daughter.⁵⁰ No name was given for the daughter, but it was likely Agnes.⁵¹ John Senior was listed with the family again in 1890, but subsequent census rolls for Indians living on the reservation included Julia and her children but not John.⁵²

Given that John was enumerated on the federal census with the family in 1900, it appears that he was dropped from the Indian census rolls because he was a White man. In the 1900 U.S. census, John was identified as Irish-born, his wife Julia as one-quarter Wasco and French Canadian, and their children as having one-eighth Wasco blood.⁵³



Certificate of Naturalization for John Dowd, 10 March 1869. Courtesy of the National Archives.

47. Grande Ronde Census Roll, 1888, population schedule, p. 24, nos. 400-409, John Doud household; “Indian census rolls, Grand Ronde, 1885-1914,” browsable images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-G9WZ-1JGH> : accessed 25 April 2023), DGS No. 7141221, image 118.

48. Grand Ronde Indian Reservation, Yamhill County, Oregon, Schedule of Allotments, 1888, nos. 40-41, Julia, Joseph, Lizzie, Rosie, John, Patrick, Thomas, and George Dowd; “Land records, 1887-1952,” browsable images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QHV-L3N2-W3LD> : accessed 1 May 2023), Film # 008812572, image 270.

49. “Dawes Act (1887),” Milestone Documents, *National Archives* (<https://bit.ly/3EZr4cM> : accessed 30 September 2023).

50. Grande Ronde Census Roll, 1889, population schedule, [unpaginated], nos. 351-359, John Dowd household; “Indian census rolls, Grand Ronde, 1885-1914,” browsable images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-99WZ-1VVN> : accessed 25 April 2023), DGS No. 7141221, image 134.

51. “St. Michael’s Church Grand Ronde, Oregon Parish Record Book 1886-1965,” p. 52, baptism entry for B3, Agnes Gervasia Dowd, 1889; Catholic Church in Oregon collection, MSS 1580, reel 14; Oregon Historical Society, Portland, Oregon.

52. Grande Ronde Census Roll, 1890, population schedule, p. 1, nos. 1-9, John Doud household; “Indian census rolls, Grand Ronde, 1885-1914” browsable images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-89WZ-1V3K> : accessed 25 April 2023), DGS No. 7141221, image 139. For enumerations of the family, see for example, Grande Ronde Census Roll, 1891, population schedule, not paginated, nos. 337-344, Julia Dowd household; “Indian census rolls, Grand Ronde, 1885-1914,” browsable images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-89WZ-1V3K> : accessed 25 April 2023), DGS No. 7141221, image 169. Also, Grande Ronde Census Roll, 1900, population schedule, not paginated, nos. 323-327, Julia Dowd household; “Indian census rolls, Grand Ronde, 1885-1914,” browsable images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-G9WZ-1K6M> : accessed 25 April 2023), DGS No. 7141221, image 307.

53. 1900 U.S. census, Grande Ronde Indian Reservation, Oregon, population schedule, enumeration district (ED) 182, sheet 6-B, Indian population, dwelling 73, family 73, John Dowd household; “United States Census, 1900,” *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-DRSS-452> : accessed 18 January 2022). Also, 1900 U.S. census, Grande Ronde Indian Reservation, Oregon, population schedule, enumeration district (ED) 182, sheet 7-A, p. 183 [stamped], Indian population, dwelling 73, family 73, Thomas, George, Agnes, and Fred Dowd; “United States Census, 1900,” *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-DRSS-CW3> : accessed 18 January 2022).

TABLE 1. JOHN DOWD'S AGE AS RECORDED IN CENSUSES BETWEEN 1870 AND 1900

| <i>Census</i> | <i>John's Age</i> | <i>Calculated Birth Year</i> |
|--|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1870 United States census ^a | 40 | 1829–1830 |
| 1880 United States census ^b | 50 | 1829–1830 |
| 1888 census of Grand Ronde Indian reservation ^c | 65 | 1821–1823 |
| 1889 census of Grand Ronde Indian reservation ^d | 57 | 1831–1832 |
| 1890 census of Grand Ronde Indian reservation ^e | 58 | 1831–1832 |
| 1900 United States census ^f | 64, born unknown month, 1836 | 1835–1836 |

a. 1870 U.S. census, Yamhill County, Oregon, population schedule, Dayton Post Office, p. 101 (penned), dwelling 806, family 703, John Dowd household; "United States Census, 1870," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-XHLQ-V49> : accessed 13 January 2022).

b. 1880 U.S. census, Marion County, Oregon, population schedule, Champoeg, p. 8 (penned), enumeration district (ED) 82, dwelling 67, family 68, John Dowd household, "United States Census, 1880," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33SQ-GYB5-QJH> : accessed 14 January 2022).

c. Grande Ronde Census Roll, 1888, population schedule, p. 24, nos. 400-409, John Dowd household; "Indian census rolls, Grand Ronde, 1885-1914," browsable images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-G9WZ-1JGH> : accessed 25 April 2023), DGS No. 7141221, image 118.

d. Grande Ronde Census Roll, 1889, population schedule, [unpaginated], nos. 351-359, John Dowd household; "Indian census rolls, Grand Ronde, 1885-1914," browsable images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-99WZ-1VVN> : accessed 25 April 2023), DGS No. 7141221, image 134.

e. Grande Ronde Census Roll, 1890, population schedule, p. 1, nos. 1-9, John Dowd household; "Indian census rolls, Grand Ronde, 1885-1914," browsable images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/> : accessed 25 April 2023), DGS No. 7141221, image 139.

f. 1900 U.S. census, Grande Ronde Indian Reservation, Oregon, population schedule, enumeration district (ED) 182, sheet 6-B, Indian population, dwelling 73, family 73, John Dowd household; "United States Census, 1900," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-DRSS-452> : accessed 18 January 2022)

The family composition, with the exception of John Dowd Senior, was the same in the federal census and the reservation census.⁵⁴

John's age varies through all the censuses between 1870 and 1900 (see Table 1) but never was his age consistent with the centenarian who would have been born about 1812–1813.

In 1902, John Dowd applied for a military pension for his service in the Indian Wars between 1855 and allegedly 1861. He was denied pension for desertion. He continued to advocate for the pension through 1917.⁵⁵ Several pieces of information from the pension file confirm his identity:

- He stated he married Julia LaChance on 11 February 1865 at St. Paul, Marion Co., Oregon.⁵⁶

- In his claim, he stated he was born in County Kerry, Ireland.⁵⁷
- He stated he lived most of his time in Marion, Yamhill, or Multnomah counties, Oregon.⁵⁸
- His daughter-in-law, Grace Craven Dowd, wrote a letter on his behalf. John's son, Theodore P. Dowd, married Grace on 30 June 1907.⁵⁹

Throughout the pension file, his age varied (see Table 2). In fact, on form 3-498 of the pension file, a clerk noted that his age was inconsistent throughout the file.⁶⁰ His birth year varied from about 1824–1835 but once again he was never as old as the centenarian.

54. 1900 U.S. census, Grande Ronde Indian Reservation, Oregon, population schedule, enumeration district (ED) 182, sheet 6-B, Indian population, dwelling 73, family 73, John Dowd household. Also, 1900 U.S. census, Grande Ronde Indian Reservation, Oregon, population schedule, enumeration district (ED) 182, sheet 7-A, p. 183 [stamped], Indian population, dwelling 73, family 73, Thomas, George, Agnes, and Fred Dowd. And, Grande Ronde Census Roll, 1900, population schedule, not paginated, nos. 323–327, Julia Dowd household.

55. Survivor's Service Pension Indian Wars, Claim no. 8082, John Dowd; "Case Files of Indian Wars Pension Applications, 1892–ca. 1926," Record Group 15, Records of the Department of Veterans Affairs, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

56. Survivor's Service Pension Indian Wars, Claim no. 8082, John Dowd, "Indian Wars, Claim of Soldier for Service Pension Under Act of June 27, 1902," p. 21.

57. Survivor's Service Pension Indian Wars, Claim no. 8082, John Dowd, Form 3-447, p. 23.

58. *Ibid.*

59. Multnomah County, Marriages 20: 315, Dowd–Craven; Genealogical Forum of Oregon, Portland.

60. Survivor's Service Pension Indian Wars, Claim no. 8082, John Dowd, Form 3-498, p. 10; "Case Files of Indian Wars Pension Applications, 1892–ca. 1926," Record Group 15, Records of the Department of Veterans Affairs, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

WAS THE CENTENARIAN THE SAME MAN AS JOHN DOWD WHO MARRIED JULIA PAPIN?

John Dowd, the centenarian who died 21 February 1921 and was described in several newspaper articles bears a remarkable likeness to John Dowd who married Julia Papin (dit Lachance) in 1865. Comparing reported data about the centenarian against other documentary evidence can aid identification.

Biographical Data

Both John Dowd, Julia Papin's spouse, and the centenarian were born in County Kerry, Ireland.⁶¹ According to the *Morning Oregonian*, Dowd's wife died in 1903, which was the year that Julia (Papin) Dowd died.⁶² Unfortunately, none of the newspaper articles mentioned his wife's name. The centenarian fought in the Indian Wars.⁶³ John, Julia's husband, filed for an Indian War pension.⁶⁴

The age discrepancy is the greatest hurdle for identification. John Dowd who married Julia Papin was born sometime between about 1824–1836. In several documents, his arrival in the United States was listed as 1846, which was later than the man featured in the articles avowedly settled in Oregon.⁶⁵ The centenarian was born about 1812–1813, and some of his life events occurred

when John Dowd who married Julia Papin would have been too young to accomplish them.

Yet, incidents reported in the early life of centenarian John Dowd can be disputed. He supposedly arrived in Oregon with the Army in 1840. The U. S. Army did not arrive in the Oregon Territory until about a decade later, incidentally when Julia Papin's husband would be between 16 and 20, a more suitable age for a soldier.⁶⁶ Furthermore, the centenarian claimed to have voted for a provisional Oregon government in 1843, but no John Dowd is included in the list of men present at this vote.⁶⁷

Location

Several land sales indicate that John and Julia Dowd held land in the 1870s in Marion County.⁶⁸ In 1880, John Dowd and Julia Papin lived near Champoeg, a rural area of Marion County along the Willamette River, which might be described as across the river from Newberg. In that census, the family is listed directly below the St. Paul Academy, a girls' school affiliated with St. Paul Roman Catholic Church.⁶⁹ By 1888 and until at least 1910, John Dowd lived on the Grand Ronde Indian Reservation.⁷⁰

Centenarian John Dowd's reported movements closely correspond with these locations. He was said to have had a "50 acre homestead across the Willamette from Newberg.

61. "Centenarian for Preparedness," *The Oregon Daily Journal*, 15 March 1916, p. 3, cols. 2-3, esp. para. 5. Also, "Oregon Man, 104, Is Ready to Fight," *Morning Oregonian*, 15 March 1916, p. 1, col. 4, esp. para. 6. Also, "Life at 104 Offered," *Morning Oregonian*, 24 February 1917, p. 14, col. 5, esp. para. 4. See also, Marion County, Oregon, Declaration of intention, p. 107, John Dowd, 1 December 1865; Oregon State Archives, Salem, Naturalization: Declaration of Intention, ca. 1840s – 1894, box 10, folder 16. And, Survivor's Service Pension Indian Wars, Claim no. 8082, John Dowd, form 3-447, p. 23.

62. "St. Michael's Church, Grand Ronde, Oregon: Burial Book, 1901–1923; 1934–1971," 1903 burials, p. 344 [stamped] Julia Dowd, 1903; Catholic Church in Oregon collection, Ms 1580, reel 14; Oregon Historical Society, Portland, Oregon. This register book listed burials in chronological order. See also "Probate records 1843–1923," [Yamhill Co., Oregon], *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/784170>) > probate case files no. 2141–2193 > film 007647869 > images 85–137, probate file no. 2142, Julia Dowd, 1904; citing Oregon States Archives, Salem.

63. "Oregon Man, 104, Is Ready to Fight," *Morning Oregonian* (Portland, Ore.), 15 March 1916, p. 1, col. 4.

64. Survivor's Service Pension Indian Wars, Claim no. 8082, John Dowd.

65. Marion County, Oregon, Declaration of intention, p. 107, John Dowd, 1 December 1865; Oregon State Archives, Salem, Naturalization: Declaration of Intention, ca. 1840s – 1894, box 10, folder 16. Also, 1910 U.S. census, Yamhill County, Oregon, pop. sch., Grand Ronde precinct, p. 36 [stamped], ED 301, sheet 1A, dwell. 1, fam. 1, John Dowd Sr.; "United States Census, 1910," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9RVC-ST8> : accessed 11 February 2022).

66. George H. Himes, "Date Cannot Be Right," Letter to the Editor, *Morning Oregonian* (Portland, Ore.), 17 March 1916, p. 10, col. 6. Also, Ed C. Ross, "First Military Force in 1849," Letter to the Editor, *Morning Oregonian*, 21 March 1916, p. 8, col. 6. For more on the history of the Vancouver Barracks, which were established in 1849, see "Vancouver Barracks," *National Park Service* (<https://www.nps.gov/fova/learn/historyculture/vb.htm> : accessed 25 February 2022).

67. "Centenarian for Preparedness," *The Oregon Daily Journal*, 15 March 1916, p. 3, cols. 2–3, para. 11. Also, Caroline C. Dobbs, *Men of Champoeg: A Record of the Lives of the Pioneers Who Founded the Oregon Government* (Portland, Oregon: Metropolitan Press, 1932).

68. See, for example, Marion County, Oregon, Deeds, 12:588, Dowd to Murphy, recorded 11 July 1871; "Oregon, Marion County Records, 1849-1976," browsable images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9Y3P-TDZ> : accessed 1 May 2023). Also, Marion County, Oregon, Deeds, 22:68, Doud to Pellaud, recorded 14 February 1877; "Oregon, Marion County Records, 1849-1976," browsable images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33SQ-GY35-4ZL> : accessed 1 May 2023).

69. Timothy Bergquist, "St. Paul Roman Catholic Church," *Oregon Encyclopedia* (https://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/st_pauls_church/#.YeC3rf7MjHE : accessed 13 January 2022), updated 14 May 2019.

70. 1900 U.S. census, Grande Ronde Indian Reservation, Oregon, pop. sch., ED 182, sheet 6-B, Indian population, dwell. 73, fam. 73. Also, 1910 United States census, Yamhill County, Oregon, pop. sch., Grand Ronde precinct, p. 36 [stamped], ED 301, sheet 1A, dwell. 1, fam. 1, John Dowd Sr.

TABLE 2. JOHN DOWD'S AGE AS RECORDED IN HIS 58-PAGE PENSION APPLICATION FILE

| <i>Document</i> | <i>Date Reported</i> | <i>Age</i> | <i>Birthdate</i> | <i>Informant</i> |
|---|----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| Notice on enlistment register from Adjutant General's Office ^a | 7 November 1855 | 21 at enlistment in 1855 | 1833–1834 | H.G. Corbin, Adjutant General |
| "Indian Wars, Claim of Soldier for Service Pension Under Act on June 27, 1902" ^b | 20 December 1902 | 67 | 1834–1835 | Presumably John Dowd, who appeared before the notary public |
| Form 3-447 ^c | 1 June 1903 | [calculated] 68 | 1835 | Unknown |
| "General Affidavit" ^d | 3 August 1903 | 75 | 1827–1828 | Presumably John Dowd, who appeared before the notary public |
| "General affidavit" ^e | 7 November 1903 | 78 | 1824–1825 | Presumably John Dowd who made his mark |
| "Indian Wars. Survival Pension" affidavit ^f | 11 February 1904 | 69 | 1834–1835 | Presumably John Dowd who made his mark |
| Letter to Pension Bureau ^g | 1911 | 80 | 1830–1831 | Grace Craven Dowd, daughter-in-law |
| Form 3-498 ^h | September 1917 | "varies, about 82" | "varies, 1830 and 1835" | Clerk |
| Form 3-027 Declaration for Survivor's Pension-Indian Wars" ^{b-i} | July 1917 | 83 | 1833–1834 | Presumably John Dowd, who made an imprint of his thumb |

a. Survivor's Service Pension Indian Wars, Claim no. 8082, John Dowd, Service notice, Adjutant General's Office, p. 38; "Case Files of Indian Wars Pension Applications, 1892–ca. 1926," Record Group 15, Records of the Department of Veterans Affairs, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

b. Survivor's Service Pension Indian Wars, Claim no. 8082, John Dowd, "Indian Wars, Claim of Soldier for Service Pension Under Act on June 27, 1902," p. 21.

c. Survivor's Service Pension Indian Wars, Claim no. 8082, John Dowd, Form 3-447, p. 23.

d. Survivor's Service Pension Indian Wars, Claim no. 8082, John Dowd, "General Affidavit," p. 24.

e. Survivor's Service Pension Indian Wars, Claim no. 8082, John Dowd, "General Affidavit," p. 32.

f. Survivor's Service Pension Indian Wars, Claim no. 8082, John Dowd, "Indian Wars," p. 26

g. Survivor's Service Pension Indian Wars, Claim no. 8082, John Dowd, Letter to the Pension Bureau, Washington, D.C., from Grace Craven Dowd, pp. 49-51.

h. Survivor's Service Pension Indian Wars, Claim no. 8082, John Dowd, Form 3-498, p. 10;

i. Survivor's Service Pension Indian Wars, Claim no. 8082, John Dowd, Form 3-027, p. 11.

Later he bought a farm near St. Paul, Or. From it he gave 15 acres for the sisters' school there," which may refer to St. Paul's Academy.⁷¹ He then "moved to the Grand Ronde Indian Reservation."⁷²

Children

John Dowd and Julia (Papin dit Lachance) Dowd had thirteen children. When Julia Dowd died, her probate listed John Dowd, her husband, as heir, as well as her surviving children. When the centenarian died, his obituary noted

ten surviving children out of thirteen. These children can be correlated (see Table 3).

Other Men Named John or Patrick Dowd

No other candidates for the centenarian were enumerated in territorial or federal censuses. In 1845 and 1849, no men with the surname Dowd were listed in Champoeg (later Marion) County.⁷³ No men named John or Patrick Dowd were found on the 1850 census.⁷⁴ A Canadian named John Dowd was enumerated in Umpqua County, Oregon, but

71. "Centenarian for Preparedness," *The Oregon Daily Journal* (Portland, Ore.), 15 March 1916, p. 3, cols. 2–3, esp. para. 6.

72. "Oregon Man, 104, Is Ready to Fight," *Morning Oregonian* (Portland, Ore.), 15 March 1916, p. 1, col. 4, esp. para. 5.

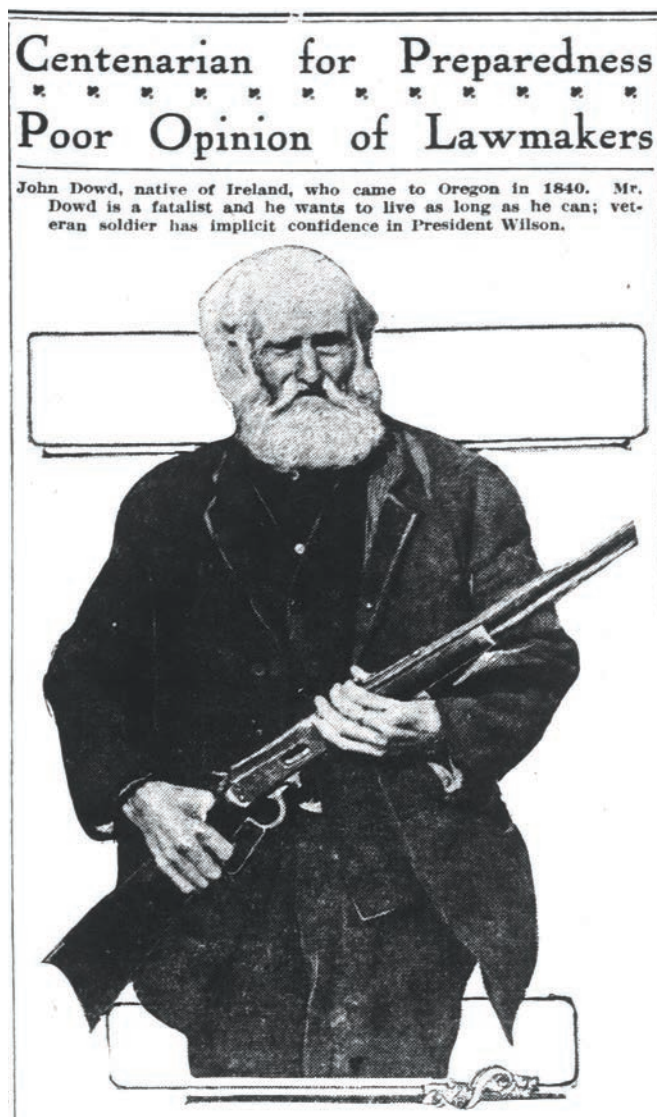
73. 1845 territorial census, Champoic County, Oregon Territory, schedule for heads of household and single men keeping house; "Provisional and territorial census record of Oregon, 1842-1859," browsable images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/>; accessed 31 October 2023), no results for John Dowd. It is possible he was part of a household that he did not head. Also, 1849 territorial census, Champoeg County, Oregon Territory, schedule for males over 21; "Provisional and territorial census record of Oregon, 1842-1859," browsable images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/>; accessed 31 October 2023), no results in alphabetical listing for Dowd.

74. "United States Census, 1850," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/>; accessed 30 October 2023), negative search for John or Patrick Dowd in Oregon.

no men named Patrick Dowd.⁷⁵ The Canadian man was the right age to be John Dowd who married Julia Papin, so it is possible that the birthplace was incorrectly marked. Because John Dowd did not marry Julia until 1865, this does not detract from his identity. The only John Dowd on the 1870 federal census in Oregon was Julia's spouse.⁷⁶ No men were named Patrick Dowd in 1870.⁷⁷ It is improbable that a person could claim to be a pioneer if arriving after 1870.

CONCLUSION

The self-proclaimed centenarian John Dowd and John Dowd who married Julia Papin were probably the same man. This conclusion is supported by the locations of the two men's households, corresponding children's names, and the matching year of death for Julia and the unnamed wife. The biggest hindrance to this identification is the large age difference between the two men. However, some of the claims made by the elder John Dowd may not be true. Throughout his life, John Dowd's reported age varied by ten or more years. It's possible that he never knew his exact birthdate. Therefore, the age discrepancy may be explained by confusion, faulty memory, or the embellishment of a good storyteller—especially since his age, pioneer status, and supposed birth date on or near St. Patrick's Day made him a celebrated guest in St. Patrick's Day events.⁷⁸ He may not have been Oregon's oldest man, but it's clear that John Dowd settled in the state fairly early, forging a life on the land for his ample family.



"Centarian for Preparedness," *The Oregon Daily Journal* (Portland, Ore.), 15 March 1916. *Historic Oregon Newspapers*.

75. 1860 U. S. census, Umpqua County, Oregon, population schedule, p. 588 [stamped], dwelling 308, family 308, John Dowd in the household of P.C. Parker; "United States Census, 1860," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9BS6-9YQX> : accessed 30 October 2023). Also, "United States Census, 1860," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/> : accessed 30 October 2023), negative search for Patrick Dowd in Oregon.

76. 1870 U.S. census, Yamhill County, Oregon, population schedule, Dayton Post Office, p. 101 (penned), dwelling 806, family 703, John Dowd household.

77. "United States Census, 1870," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/> : accessed 30 October 2023), negative search for Patrick Dowd.

78. "Centenarian to be Guest," *The Oregon Daily Journal*, 16 March 1916, p. 3 col. 2; image, *Historic Oregon Newspapers* (https://oregonnews.uoregon.edu/lccn/sn85042444/1916-03-16/ed-1/seq-3/print/image_681x792_from_0,0_to_6331,7369/ : accessed 9 February 2022); citing University of Oregon Libraries, Eugene.

TABLE 3. CORRELATION OF CHILDREN BORN TO JOHN AND JULIA DOWD, HEIRS OF JULIA DOWD, AND SURVIVING CHILDREN OF CENTENARIAN JOHN DOWD

| <i>Child's Name</i> | <i>Heirs of Julia Dowd in 1904^a</i> | <i>Surviving Children of John Dowd in 1921^b</i> |
|---------------------------------|---|--|
| Hélène ^c | Ellen Shinvill, daughter | Mrs. Nellie Shinville ^d |
| Mary ^e | Mary Wolfe, daughter | Mrs. Mary Wolfe |
| Bridget Catherine ^f | Catherine Olney, daughter | Mrs. Kate Stow ^g |
| Joseph ^h | Joseph Dowd, son | Joseph Dowd |
| Annie Suzan ⁱ | Anna Petite, daughter | Mrs. Anna Petite |
| Elizabeth ^j | Elizabeth Gilman, daughter | Mrs. W.D. Mondy ^k |
| Mary Rosa Veronica ^l | Mable Taylor, minor heir of Rosie Taylor ^m | — |
| John Peter ⁿ | Johnny Dowd, son | J.P. Dowd |
| Theodore Patrick ^o | Theo. Dowd, son | T.P. Dowd |
| Daniel Thomas ^p | — | — ^q |
| George Bartholomew ^r | George Dowd, minor child | George Dowd |
| Agnes Gervasia ^s | Agnes Dowd, minor child | — ^t |
| Frederic Augustine ^u | Frederick Dowd, minor child | Fred Dowd |

a. "Probate records 1843–1923," (Yamhill Co., Oregon), *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/784170>) > probate case files no. 2141–2193 > film 007647869 > images 85–137, probate file no. 2142, Julia Dowd; Petition to be appointed administratrix, image 103; Oregon State Archives, Salem.

b. "Pioneer Dies at 109," *Morning Oregonian* (Portland, Or.), 24 February 1921, p. 4, cols. 2-3.

c. "3d Reg. of Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals St. Paul, Ore. From 1865–1899," p. 12, baptism entry for B8 Hélène Dowd, 1867; Catholic Church in Oregon collection, MSS 1580; Oregon Historical Society, Portland, Oregon.

d. Nellie Shinville's death certificate identified her as the daughter of Julia LaChance and John Dawd/David. Her calculated birthdate was March 19, 1866, which is within expected range: Clackamas County, Oregon, Death certificate no. 452 [1938-state], no. 285 [county], Nellie Shinville; "Oregon, U.S., State Deaths, 1864-1971," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/> : accessed 30 October 2023). Also, for relationship to sister Elizabeth Dowd, see Multnomah County, Oregon, Circuit Court, Case No. 36889, Reg. No. B1487, Lizzie Gilman vs. Charles N. Gilman, Divorce decree, 15 February 1907, transcript of testimony by Mrs. Nellie Shinville, p. 30; Records, Multnomah County Courthouse, Portland, Oregon.

e. "3d Reg. of Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals St. Paul, Ore. From 1865–1899," p. 22, baptism entry for B9, Mary Dowd, 1868.

f. "3d Reg. of Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals St. Paul, Ore. From 1865–1899," p. 35, baptism entry for Bridget Catherine Dowd, 1870.

g. John Dowd was named as her father on her death certificate: Multnomah County, Oregon, Death certificate no. 3586, Catherine Stowe; "Oregon, U.S., State Deaths, 1864-1971," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/> : accessed 11 November 2023).

h. "3d Reg. of Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals St. Paul, Ore. From 1865–1899," p. 51, baptism entry for B25, Joseph Dowd, 1871.

i. "3d Reg. of Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals St. Paul, Ore. From 1865–1899," p. 73, baptism entry for B10, Annie Suzan Dowd, 1874.

j. "3d Reg. of Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals St. Paul, Ore. From 1865–1899," p. 94-95, baptism entry for B9, Elizabeth Dowd, 1876.

k. Lizzie Gilman divorced Charles Gilman in February 1907: Multnomah County, Oregon, Circuit Court, Case No. 36889, Reg. No. B1487, Lizzie Gilman vs. Charles N. Gilman, Divorce decree, 15 February 1907. In 1908, Lizzie Doud was named as his mother to George Peter Moudy, and William Moudy was the father: Multnomah County, Oregon, Delayed certificate of birth, George Peter Moudy; "Oregon, U.S., State Births, 1842-1922," database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/> : accessed 2 October 2023). "Mondy" was likely "Moudy."

l. "3d Reg. of Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals St. Paul, Ore. From 1865–1899," p. 114, baptism entry for B9, Mary Rose Veronica Dowd, 1878.

m. Rosa Dowd married Levi Taylor on 10 October 1894: Yamhill County, Oregon, Marriages, E:126, No. 2295 (1894), Taylor–Dowd; "Marriage records, 1857-1925; index to marriage records, 1876-1922," browsable images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/> : accessed 31 October 2023), film no. 007747384, image 824. Rosa Taylor died in March 1904, leaving her daughter and heir, Mable Taylor: Yamhill County, Oregon, Probate File no. 2207, Rose Taylor; "Oregon, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1849-1963," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/> : accessed 3 October 2023). Levi Taylor died about 1902. His probate was filed in 1904, naming his daughter and heir, Mable Taylor: Polk County, Oregon, Probate file no. 92a-038; "Oregon, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1849-1963," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/317912:9078> : accessed 3 October 2023).

n. "3d Reg. of Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals St. Paul, Ore. From 1865–1899," p. 129, baptism entry for B1, J. Peter Dowd, 1880.

o. "3d Reg. of Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals St. Paul, Ore. From 1865–1899," p. 146, baptism entry for B12, Theodosius Patrick Dowd, 1882.

p. "3d Reg. of Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals St. Paul, Ore. From 1865–1899," p. 159, baptism entry for B11, Daniel Thomas Dowd, 1884.

q. Daniel's death is not known but appears to have been before his mother's death.

r. "3d Reg. of Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals St. Paul, Ore. From 1865–1899," p. 170, baptism entry for B13, George B. Dowd, 1886.

s. "St. Michael's Church Grand Ronde, Oregon Parish Record Book 1886–1965," p. 52, baptism entry for B3, Agnes Gervasia Dowd, 1889; Catholic Church in Oregon collection, MSS 1580, reel 14; Oregon Historical Society, Portland, Oregon.

t. Agnes Dowd died intestate in 1905 leaving her father, 75-year-old John Dowd, as heir: Yamhill County, Oregon, Probate File no. 1111 (1906), Agnes Dowd; "Oregon, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1849-1963," database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/> : accessed 3 October 2023).

u. "St. Michael's Church Grand Ronde, Oregon Parish Record Book 1886–1965," p. 69, baptism entry for B10, Fredericus Augustinus Dowd, 1891.

German Churches for the Ancestors of Grandma Minnie, Part 2: Traveling in December 2023

Mark Grafe

GOOD TIMING

Guten Tag! (Good day!) Taking photographs of churches (*Kirchen*) that recorded the baptisms, marriages, and burials of my father's maternal ancestors was my main reason for visiting Germany. Church schedules surprised me with open times on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday mornings. But that would have been during tourist season, and I needed to contact individual churches if I wanted to look inside in December. Since a genealogical society in Hanover and the State Archives in Stade helped with research, we also wanted to visit there. My wife and I were also curious to explore Christmas markets. Of course, a mask while traveling is still a good idea.

We decided to avoid transfers with a direct flight from PDX to Amsterdam. We planned on spending Monday night in Amsterdam before taking a train east to Hanover on Tuesday. Per request, the genealogical library at Niedersächsischer Landesverein für Familienkunde (NLF) agreed to open at 09:00 for us on Wednesday. In the afternoon, we planned to take the train north, with one transfer, and stay at Stade Wednesday night. My ancestors lived where there is currently no train service, so the plan was to take buses and call a taxi. We hoped to stop at the church in Osten before staying at Oederquart for two nights (Thursday and Friday). Friday, we planned to visit nearby Freiburg and Hamelwörden by bus. We needed to return to Stade on Saturday and take trains back to

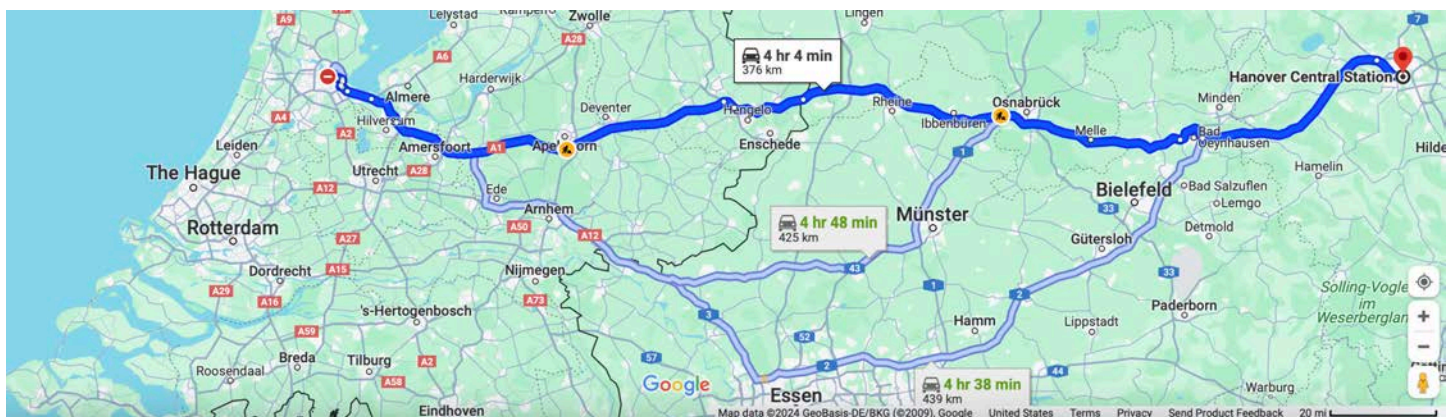


*St. Wulphardi Kirche, Freiburg/Elbe, Deutschland.
Image by the author.*

Amsterdam before returning on a 09:00 flight Sunday morning. I expected to be challenged by the German language, finding the correct bus/train stops, calling a cab, and delays due to weather. The backup plan for war escalating in Europe or an Icelandic volcano exploding would be cousins in southern Germany. Hopefully these notes will be helpful in planning another trip (yours or mine).

CASH AND WHAT APP?

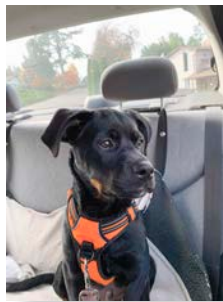
Plane and train tickets went into a folder, not every ticket was available digitally. A hard copy of our itinerary, some maps, and backup plans were printed. Not all lodging and transportation expenses were paid for in advance by credit card. I told two credit card companies of my travel plans and still had challenges with online purchases in Europe. Some establishments probably doubted that we would arrive on time. Some euros were needed for lodging, food, gifts, and backup plans.



The day after flying into Amsterdam, Netherlands, we had a four-hour train ride to Hanover, Germany. Google Maps.

Sámstag, 16 Dezémbler 2023

The Saturday before we left, I checked us in online at Delta, but there was no place to enter the TSA precheck numbers. The TSA precheck was only for departing the U.S. and allowed us to skip a long line. The Delta check-in counter would need the flight confirmation number again. We traveled light with no checked luggage, just a small suitcase and two backpacks. We needed our passports. I took my laptop. I backed up my computer and genealogical software. Thankfully, my daughter's family watched our four-month-old puppy (where he would learn to jump up on beds). The airport had a temporary booth to exchange dollars to euros down by baggage claim and past security there was another booth.



Sónntag, 17 Dezémbler 2023

On the Sunday we left, it was almost freezing in Beaverton, Oregon. We had reservations with Park and Fly, in at 09:30 on 17 December, out at 11:00 on 24 December was a good guess. It cost just under \$100 to rent a parking space for one week.



We were at the airport by 10:00 for the Delta flight at 13:10. The airport recommended being three hours early, but after checking in early online, Delta correctly estimated that two hours was early enough. While waiting to board, I overheard a young lady say, "Last time I went to Germany, I lost 10 pounds." My daughter also thought that I would not like the food.



Airport security did not like my knee brace hidden under my clothing and the young guard exclaimed, "No, don't pull down your pants here." I was escorted to a small room for security to look for illegal carry-on items in my blue jeans.



The plane's aisles were very narrow. There was almost enough room to stretch unless a bag was under the seat in front of us. The overhead storage was sufficient for a suitcase just larger than recommended. We brought some food and would buy more to eat on long train rides. A snack and dinner was provided on the flight to Amsterdam. I had a window seat with just enough leg room, some people over six feet tall stretched out into the aisle. I loved seeing Mount



St. Helens, Mount Adams, and Mount Rainier, as we arched northeast over North America. I read Karen Pryor's *Don't Shoot the Dog* on the ten-hour flight.

Montag, 18 Dezémbler 2023

We arrived in Amsterdam on a Monday at 08:20 and it was still dark because we were further north than Oregon. Time wise, Europe is nine hours ahead of us. So, we left at 13:10 or 22:10 there, 22:10 plus ten hours is 08:10, close to 08:20. It was supposed to be partially clear with a high in the 40s. There was a cold winter wind.

We exchanged more dollars to euros in the Amsterdam airport and probably did not get a better rate. Schiphol Airport in Amsterdam appears to be part of a large mall. At first, it was not clear where customs was located upstairs. The Netherlands agent asked me for my destination. I replied, "Hanover, Stade, and Oederquart."

We bought three boxes of chocolates for gifts at a grocery store in the airport mall. This was a popular store for food and my credit card worked.

Knowing what the hotel next to the airport looked like helped me get my bearings. We walked ten minutes to the Hilton, paid \$70 to check in early, took a two-hour nap, and went back to the airport looking for the train platform. The weather had become windy and rainy.

There was a train ticket office in Schiphol Airport. I bought the two-day pass and had to ask for directions to the train platform which was hidden down an escalator in a subway. The clerk spoke good English. They asked that we scan the ticket before and after trips, but we often missed the scanner. The screen at the airport showed train Platform 4 for the Intercity Direct (ICE) to Amsterdam Central train station. At Amsterdam Central we found where we would depart for the next day's ride to Hanover (spelled Hannover in Germany). Amsterdam Central Station has turnstiles where we needed to scan the tickets prior to leaving the building. You can get on the train at the airport without a ticket but will have to pay to get out of Amsterdam Central.

Several restaurants were in the Amsterdam Central train station, and we did not walk far out

Top to bottom: We took our large four-month-old puppy to my daughter's house (thank you!); dollars can be exchanged to euros at the Portland Airport; we stayed at the Hilton near the Amsterdam airport; the view inside Amsterdam Central Train Station; a view outside; and looking back at the train station. Images by the author, except the Hilton Amsterdam Airport Schiphol.

into the city due to physical limitations. This was the only time during our week-long visit when we heard police sirens. We returned to Platform 13, later it would be Platform 11, at Amsterdam Central and took an over-full train back to Schiphol Airport. A group of near-by students spoke loudly in Italian, but most everyone else we encountered in Amsterdam spoke English. Many signs were in English, the train conductor spoke in Dutch and English. We walked to the hotel, and I was quickly asleep. By 23:00 I was wide awake and a week later my internal clock was still off. The Hilton had an unusual shower and the only electrical plug converter we needed in Europe was the small one with two-prongs.

Dienstag, 19 Dezémbler 2023

The 07:30 breakfast Tuesday morning at the hotel cost just over \$60 because I neglected to request the complimentary breakfast on the Hilton website. The breakfast had a large selection of great food, they did not care that I left with an apple. Another guest noticed my hat and introduced herself as a Portland State University graduate. “So am I!” I exclaimed.

We arrived at Amsterdam Central by 09:30. There was a light rain. The Intercity Direct train took about 30 minutes from the airport to Amsterdam Central. Our train to Hanover pulled into Platform 11b just prior to the 09:59 departure time and left at 10:03. I had inquired at the information booth as to where to scan our printed ticket and was told nowhere, not to worry about it. The clerk at the information booth liked my folder and complimented me on being organized. Later, a train employee walked the train aisles checking for tickets and scanned my printed copy. I also asked at the information booth if first class was in the front or rear and the information clerk responded, “Good question!” but could not figure it out. We went into the first car but should have been in 39, the last. Train cars were not numbered on the outside only on the screens inside. A few stops into the trip, a lady had one of our seats reserved and we moved to different seats but did not go looking for ours.



Outside Hanover Hbf (train station) there was a Christmas market but there was nothing I wanted to buy. I looked at the scarves and winter clothing, one small house had religious decorations, but most booths sold food. We briefly walked east toward the genealogical library on a wide street that was blocked off to vehicles, then back to the hotel. I neglected to write down the hotel address, but street signs were challenging anyways. There was a light cold rain.

We stayed at Central Hotel Kaiserhof and checked in just before their stated 15:00 time. The young man behind the counter spoke a hesitant English and did not make eye contact. He probably did not want me to ask any questions in English. The crowd and the cluttered nature of the season almost hid the hotel. Central Hotel Kaiserhof did not seem as secure as the Hilton in Amsterdam, but we had no problems. The view from our room was of a rooftop and other windows, but the hotel's restaurant was excellent. We made dinner reservations from the hotel's website. I had salmon with apple strudel for dessert and ordered extra ice cream for someone who couldn't keep their spoon out of mine. They even let a dog sit with guests.

Mittwoch, 20 Dezémbler 2023

Our Wednesday 06:30 breakfast at the Central Hotel Kaiserhof was also delicious with a table full of warm meat and eggs, a nice selection of fruit, several different pastries, cereal and granola, yogurt, juice, and coffee. We then walked to Niedersächsischer Landesverein für Familienkunde, at Rückertstraße 1, and got there at 08:45. There was a light cold rain. Detlef Bähre, who had previously helped me with research, and two other people were already there. I thanked Detlef with one of the small boxes of chocolates. NLF had microfiche from Osten but nothing newer than 1852. The church records from Oederquart went up to around 1875 but did not appear complete. The Oederquart records online at Ancestry only went up to 1852. I found more members of Hinrich Meyer's family and some more Hasselbusch family to try to link to my third great-grandma

Top to bottom: The converter we needed for electrical outlets in Amsterdam and Germany; a Christmas market booth outside Hanover Hbf; the Central Hotel Kaiserhof view from our room; my wife Hoang in the hotel dining room; a dog in the hotel dining room; and the nice bakery inside the Stade Train Station. Images by the author.



Image by the author.

Inside the library at Niedersächsischer Landesverein für Familienkunde (NLF), Hanover, Germany.

Becka (Hasselbusch) Fock. They had a minimal charge for research and a free restroom.

We happily skipped lunch because we wanted to travel during daylight and did not want to miss our train. Hoang was just thirsty and bought juice in the train station. She appeared to be collecting a pocketful of coins, which we could not exchange back to dollars. It was cold outside. It was cold on the covered train platforms even with gloves, extra layers, and a hooded jacket!

We left at 12:55 from Hanover Hbf on ICE 78 to Stade. I received four emails regarding train delays. Our Reginal Express (RE) was just a tad late for the connection at Hamburg-Harburg, and we waited an hour for the next train. It worked out well, as Hoang found noodles to eat at the train station, but then we did not eat dinner. I had some of my emergency food and an apple from the Hilton breakfast.

I noticed taxi drivers lollygagging outside Hamburg-Harburg train station and later at the Stade Am Bohnhoff (transit station). Online, there appeared to be many taxi companies except Uber. While checking reviews, one



Photo by Inga Mahide, Google Maps.

Café & Hotel am Holzhafen, Stade, Lower Saxony, Germany.

person complained of being charged about €10 per kilometer. So, I budgeted for that.

I did not see any attempt to remove graffiti. On the way to Stade I saw the typical lettering with Mickey Mouse mixed in and then a “Free Wall Graffiti-Stade.”

We stayed in Stade at the Café & Hotel am Holzhafen, located just a 7-minute walk northeast of the train station, through a small park, in a cold rain. They did not want a credit card to reserve a room and were not busy. I wondered how that would work during tourist season. Surprisingly, the clerk, who spoke good English, asked for our passports. Train tracks ran outside our room’s window but did not wake my wife. The first three hotels had small safes in each room and little refrigerators with drinks to purchase. Again, the heat came from radiators.



Image by the author.

Niedersächsisches, Landesarchiv Abteilung, Stade (Lower Saxony, State Archive Department, Stade).

Dónnertag, 21 Dezémbler 2023

Thursday’s breakfast at the Stade hotel was okay, not as good as in Amsterdam or Hanover. They had coffee, juice, eggs, yogurt, and an assortment of bread. They wanted five Euros to take breakfast food out of the restaurant.

At 10:00, in the rain, we walked to the nearby Stade Archives, where the clerk did not understand my English. However, she read my card for Anna v. Bargen, and called Anna from her work area. We thanked Anna for finding my great-grandparents’ civil marriage document in Oederquart with a small box of chocolates. Anna’s English had a west-coast American feel. I did not attempt any research, and then we got soaking wet again.

It was a short walk through the park to the Stade train station. We purchased food at the bakery in the station, but I did not see the apple pie featured online. The ladies in the bakery did not speak English. We skipped the planned visit to Oldendorf as I found an usable image online. Few people were on the train to Hemmoor, and the tickets, purchased at the station, were only 7.20 euros.

ANCESTRAL CHURCH IN OSTEN

The pastor at St. Petri in Osten (Oh-stun) had forwarded my email to Frank Auf dem Felde, who suggested taking the train to Hemmoor and walking 30 minutes to the church. Frank noted that the Café Central East in Osten, opposite the church, was closed. It took us longer than 30 minutes. Google Maps was in error for pizza restaurant times and erred with the closed Transporter Bridge, which was a short-cut to the church. This bridge predates World War II and a story has it that when a local was told to destroy the bridge with a bazooka before advancing Allied forces could use it, he intentionally missed. Later, Frank said they only opened that bridge for large tours.

Besides many establishments being closed from noon to 14:00, we traveled well past tourist season. Both restaurants in Hemmoor were closed, but the antique shop was open, and the owner spoke good English. I bought a cane and an old bottle to add to my collection (See image in *June 2022 Bulletin*, page 15).



Image courtesy Claus von Hadehn

Hemmoor Antik (Antique) Store named Ut Oole Tiden.

It was stormy all day. I asked the owner of the antique shop to call a taxi for us, but the taxi company said no one was available. He suggested the same (now) 20-minute walk to Osten. We walked out of Hemmoor and started across the bridge over the River Oste in a windy downpour. I almost hesitated, not to take a photograph, but wondered if we should go back to the Hemmoor train station and back to Stade. A path on the other side led down to the narrow brick road along the dike. Frank wrote to ring at his door. When I asked if he could help by calling a taxi for the ride to Oederquart, he responded that it was not far, and he would drive us there! We left our bags in his entryway and walked next door to the Osten church.

Frank had a large old key but not the original key for the church built in the 1700s. St. Petri no longer has graves



Google Maps.

View from the bridge over the river Oste of the transporter bridge and St. Petri Kirche in Osten, Germany.

surrounding it or in the building, but there were four large memorials in the entryway along with the original metallic marker for the church. At some point, the old graves were too close together and had become unsafe and out of fashion. Frank said that long ago, the wealthy, buried in churches, made such a stench that it necessitated holding a perfumed cloth over the nose.

Inside the church, the nave was white and smelled of Christmas, with a 20-foot evergreen tree up front. Frank said they were decorating it the next day. Some of my photographs of St. Petri are used to illustrate my ancestors' genealogical data in my future Part 3 of "German Churches for Ancestors of Grandma Minnie."



Image by the author.

Hoang follows Frank to St. Petri Kirche in Osten, Germany.



Image by the author.

The original 1745 marker just inside the front door to St. Petri Kirche, Osten, Germany.

Frank had much information on local history. He explained how Dukes and privileged folk were seated higher than the priest. Other rich Lutherans could purchase enclosed seats along the wall. Even the two rows of maybe 30 pews had gates. A massive organ was upstairs in the back. They kept the original organ pipes, but the



Image by the author.

An 1870 memorial with Ahlf, Hader, Heinsohn, and other family names survives near the front door to St. Petri Kirche, Osten, Germany.

keyboard has been replaced. I only took one photo from outside due to the stormy weather. The church steeple has a clock facing north towards the parish.

I told Frank how he made my day by opening the church and relating its history. My wife commented on how he was a good man. We were soaking wet, but it was our lucky day as Frank gave us the scenic tour down narrow roads, where cars had to use turnouts to pass, on the drive to Oederquart. This part of Germany has large dikes along the North Sea coast and smaller ones throughout. Dikes divide the land into sections for ownership and farming. The lowest lying land does not have good soil. We noticed dark black soil in Stade. No wood stoves were in this area, but people used to burn peat to heat their homes. Most houses here are brick, which they used to dig out of the ground and kiln with burning peat. I asked if the small streams along the roads had fish and later found an image of someone fishing near where ancestors lived.



Image by the author.

An 1870 memorial with Oellrich and other family names just inside the front door to St. Petri Kirche, Osten, Germany.

I had printed out a map so a taxi driver would drive by the old address of my great-aunt at 101 Kranenweide but did not show Frank and he drove a different way through Dösemoor. I recognized Dösemoor as the location of some Richter and Tiedemann family ancestors. Frank and I talked the whole ride, and he asked why I was visiting.

I told Frank about my father being an Episcopalian minister and not being able to visit due to heart problems. I told him the story about my father attending the German services at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Muscatine with his grandmother but as he got older, he and his friends visited other churches. Frank laughed when I told him my dad chose the Episcopal Church because it had the best food after the service. He dropped my wife and me off at Witt's Gasthof in Oederquart.



Image by the author.

Frank and Hoang in St. Petri Kirche, Osten, Germany. The huge organ is high in the rear.

Witt's Gasthof is located next to a historic house from 1590 and the property behind it was farmland. It was awkward making reservations online because of the German to English translation but I understood we were to pay with "bar (cash), EC, oder mit der Eurocard." The owner did not ask us to sign in and showed us to our room. Our upstairs room was in the smaller building to the left of the larger one with the restaurant and living quarters for the owner's family. Like most of the towns we visited, Oederquart and everything in the room was clean. The cold shower room had a skylight window with a view of St. Johannis Church. There was also a large old house with a green mossy roof across the street. The new



Courtesy Fish Hit Parade

Fishing at the Achthöfener Fleth, Isensee, Germany.

radiator in the shower room was unlike previous ones and did not turn on when I dialed it up. There was also an "on" button to push, and it turned off automatically.

I made dinner reservations when we checked in and a couple hours later found that the restaurant was very busy for a small remote town. We had a wonderful dinner. I ate *Fisch Teller* (fish plate), three different fillets with mustard sauce, crab meat and fried potatoes. My wife asked for rice (*Reis*) and chicken. The following evening, I had the *Rotbarschfilet* (red perch filet) which was also excellent. It would be hard to find a better restaurant.

Ancestors who lived near Oederquart included my great-grandparents Barthold Heinrich Fock and Anna Margaretha Richter who married there in 1885, and my second great-grandparents Claus Richter and Anna Mette Maria Tiedemann, who married in Oederquart in 1846.

Freitag, 22 Dezember 2023

On Friday, unlike our previous breakfasts where we chose food cafeteria style, at Oederquart they brought food to our table. We found it challenging to understand the waitress who asked if we wanted eggs. They served soft-boiled eggs which Hoang liked. Again, we saw a lot of hard bread and pastries, and again there was fruit and a cheese plate for breakfast.



Google Maps.

Witt's Gasthof, Oederquart, Germany.



Image by the author.

St. Johannis Kirche, Oederquart, Germany. Night view from a skylight at Witt's.

OEDERQUART CHURCH

My great-grandparents were married in Oederquart by civil registration, and I wonder if they attended St. Johannis Church in Oederquart. We walked across the street to the church at 09:00. It was windy but dry, then we got hit by a hailstorm. My wife was not amused. The building was locked even though their website said it was open from 08:30 to 11:00. There were a couple of artifacts outside and several old images of the church next to the door. We walked around the church. Although we had not heard a siren since the police car in Amsterdam, sirens from firetrucks screamed through the hail and my wife became concerned that we were trespassing. "Why would they send firetrucks to check on people walking around a church?" We walked back to our warm room at Witt's.

ANCESTRAL CHURCH AT HAMELWÖRDEN

The hotel/restaurant owner and a waitress spoke some English. It was awkward because they would apologize



Image by the author.

St. Dionysus Kirche, Hamelwörden, Germany.

when it was my lack of German that was the problem. When I asked for help calling for a bus (because it was for a Saturday), the waitress said, "No car, oh dear!" And she called a taxi to take us to Hamelwörden.

At 11:00 a little old taxi driver thoroughly disgusted that we were not German showed up to take us to Hamelwörden. She was even more perturbed when I asked her to wait while I took a couple pictures of St. Dionysius Church in Hamelwörden and changed the final destination to the Freiburg bakery. We were able to converse a bit in German. I told her my great-grandparents were from Oederquart. She quickly drove us to Hamelwörden and Freiburg and charged us €41 for a 12-kilometer ride. I tipped her €5 and she was ecstatic!



Image by the author.

St. Wulphardi Kirche, Freiburg, Germany.

FREIBURG AN DER ELBE

Calling a taxi was a good backup plan. The buses were new and clean, but the schedule changed from what was posted on Google and bus stops were unfamiliar and required some walking. While still in the U.S., I emailed a taxi company to reserve a ride and did not receive a response. Third time was a charm for asking someone for help in calling me a cab (You're a cab, bad joke).

We arrived at the bakery in Freiburg before their mid-day closure (12:00-14:00) on a Friday and purchased food we would need while traveling on Saturday. One of the young ladies behind the counter could translate apple (*Apfel*), the pastry was good but again no apple pie.

On the way out of the bakery, named Bäckerei Konditorei Holst, I said “Guten Tag” to a man my age who was almost blocking the door. He replied, “That’s a good start.”

Lunch at the nearby Freiburger Doner was pleasant. They were not busy and only one happy person with family from Türkiye appeared to work there. The wall behind the lunch counter was filled with hard liquor bottles. This place understood my language challenges and had pictures of food posted outside and inside with some text in English. We were the only ones eating in the hidden dining area just before noon. We bused our table and walked to nearby St. Wulphardi Church.



Image by the author.

Hoang on the bus ride to Oederquart.

Although the church website shows opening hours 09:00–12:00 on Fridays, Google Maps showed it temporarily closed. Since I thought we would arrive after noon I did not contact the church or see if the doors were unlocked. The trees surrounding the building had shed their leaves and we walked around the brick streets on another cold and windy, but not rainy day.

From the church we walked south towards the bus stop but the app on my phone could not get us through an odd intersection. We walked down the wider street to the wrong bus stop.



Image by the author.

Stade am Bahnhof (Train Station), Germany.

Before I could walk too far back a bus labeled “Oederquart” passed us and stopped by a school. The driver got out and explained in German that Bus 2078 would arrive shortly. Looking back, I see Google Maps had the wrong location for the bus stop.

We got on Bus 2078 at 12:41 to Oederquart from the Freiburg Schulzentrum (Kehre) bus stop. The fare was €2.50 for each of us, the bus appeared brand new, the young driver corrected my pronunciation of Oederquart, and we were the only ones on the bus. I enjoyed the ride through the somewhat familiar location of Landesbrück that my great-grandparents recorded on their marriage document. There were many old houses but probably not as old as my great-grandparents and I did not have a specific address. I canceled the next day’s early Saturday morning bus, and we would take a taxi 36 kilometers to Stade for a pre-arranged fare of €100.



Image by the author.

Cold and windy at the Stade am Bahnhof, Stade, Germany.

Sámstag, 23 Dezémbér 2023

We had a 06:45 breakfast on Saturday and the taxi arrived in Oederquart at 07:55 for the ride to Stade. The lady driving the taxi had the holiday spirit and sang quietly along with Christmas songs on the radio as she quickly drove through the narrow streets that were lined with the same type of garbage cans we have at home. We left the Stade Am Bahnhof an hour early at 09:00 on RE 5 to Hamburg/Harburg but being early was good because Harburg was where we missed a prior connection. We waited an hour to change to ICE 109, first class was in the rear.

The 30-minute transfer at Osnabruck to ICE 146 was awkward because I did not know which way the train was coming, and first class was now in the front of a long train. We got on just in time. The door shut on my back pack and a big young Turk quickly hit the button to open the door. “Thanks!” “No problem brother,” he responded.

By mid-afternoon, I was glad we brought food from the bakery. The train inspectors checked our printed ticket again, and at Amsterdam Central we arrived late but Hoang noticed another train going to the airport and we quickly got back to the hotel. The dinner at the Amsterdam Hilton had excellent cooked carrots, which I usually do not like, but they ruined the salmon with too much salt.

I checked in with the airline but could not print the plane tickets from the hotel. We purchased the tickets through Delta, but KLM Royal Dutch Airlines handled the return flight from Amsterdam.

Sónntag, Heiligábend, 24 Dezémbér 2023

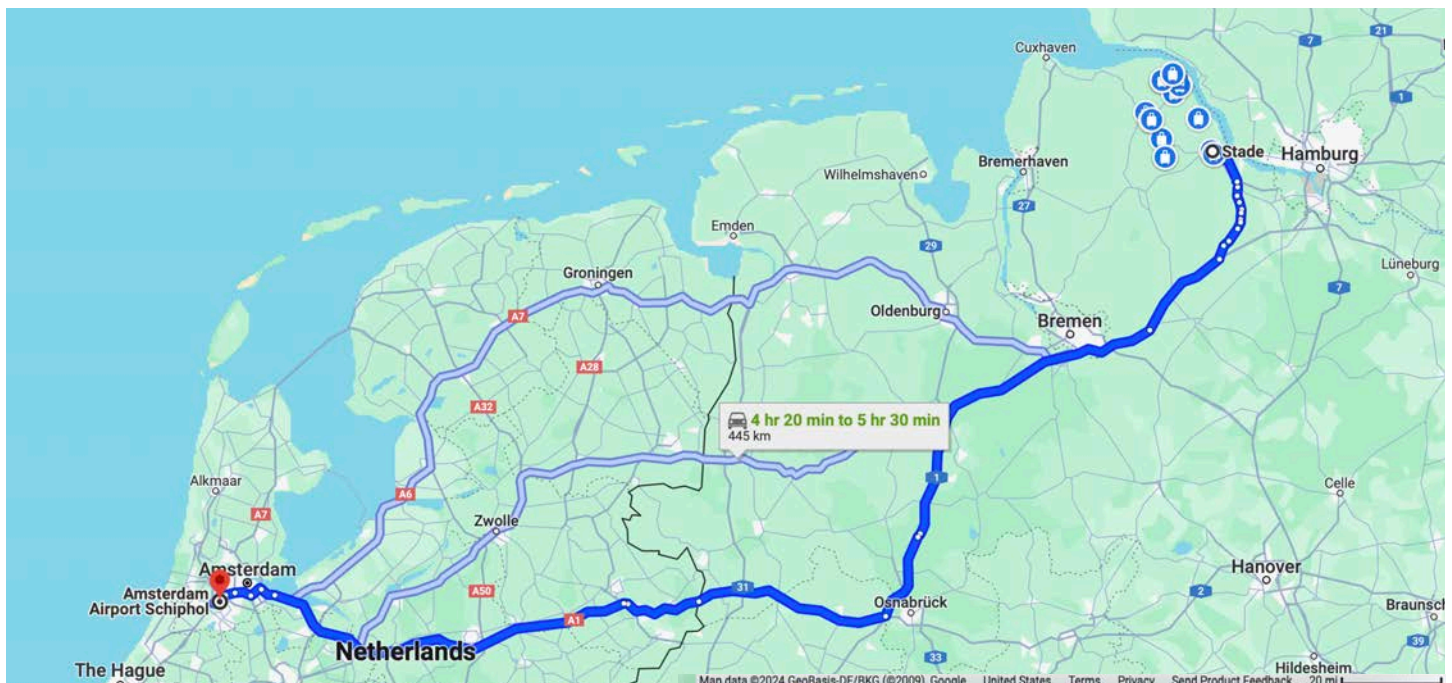
Sunday was Christmas Eve, our 06:00 breakfast at the hotel was good, but our room at the Amsterdam Hilton had a faulty electrical outlet and the shower drain was backed up. We were at the airport by 07:00.

We arrived two hours before the 09:00-departure time. The clerk at the KLA counter printed the ticket, we had no checked baggage, and we only waited an hour for our flight. Hoang purchased a backpack in the airport mall. This time through an airport, I wore my knee brace on the outside of my blue jeans and was carrying the cane I purchased at the *antik* store. Amusingly, staff was concerned and kept opening the ropes, letting me take shortcuts through security.

We left Amsterdam on flight 179 at 09:00, seats 47a and 47b had plenty of leg room. The plane was not fully booked on Christmas Eve. Before leaving the U.S., I read that airlines drop prices after 8 January. The airline food was decent with breakfast, a snack, and lunch on the 10-hour flight to Portland, Oregon. We arrived a half-hour early, but there were lines for entering the U.S. Overall, we over-paid for this trip.

Next time, I should plan fun activities besides eating, wear a mask on trains and planes, and visit relatives. I was pleased to have made it all the way to Osten, Oederquart, Hamelwörden, and Freiburg. My wife was happy to be home. Thanks Karen, the third box of chocolates was our positive reinforcement and my cough did not last long.

Part 3 will update Minnie’s family tree with data discovered in church records and images from Germany.



Our four-hour plus train ride from Stade to Amsterdam had transfers in Hamburg-Harburg and Osnabruck. Google Maps.

Joseph and Mary Hainesworth: A Case Study Using the GRO Indexes for England and Wales

Lori Montague

England and Wales Civil Registration records are indexed and available online. These vital records provide a wealth of genealogical information. Finding records for Joseph and Mary Hainesworth will demonstrate how to navigate different websites to search the General Register Office (GRO) indexes.

A SNAPSHOT FROM THE 1911 ENGLAND AND WALES CENSUS

Joseph Hainesworth was found in the 1911 England and Wales Census living in Yorkshire, England.¹ This census showed that Joseph was 28 years old, and he and his wife Mary had been married for three years. They had two daughters living in their household: Margaret (aged two), and Ethel (aged 10 months). Joseph's occupation was a traveling confectionary in the toffee industry. This brief glimpse into the life of Joseph's family leaves many questions. What was Mary's maiden name? Can more specific birth information be found for Margaret and Ethel? Did Joseph and Mary have additional children? When did Joseph die? Each of these questions can be answered by searching the GRO indexes.

WHAT ARE THE GRO INDEXES?

Before 1837, birth, marriage, and death records in England and Wales were kept by the church at the parish level.² Starting on 1 July 1837, a civil registration was created by the government for all births, marriages, and deaths, with England and Wales divided into registration districts.³ Every three months (quarterly), each district sent copies of their registers for births, marriages, and deaths to the GRO in London. There were four registration quarters:

- Quarter 1 / March Quarter (January, February, March)
- Quarter 2 / June Quarter (April, May, June)
- Quarter 3 / September Quarter (July, August, September)

- Quarter 4 / December Quarter (October, November, December)

By 1875, registration was mandatory, and fines were required for non-compliance.⁴ The GRO created national indexes of births, marriages, and deaths. The indexes were arranged by year in quarterly volumes, and alphabetized by surname, then given name. These indexes are now available and searchable online from a variety of websites.⁵

GRO INDEXES ONLINE

| <i>Marriage Indexes</i> | | |
|---|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <i>Website</i> | <i>Coverage</i> | |
| FreeBMD.org.uk | 1837–1988 | |
| FamilySearch.org | | |
| Ancestry.com (\$) | 1837–2005 | |
| MyHeritage.com (\$) | | |
| Findmypast.com (\$) | | |
| Gro.gov.uk | No Marriage Index | |
| <i>Birth Indexes</i> | | |
| <i>Website</i> | <i>Coverage</i> | <i>Includes Mother's Maiden Name</i> |
| FreeBMD.org.uk | 1837–1998 | After 1911 |
| Ancestry.com (\$) | 1837–2006 | After 1911 |
| MyHeritage.com (\$) | 1837–2006 | After 1911 |
| FamilySearch.org | 1837–2008 | After 1911 |
| Gro.gov.uk | 1837–2006 | 1837–2006 |
| Findmypast.com (\$) | 1837–1921 | 1837–1921 |
| <i>Death Indexes</i> | | |
| <i>Website</i> | <i>Coverage</i> | |
| FreeBMD.org.uk | 1837–1988 | |
| FamilySearch.org | 1837–2007 | |
| Ancestry.com (\$) | 1837–2007 | |
| MyHeritage.com (\$) | 1837–2007 | |
| Findmypast.com (\$) | 1837–2007 | |
| Gro.gov.uk | 1837–1921 | |

Some websites have partial coverage after these dates. Coverage years change as additional records are added.

1. "1911 England and Wales Census," Halifax, Yorkshire, England, ED 19, Page 1, Piece 77, Class RG14, Joseph Hainesworth, *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.com).

2. "England Civil Registration," *FamilySearch Wiki*, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : accessed 1 November 2023.)

3. Herber, *Ancestral Trails*, Second Edition (Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Publishing Co, 2006), 40.

4. *Ibid.*

5. "England Civil Registration," *FamilySearch Wiki*, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : accessed 1 November 2023.)

JOSEPH HAINESWORTH'S REGISTRATION DISTRICT

Going back to Joseph Hainesworth, his residence on the 1911 census was known to be Halifax, Yorkshire, England.⁶ Before searching the GRO indexes for him and his family, the registration district needed to be identified. When either a church parish or a civil parish is known, the registration district can be found.

Starting in the 1860s, church and civil parishes in England were entirely separate.⁷ Church of England parishes were local ecclesiastical jurisdictions that had existed since medieval times, and were named in church birth, marriage, and burial records, and in some census records.⁸ Civil parishes, on the other hand, were local government jurisdictions in the 1860s.⁹ Census records in England and Wales may have recorded a civil parish or an ecclesiastical parish as the locality.

On the 1911 England and Wales Census, Joseph Hainsworth was living in the ecclesiastical parish of Halifax St. James in Halifax, Yorkshire, England.¹⁰ With this information, a registration district could be identified using the interactive map at <https://maps.familysearch.org>.

Entering the town of "Halifax" into the search box revealed a long list of parishes in Halifax, including the parish of Halifax St. James. When "Halifax St. James" was selected, an information box appeared with a "Jurisdictions" tab. Clicking the "Jurisdictions" tab revealed that the name of the registration district was "Halifax." In this instance,

the name of the registration district was the same as the name of the town, but registration district names can often be completely unrelated to parish or town names.

MARY HAINESWORTH'S MAIDEN NAME

Based on the 1911 census information, the calculated year of marriage for Joseph and Mary Hainesworth was 1908.¹¹ With a known registration district and calculated year of marriage, a maiden name for Mary Hainesworth could be found using the GRO marriage index.

The GRO marriage index on FreeBMD.org.uk was used to search for Joseph Hainesworth in the Halifax registration district. His marriage year was entered as 1907 and his spouse's given name as Mary. No results were found in the search. Revising the query by extending the year range by two years and adding the "phonetic search surnames" option produced one positive match. A Joseph Hainsworth (without an "e") was found in the Halifax registration district. His marriage was recorded in the September quarter of 1907 in volume 9a on page 1,055. This index does not automatically put couples together, but clicking on the page number link showed the names of all the individuals on page 1,055: William Arthur Conway, Joseph Hainsworth, Mary Hyde, and Annie Gertrude Knowles. Because more than one marriage was recorded on this page, there was more than one possible spouse for Joseph. However, the 1911 census showed that Joseph's wife was named Mary, eliminating the other option.¹²

FIND A REGISTRATION DISTRICT USING A CHURCH PARISH NAME

- Go to <https://maps.familysearch.org>: This interactive map shows jurisdictions in England in 1851.
- Enter a town name in the search bar on the top left of the page. A list of ecclesiastical parishes in that town will appear below. Click on the correct parish name.
- When the information box for the parish appears, click on "Jurisdictions." The civil registration district for that parish will be shown.

FIND A REGISTRATION DISTRICT USING A CIVIL PARISH NAME

- Google search: [name of civil parish] registration district.

6. "1911 England and Wales Census," Halifax, Yorkshire, England, ED 19, Page 1, Piece 77, Class RG14, Joseph Hainesworth, *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.com).

7. "England Jurisdictions," FamilySearch Wiki, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : accessed 1 November 2023).

8. *Ibid.*

9. *Ibid.*

10. "1911 England and Wales Census," Halifax, Yorkshire, England, ED 19, Page 1, Piece 77, Class RG14, Joseph Hainesworth, *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.com).

11. "1911 England and Wales Census," Halifax, Yorkshire, England, ED 19, Page 1, Piece 77, Class RG14, Joseph Hainesworth, *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.com).

12. "1911 England and Wales Census," Halifax, Yorkshire, England, ED 19, Page 1, Piece 77, Class RG14, Joseph Hainesworth, *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.com).

SEARCH THE GRO INDEXES ON FREEBMD:

- Go to www.FreeBMD.org.uk.
- On the homepage, click the red “search” button.
- Click a box for “All,” “Births,” “Deaths,” or “Marriages.”
- Fill out the search boxes with known information.
- Use the “Options” boxes to broaden or narrow your search.
- Select the registration district and/or county (if the district is known) from the lists on the left of the page.
- Click the red “find” button.
- If you need to edit your search, click the red “revise query” button.
- When you see the results of the search, you will see the volume and page number. If you click on the page number link, it will show all others listed on the page. This will provide the names of possible spouses for marriage records.



The year and place of marriage in the GRO index agreed with the calculated year of marriage and location of the family in the census. This evidence suggested that Mary’s maiden name was Hyde.

This same search was repeated using the marriage index on Ancestry.com. Again, only one positive search result was given: Joseph Hainsworth in the September quarter of 1907 in Halifax. In addition to the transcription of the entry, this site provided an option to view the GRO index page.

BIRTH INFORMATION FOR MARGARET AND ETHEL HAINESWORTH

Finding specific birth information for Margaret and Ethel Hainsworth could provide confirmation that Mary Hainesworth’s maiden name was Hyde. On many websites, the GRO birth indexes do not include the mother’s maiden name until after 1911, but the birth indexes on Findmypast.com and GRO.gov.uk include the mother’s maiden name starting in 1837.

Searching the birth index on the GRO website for Ethel Hainesworth began by using her calculated year of birth,

1910.¹³ The search was broadened by using the option to add or subtract two years. Adding the presumed maiden surname of her mother, Hyde, and the registration district, Halifax, did not produce any results until the option was selected to include phonetically similar variations. One positive search result was then shown for Ethel Hainsworth (without an “e”), in the Halifax registration district. Her birth was recorded in the June quarter of 1910 in volume 9A on page 400. Her mother’s maiden surname was indeed Hyde.

The search criteria were then revised to find a birth for Ethel’s sister, Margaret. Margaret Hainsworth (without an “e”) was born in the September quarter of 1908 in the Halifax registration district. Her mother’s surname was also Hyde. This agreed with the years and places of birth recorded for Margaret and Ethel in the 1911 census and confirmed that Mary Hainesworth’s maiden name was Hyde.¹⁴ The searches also showed that the most common spelling for Joseph’s surname was Hainsworth.

SEARCHING THE GRO INDEXES ON ANCESTRY.COM

- Select “search” from the menu bar, then “Birth, Marriage, and Death.”
- Click on the links for the England & Wales Civil Registration Indexes from the “Featured data collections” on the right side of the page.
- Fill in the search criteria. Click “search.” When you enter the place, select the standardized place name from the drop-down list that appears.
- When you see the list of results, click on “view record” to see the transcript.
- If you click on the record image, you can view the GRO Index page.

13. “1911 England and Wales Census,” Halifax, Yorkshire, England, ED 19, Page 1, Piece 77, Class RG14, Joseph Hainesworth, *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.com).

14. *Ibid.*

SEARCHING THE GRO INDEXES ON GRO.GOV.UK

To register on [GRO.gov.uk](https://www.gro.gov.uk) (free, but required to search the indexes):

- On the [GRO.gov.uk](https://www.gro.gov.uk) home page, click “Order certificates online.”
- Click on the blue “register as an individual” link under Register or Login.
- Fill out the registration form with your email, name, and address. Create a password. Scroll down to see the terms and conditions, privacy statement, and cookie policy. Check the box indicating that you accept terms and conditions. Click the blue “submit” button.
- Verify your account with the link or code sent to your email. Click “here” to continue. On the next page, you can select “Search the GRO Index.”

To search the Birth and Death Indexes on [GRO.gov.uk](https://www.gro.gov.uk)

- Select “Birth” or “Death” (You cannot search the marriage index on this website).
- Select a year from the dropdown box. You can broaden the search range by two years (+/-), allowing you to search in five-year increments.
- Fill out the search criteria. Use the “include” options next to the name fields to broaden your search. You must select a sex.
- Click “Search.” The search may take up to a minute to complete. Be patient.
- When the search results appear, click the button next to the individual’s name to purchase certificates (instant digital, PDF, or physical copy).

ADDITIONAL CHILDREN OF JOSEPH AND MARY HAINESWORTH

To determine if Joseph and Mary had children who were not recorded on the 1911 census, the GRO birth index was next searched by mother’s maiden surname. The birth index on [Findmypast.com](https://www.findmypast.com) was chosen for this search, because this website includes the mother’s maiden name

in the birth index search starting in 1837, with options to broaden the search plus or minus one, two, five, 10, 20, or 40 years. Joseph and Mary could have had children for up to 20 years after their marriage, so a broad year range was helpful.

SEARCHING THE GRO INDEXES ON FINDMYPAST.COM

- Select “Search” from the top menu bar, then “All record sets.”
- In the search box, type “England & Wales.” To see the correct results, you need to use the “&” sign.
- The England & Wales birth, marriage, and death collections appear near the top of the list. Select the collection you would like to search.
- Fill in the search criteria with known information.
- The “Give or take” year range will allow you to add or subtract up to forty years to broaden your search.
- Select the boxes that allow you to search for name variants.
- A navy-blue bar at the bottom of the page will show the number of results for your search. Click on this bar to display search results.
- Two icons appear next to each person in the search results. Clicking on the first icon will show a transcription of the record. Clicking on the second icon shows an image of the GRO Index page.

SEARCHING THE GRO INDEXES ON FAMILYSEARCH.ORG

- Select “Search” from the top menu bar, then “Records.”
- Under Find A Collection, type “England and Wales.” A pop-up box will appear with several record collections. Use the scroll box to find the England and Wales Registration Indexes. Select the one you want to search.
- Enter the name, place, and year in the search box, or click on “MORE OPTIONS” for advanced search features.
- When entering the place, select a standardized place name from the drop-down list that appears.
- When you have entered your search criteria, click “search”.
- In the list of search results, click on the name of the person, or the paper icon on the right to view a transcription of the record.

For the search criteria, the surname Hainesworth was used, with the option selected for name variants. Because the marriage took place in 1907, 1917 was entered with plus or minus 10 years. This allowed a search from 1907 to 1927. The mother’s maiden name, Hyde, was entered, also including the option for name variants, along with the district, Halifax. The results showed the known daughters Margaret and Ethel and provided the names of two additional children: Eric Hainsworth was born in the first quarter of 1912, and Ronald Hainsworth was born in the second quarter of 1914. For both boys, the maiden name of the mother was recorded as Hyde. No additional children were found in the Halifax registration district after 1914, so the search was broadened to search all registration districts. No other children were found with the surname Hainesworth and a mother’s maiden surname of Hyde.

**DEATH OF JOSEPH HAINESWORTH**

To find death information for Joseph Hainesworth, the GRO death index was searched on FamilySearch.org. Since the GRO death index provides an age at death, searching with a birth year could help to identify the correct Joseph Hainesworth in the index. Joseph’s calculated year of birth in the 1911 census was 1883.¹⁵ However, there were no results found for Joseph Hainesworth in the Halifax registration district.

The search for the death of Joseph Hainesworth was repeated in the GRO death index on MyHeritage.com. In this second search, an entry was found for Joseph Hainsworth in the Halifax registration district. His death was recorded in the June quarter of 1960. He was 77 years of age at the time of his death. His estimated birth year was 1883, matching the known birth year for Joseph. More research would be needed to confirm the death of Joseph Hainesworth, however, this evidence showed that it was probable that Joseph Hainesworth died in 1960 in Halifax.

SEARCHING THE GRO INDEXES ON MYHERITAGE.COM

- Select “Research” from the top menu bar, then “Collection Catalog.”
- In the search bar, type “England and Wales.” The top three collection results are the birth, marriage, and death indexes. Select the one you would like to search.
- Fill in the search criteria with known information and click “Search.”
- In the list of search results, click the name of the individual or “view record” to view a transcription of the record and an image of GRO Index page.

15. “1911 England and Wales Census,” Halifax, Yorkshire, England, ED 19, Page 1, Piece 77, Class RG14, Joseph Hainesworth, *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.com).

TIPS FOR SEARCHING THE GRO INDEXES

- Some births and deaths were recorded the quarter after they occurred. The index was based on when the event was recorded, not when it happened.
- Fines were imposed for those who did not report in the timeframe, so some lied to avoid fines. In these cases, dates may not be accurate.
- Consider that women may be listed in the marriage index under a previous married name rather than a maiden name.
- If your ancestor had a birth, marriage, or death event after 1837 in England or Wales, they should be in the index. If they are not appearing, try using alternate spellings for both first and last names and broadening your search to nearby locations. You can search by county on the FreeBMD website.
- You may need to search in more than one index. Each index uses a different search algorithm, and mistakes may have been made in indexing. There are gaps in some of the indexes.
- A copy of the full registration certificate will provide the exact date of the event and can provide additional details like occupation and names of parents or witnesses. These details can help you determine if the document belongs to your ancestor. Order a copy of the certificate from the GRO whenever possible.

JOSEPH AND MARY HAINESWORTH IN THE GRO INDEXES

Using the GRO indexes we learned that the most common spelling of Joseph's last name was Hainsworth, and that Joseph Hainsworth and Mary Hyde were married in the September quarter of 1907. Margaret Hainesworth was born in the September quarter of 1908, and Ethel Hainesworth was born in the June quarter of 1909. Two additional children were also identified: Eric and Ronald Hainesworth. It is probable that Joseph Hainesworth died in the June quarter of 1960.



CIVIL REGISTRATION CERTIFICATES

Now that the index entries had been found, the next step would be to order copies of the England and Wales civil registration birth, marriage, and death certificates for Joseph and Mary Hainesworth. This would verify the accuracy of the indexes and provide specific event dates.

Their marriage certificate should give the ages, residences, and marital conditions of Joseph and Mary at the time of their marriage, along with the names and occupations of their fathers and whether the marriage took place by license or banns.¹⁶ These details can identify many clues for future research.

ORDERING CERTIFICATES ON GRO.GOV.UK

England and Wales civil registration birth, marriage, and death certificates are not available online. They can be purchased on several websites, but the cost is lower on the GRO website. Certificates give specific dates for events, as well as additional details.

| | Printed and mailed, £11, up to six weeks | Emailed PDF, £7, four to seven days | Digital image, £2.50, immediate download |
|----------------------|---|--|--|
| Marriage Certificate | x | Not Available | Not Available |
| Birth Certificate | x | x | From 1837–1932 |
| Death Certificate | x | x | From 1837–1957 |

16. "England Civil Registration," FamilySearch Wiki, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org; accessed 1 November 2023.)

ORDERING CERTIFICATES ON GRO.GOV.UK

To order certificates:

- On the [GRO.gov.uk](https://www.gro.gov.uk) home page, select “Order certificates online.”
- To order a certificate, you must first register.
- If you have already registered, enter your email address and password, and click “Login.”
- Click “Order a Certificate or PDF.” Enter where the event was registered, the type of event, and the date of the event. If you have already searched a GRO Index, select “I know the GRO Index Reference.” This will take you to an application page. Follow the directions to complete the application and enter payment information. You will be asked to “Please type your personal reference for this application.” This is a reference to help you distinguish between multiple orders. You can choose what to enter in this box.
- You can also order a certificate immediately after searching the birth or death indexes on the GRO website. Select, “Search the GRO Indexes.” Search the index for the record you would like to order. When the search results appear, click the button next to the individual. Options for purchase will appear in small blue boxes for “Certificate,” “PDF,” or “Digital Image.” Click the type of record you would like to order. This will take you to the application page. Follow the directions to complete the order.

Viewing the full birth certificates for Margaret, Ethel, Eric, and Ronald would provide the name and occupation of their father.¹⁷ These references could then be compared with Joseph’s known occupation, a traveling confectionary in the toffee industry.



England and Wales, 1823. *Library of Congress.*

Finally, Joseph’s death certificate would show his cause of death and the occupation of the deceased.¹⁸ Again, if this matched his known occupation, it would provide significant evidence that the correct death record had been located.

To order a certificate, the name of the individual, year of the event, registration quarter, registration district, volume number, and page number must first be found in the GRO indexes.

Civil Registration records are a key resource for finding birth, marriage, and death records in England and Wales. Searching the GRO indexes online can provide the information needed to order original certificates, which can provide specific dates and important details for future research.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Lori Montague graduated from Utah State University with a teaching degree and graduated from BYU-Idaho with a family history research degree. She has served in the Tooele FamilySearch center and coordinated the indexing program for the Tooele Correctional Facility. Lori is currently working as a research specialist intern on the British Team at the FamilySearch Library. She recently presented for the Genealogical Forum of Oregon 2024 Open House. Lori and her husband, Jeff, live in Tooele, Utah. They have four children, and three grandchildren.

17. Ibid.

18. Ibid.

Making It Count— Writing Your Family History

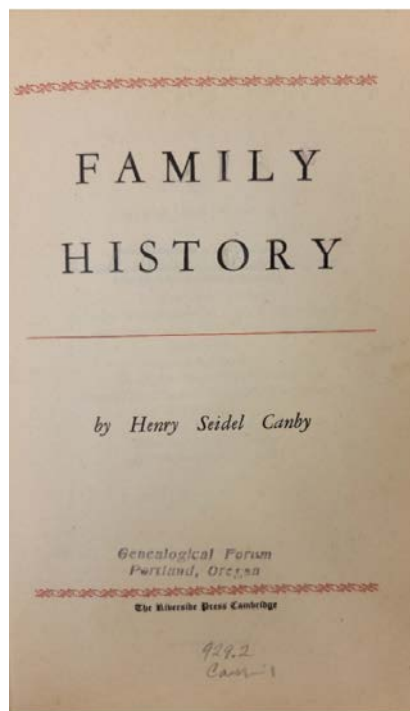
Christina Rainer

Most of us compile family stories or a family history for our children and grandchildren. “I do not intend to publish any of this” is what we tell ourselves. And that’s what happens; we never officially publish it. But we may print copies and share them with family.

Whether or not you publish your family history, what happens when your lifetime work ends up in a genealogical society? Your work may end up on the shelves of a library as a book or be shared as a digital file. It may be “published” by the organization and made available to other researchers. That happens frequently at the Genealogical Forum of Oregon (GFO) Library. We receive a copy of a family history a person printed just for their family. It could be years after it was created. We want to preserve and share the work, but in addition to their research, the author of the family history might have provided us with many challenges to create a meaningful record.

I’ve been working at the GFO Library cataloging books, and specifically, family histories, for over a year. When a cataloger adds these books to our collection, we try to provide the most valuable information for future researchers to help them find material for their family history exploration. Some of the histories on the GFO shelves are easy to catalog; the authors have done a great job of providing the information needed. Others are challenging because they lack important information.

You put a lot of work into writing your family’s story. We want to share your findings and do so in a way that will benefit future researchers. But to do so, we need important information from you. We need your help to finish your work by making it available to others. What help is needed? Read on, and you will find out.



Henry Seidel Canby, *Family History*
(Cambridge, Massachusetts: Riverside Press, 1945).

TITLE

Give your work a unique title. A simple *Our Family History* won’t do. Let your work stand out from all the other *Our Family History* books. Consider the “who” and “what” of your story. At the GFO library, we have books with great titles, such as *The Ancestral Lines of Chester Everts Howell 1867–1949 of Elmira, New York* and *Into the Lyons Den: A History of Cornelius R and Hannah Cronin Lyons Who Immigrated From Ireland in 1849 and of Their Descendants*. What makes these titles so great? They are full of information. They give us the who, when, and where right on the title page. As researchers, we do not have to thumb through the book to determine if this book might help us in our research. As catalogers, we do not have to read through the first pages to see who this book is about.

AUTHOR NOTES

Next, tell us who you are, who wrote the story, who compiled the records. Be proud of your work. Shout out your name, because in addition to giving you credit, it lets future researchers cite their source: You!

You will find “About the Author” sections in many great books. Consider writing a paragraph about yourself. Introduce yourself. Who are you? Include your full name and maiden name if you have one. Include your birth year if you are comfortable doing so.

FRONT MATTER

You have provided an informative title and taken credit for your hard work by giving us your name. We are on the way to creating a great record for your work. But we'd like more information about who and what your book is about. Include an introduction, preface, or foreword. Is your work a biography of one family member or your parents? Are you writing about your ancestor who lived many decades or centuries ago? Is your work a compilation of your ancestors? Perhaps it's all the descendants of one specific ancestor or couple. Tell future researchers who the work is about, the nature of the work, and how you relate to the book's content.

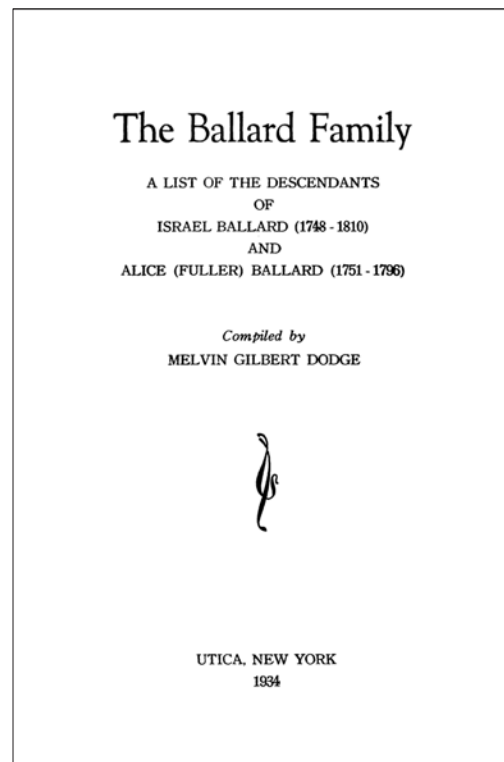
Let your reader know what state or country you are writing about. Did you know that there are three cities named Frankfurt in Germany and 19 Frankforts in the United States? Don't make your reader guess.

Always put basic information on everything you print or share digitally with others. Your name, as the author, tops this list. Add the date the material was printed or created. This is essential, especially when revisions are made, and later versions are created. As is the location. Where are you? This can help to distinguish two researchers with the same name. Make your work citable.

OTHER TIPS

Do you know that there are over half a dozen genealogical numbering systems? Do not assume that your reader is familiar with any of them. If you are using a numbering system in your book, explain this system. Make it as easy as possible for them to avoid frustrations.

Indexes and page numbers can be very helpful. If you create an index, be sure to number the pages. We have seen books come across our desks that included indexes but lacked page numbers! Help your reader find a specific person to read more about them. Help them by including page numbers.



Melvin Gilbert Dodge, The Ballard Family (Utica, New York: Self-published pamphlet, 1934). Descriptive title, author or compiler, place of publishing, and date of publishing on the cover.

Giving your work a great title and providing the reader (and the cataloger) some information about you, the when and where of the research, and a summary of your work's content will go a long way in helping create a valuable catalog record which will help future researchers benefit from your hard work and contributions.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Christina graduated from the International Institute of Genealogical Studies with a focus in German genealogy. She has been volunteering at the GFO for almost two years now, mainly cataloging family histories and importing books and e-books to our library. While cataloging family histories she realized how so many publications lack the most basic information to help other researchers find the connection between the author's family and that of the researchers. With this article, she hopes to help authors and compilers of family history close this gap.

AI and Genealogy: Trouble Ahead?

Thomas MacEntee

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While AI (artificial intelligence) might be the current “hot” buzz word, the fact is that many genealogy vendors and even genealogists have already been using this technology for years. The AI industry is at a crossroads and within the next five years, it will permeate almost every aspect of business and society. Learn how AI is currently being used to improve the genealogy experience, and whether or not you should seek out other uses of artificial intelligence for your own genealogy research.

WHAT IS ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND WHY SHOULD I BE CONCERNED?

AI stands for Artificial Intelligence and represents computer-based systems that can “mimic” human intelligence. The goal is to have these systems perform human tasks.

A task could be as simple as entering a customer service-related question on a company’s website and having AI generate a response. It might appear simple - a looks up of a response posted to the chat panel. However, AI-based systems might prompt you with more questions in order to generate the most helpful answer. The system could capture your questions and “learn” more about the way you use the product in order to better respond in the future.

Another example: you could ask ChatGPT - one of more popular AI platforms - to compose a poem about genealogy. And taking it one step further, you could add “in the style of” Shakespeare, Keats, Robert Frost, Maya Angelou, etc.

The most discussed features of artificial intelligence are “deep learning” and “generative AI.” Deep learning mimics the human brain in that it looks for patterns using vast amounts of information to interpret photos, audio, and text. Generative AI actually “generates” new photos, audio, and text, based on information provided by the user, and again, uses its own database of “training data” to understand patterns and generate output that matches the user’s query.



AI PLATFORMS

While genealogy vendors such as MyHeritage are incorporating artificial intelligence into the features they provide to users, there are some popular AI platforms open to the public that you might want to consider using.

- ChatGPT: Meaning “Chat Generative Pre-trained Transformer,” ChatGPT (<https://chat.openai.com/>) is the most popular publicly-accessible artificial intelligence platform.
- Gemini: Developed by Google, Gemini (<https://gemini.google.com/>) formerly known as Bard, describes itself as “a family of AI models developed by Google’s AI research labs DeepMind and Google Research. Gemini is Google’s largest and most flexible AI model, able to run on data centers and mobile devices.”
- Perplexity: A relative newcomer in the world of AI platforms, Perplexity (<https://www.perplexity.ai/>) presents a curated list of sources when answering user queries.

AI AND GENEALOGY

Current uses of AI by Genealogy Vendors and others

Believe it or not, genealogists have already benefited from artificial intelligence whether it is just spelling and grammar check in Microsoft Word when writing a family story or genealogical report ... to ... searching for family in the 1950 United States Census which was indexed using artificial intelligence’s ability to decipher handwriting.

- Family photos: MyHeritage has been offering a variety of photo enhancement tools over the past three years including ways to colorize images and make them clearer. In addition there are tools that can “animate” an ancestor based on a photo and even help determine the date of an image based on characteristics such as fashion styles, hair styles, and more. The new Reimagine tool announced recently offers all these tools in an easy-to-use app.
- Transcription: The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) in conjunction with Ancestry and FamilySearch used artificial intelligence to index the 1950 US Census population schedules released in April 2022. Entries made by enumerators were scanned and transcribed then released for use at a much faster rate than what was accomplished with manual indexing performed for the 1940 US Census release in 2012. For the 1950 US Census, users were encouraged to review the transcriptions and submit corrections as part of a community effort by genealogists and other researchers.

- Suggesting records: Ancestry and other genealogy platforms have been listing “related” or “suggested” records in the sidebar of the webpage when a user is viewing a record as part of a search. In addition “hints” will often pop up suggesting records and family trees that a researcher might want to review due to similarities in data.
- DNA matches: With over 30 million people having used personal DNA testing kits, 23andMe, AncestryDNA, FamilyTreeDNA, and MyHeritage all leverage AI to find connections between testers based on shared DNA data. Given the sheer amount of information involved, these match results are only possible with artificial intelligence.

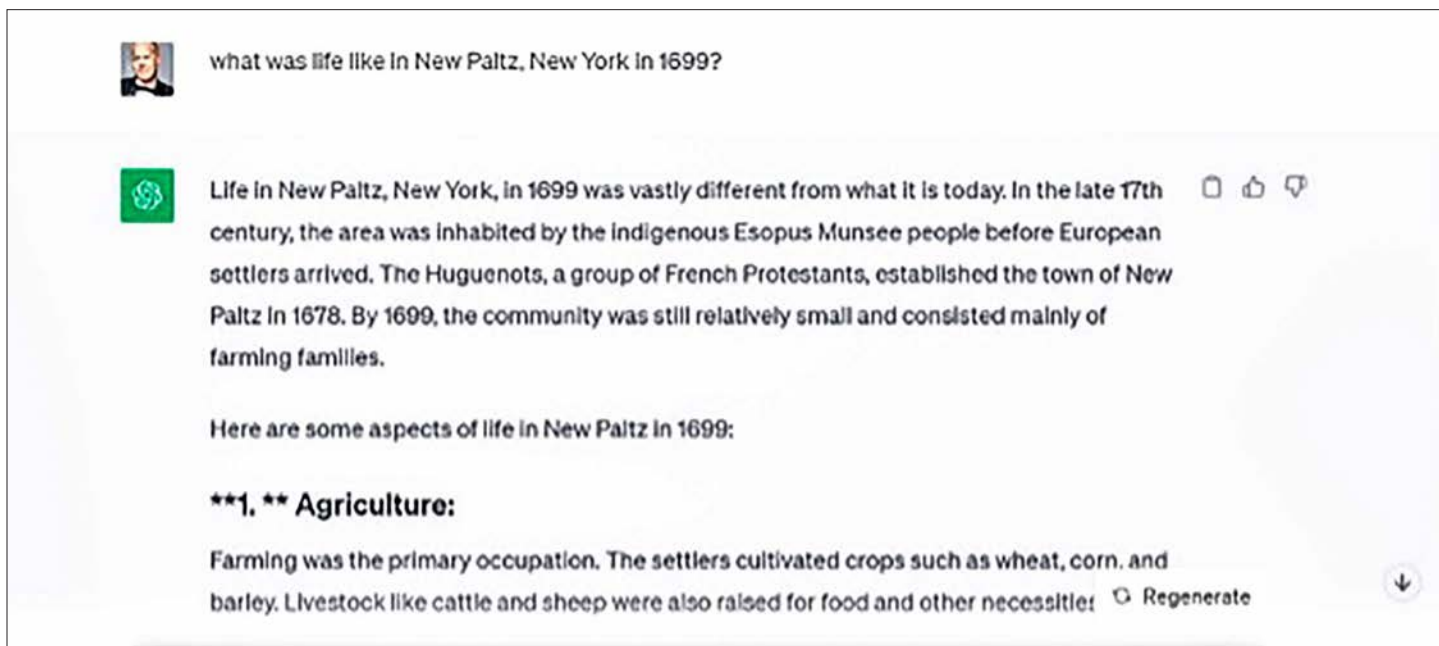
EXAMPLES

Here are a few examples of how you can use the major AI platforms when searching for ancestors.

Social history

Hugo Freer, my 9th great-grandfather, settled in New Paltz, New York along with other Huguenot settlers about 1675. His house - the Freer-Low House - built in 1699 is still standing. Wanting to know more about how Freer lived, I used this query at ChatGPT: **What was life like in New Paltz, New York in 1699?**

The results (below):



The screenshot shows a chat interface with a user profile picture on the left. The user's query is: "what was life like in New Paltz, New York in 1699?". The AI response, indicated by a green circular icon, reads: "Life in New Paltz, New York, in 1699 was vastly different from what it is today. In the late 17th century, the area was inhabited by the indigenous Esopus Munsee people before European settlers arrived. The Huguenots, a group of French Protestants, established the town of New Paltz in 1678. By 1699, the community was still relatively small and consisted mainly of farming families." Below this, the AI says: "Here are some aspects of life in New Paltz in 1699:" followed by a bolded section: "****1. ** Agriculture:**" and then: "Farming was the primary occupation. The settlers cultivated crops such as wheat, corn, and barley. Livestock like cattle and sheep were also raised for food and other necessities!" At the bottom right of the response area, there is a "Regenerate" button and a downward arrow icon.

Source: “What was life like in New Paltz, New York in 1699?” prompt. ChatGPT, ChatGPT 3.5 version, OpenAI, 1 October 2023, <https://chat.openai.com/>.



Source: "What records can I use to locate an ancestor who arrived in New York City in 1881?" prompt. Perplexity, version 1.0.21, Perplexity, 13 October 2023, <https://www.perplexity.ai/>.

The information provided is extensive but also rather generic for any location on the East Coast of the United States. In addition, the section on housing states the use of wooden buildings with thatched roofs, when in fact New Paltz was known for its early homes built using stones excavated from the fields.

Record sets

My 3rd great-grandfather Gustave Henneberg arrived in New York from Germany about 1881. I posed the following query at Perplexity in order to determine which records I should use for research purposes: What records can I use to locate an ancestor who arrived in New York City in 1881?

The results (above):

Perplexity bills itself as different from ChatGPT and Gemini in that it curates sources which are presented at the top of the generated content.

Transcription

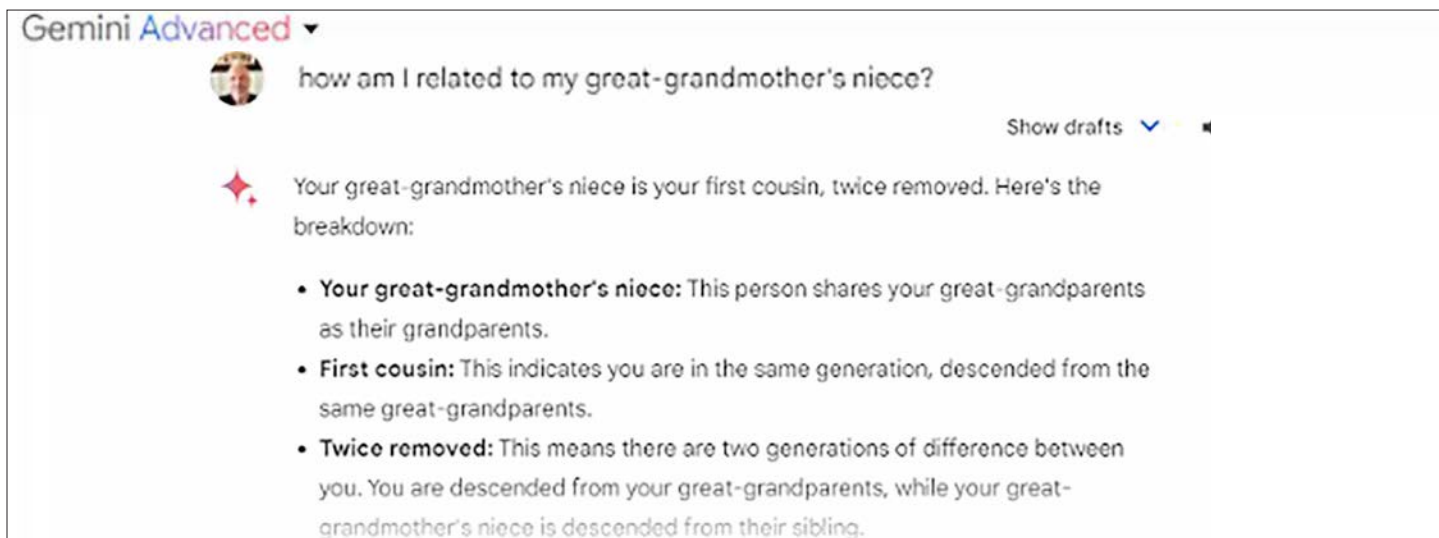
Robert Austin was the brother of my great-grandfather John Ralph Austin (1896-1976). Robert drowned in 1924 at Long Beach, New York while trying to rescue a child. I uploaded a newspaper article about the incident to Gemini and in the query prompt entered: Transcribe

The results (below):

Gemini Advanced did a great job despite the article image having some clarity issues!



Source: Uploaded article "Drowned at Long Beach" with the query "Transcribe verbatim". Gemini, Gemini Advanced version, Google, 8 February 2024, <https://gemini.google.com/>.



Source: "How am I related to my great-grandmother's niece?". Gemini, Gemini Advanced version, Google, 8 February 2024, <https://gemini.google.com/>.

Relationships

During my genealogy research, I've located a person to whom I'm related via a maternal great-grandmother. The document I am using for research states that the person was my great-grandmother's niece. Using Gemini Advanced, I want to determine how I am related to this person. How am I related to my great-grandmother's niece?

The results (above):

COPYRIGHT AND AI

There are several issues involving artificial intelligence and intellectual property that should concern you. Some of these issues have already been discussed and decided by agencies and courts. Many of them, however, have not been resolved.

The two main issues are:

- **AI-generated content:** Can content that is created by artificial intelligence based on your query be copyrighted? What if you ask Gemini to generate an image of what your 5th great-grandfather who fought in the Revolutionary War might look like? And the query was based on your research information as to his physical description taken from letters or diaries? Who owns the resulting image?

Currently, lower courts have stated that AI-generated content cannot be copyrighted since there is no human author. Much like the case of the "Macaque monkey selfie" where a monkey took a selfie photograph using equipment set up by a British photographer, there is no "consent" involved. Animals cannot give consent or enter into a legal agreement so it was determined that the resulting image was

copyright free. The courts are using the same method to determine who owns that ancestor photo you generated using artificial intelligence.

- **Source or reference content:** Which leads to the next copyright issue of how AI platforms are gathering their reference information used to generate content. When asking ChatGPT to generate a sonnet about genealogy in the style of Shakespeare, the algorithm must have Shakespeare's sonnets in order to understand his writing style and create the genealogy sonnet.

In this case, all of Shakespeare's works are in the public domain according to United States copyright laws. But what about an author such as Tom Clancy or Stephen King whose works are still under copyright? And what about AI-generated images or even recordings based on a celebrity's image and voice? Most platforms are not transparent as to what reference content is being used and how it was acquired. This becomes an ethical issue and only furthers general fears about artificial intelligence.

AI AND SOURCE CITATIONS

Those new to genealogy and family history soon learn the importance of source citations in proving relationships as well as facts about an ancestor. Usually source citations document how we find and use records such as census population schedules, death certificates, and even letters or diaries.

For the most part, you won't find records when making queries on an AI platform. But you may find information that serves as a clue for further research or, more likely, as social history about how an ancestor lived. In these situations, a method of citing AI-generated content is needed.

Citing sources need not be intimidating or time consuming. Stick to the basics: the information found, how it was found, information about where it was found, and locator data so another researcher can find the information.

For artificial intelligence content, here's the formula you might consider using as proposed by the Modern Language Association of America (MLA):

"[QUERY]" prompt. [NAME OF AI PLATFORM], [DATE OR VERSION OF PLATFORM], [NAME OF AI COMPANY], [DATE OF QUERY], [PLATFORM URL]

So, if I asked ChatGPT to determine the value of my great-grandfather's home in the 1930 US Census listed as \$80,000 in 2024 dollars, here is the source citation I would use:

"Value of home in the 1930 US Census listed as \$80,000 in 2024 dollars" prompt. ChatGPT, ChatGPT 3.5 version, OpenAI, 1 October 2023, <https://chat.openai.com/>.

FUTURE USES OF AI FOR GENEALOGY

The concern over artificial intelligence in general, and specifically in family history research, is similar to the concern over social media almost 15 years ago. Remember when genealogists were worried about Facebook and X (formerly known as Twitter)?

We are experiencing the "First Phase" of using artificial intelligence when it comes to genealogy and family history research. Five years from now we should be in "Second Phase" mode. What does this mean?

Remember when Netscape was THE BROWSER everyone used when the Internet became popular in the early 1990s? And MYSPACE was THE SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORM? Well, the second phase apps - Google and Facebook respectively - are now the most popular. The second phase of a new technology usually brings vast improvements in terms of functionality, ease-of-use, and value.

Here's a short list of what you can expect to see in the next five years:

- DNA triangulation tools that will quickly determine relationships on family trees.
- Conversion of handwriting into searchable text including older forms of English and German handwriting.
- Creation of source citations for a variety of records using specific formats such as MLA, Evidence Explained, and AP style.
- Discovering connections between F.A.N. club members using digitized historical newspapers content and other records.

- Identification of ancestors in old family photos based on "traits" such as facial features including connecting family members based on similar traits.
- Suggesting records for expanding genealogical searches including those records not yet digitized.

AI: THE GOOD AND THE BAD

With all the "hype" about artificial intelligence, it can be difficult to figure out not only what is true about this technology, but also the benefits and drawbacks. Here is an explanation of the elements of AI that have impacted or will impact how we search for ancestors.

The Good

There seem to be endless possibilities for using artificial intelligence when searching for ancestors. This makes for an exciting time to be doing genealogy.

- Analyzing vast amounts of data: Yes there is a lot of information available online for genealogy research, but humans cannot possibly analyze that information as quickly as artificial intelligence. This allows for discovering new connections between data points and better understanding migration patterns and motivations, F.A.N. club relationships, the impact of social history on our ancestors, and more. What is not obvious immediately to our human minds can be quickly determined by using artificial intelligence.
- Block chaining: I've long been an advocate of using block chaining for genealogy data, especially DNA data. Block chaining involves tagging data with specific information including ownership, and tracking its use by others. The chain of use is kept in a public "ledger" and the owner can better understand who is using that data and why.
- Translation and transcription: As already demonstrated with the release of the 1950 US Census images, AI promises to make the transcription and translation of record images faster and easier. I recently uploaded a newspaper clipping from a historical newspaper that has not yet been digitized, and the AI platform did an amazing job in transcribing the content.
- Timelines and mapping: For those genealogists who want to fill in the "dash" between an ancestor's birth date and death date, artificial intelligence can help build complex timelines as well as "map" event dates to locations for a better understanding of how our ancestors lived.

The Bad

While many see artificial intelligence as a panacea that can cure many problems that come with genealogical research, AI can also be a Pandora's box filled with its own set of problems.

- **Lack of transparency:** One of the biggest issues for users of AI is the inability of the user to determine the source of the reference material used when generating content. Another issue: recognizing AI-generated content. Most users are not adding source citations to AI-generated content or watermarks to AI-generated images.
- **Bias:** Studies have proven that many AI platforms can be biased, especially since content used as reference material is supplied by humans. The same biases we see in terms of race, gender, and age are easily replicated by artificial intelligence. Recent examples have included a bias towards generating white or caucasian faces rather than people of color when asked to create certain types of images.
- **Copyright:** Many copyright and intellectual property issues related to AI have popped up in the past year. US courts have ruled that content created by artificial intelligence cannot be copyrighted. In addition, several content creators including authors and performers have sued major AI platforms such as ChatGPT and Gemini for scraping copyright protected content from the internet to help create AI-generated content.
- **False information:** As platforms using AI gather information, who or what is determining what is true and what is false? A recent example of a law firm submitting a legal filing created by artificial intelligence - resulting in a list of fictitious court cases to support legal arguments - demonstrates the problem. This

RESOURCES

- AI & Genealogy: Harnessing the Power of Artificial Intelligence for Family History Research, MyHeritage Knowledgebase (<https://education.myheritage.com/article/ai-genealogy>)
- BanyanDNA (<https://www.banyandna.com>)
- ChatGPT (<https://chat.openai.com/>)
- Gemini (<https://gemini.google.com/>)
- Genealogy and Artificial Intelligence (AI), Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1255245945084761>)
- Genealogy Eyes - ChatGPT (<https://chat.openai.com/g/g-gmIA5mh6-genealogy-eyes>)
- How do I cite generative AI in MLA style? - Modern Language Association of America (<https://style.mla.org/citing-generative-ai/>)
- Perplexity (<https://www.perplexity.ai/>)

is another reason that “human review” is often required before relying upon AI-generated content.

- **Privacy violations:** Artificial intelligence can quickly collect data entered at genealogy platforms when performing research and creating family trees. In addition, users are tracked as to searches performed and this data is analyzed to create new features and products. More importantly, DNA data is captured and despite privacy policies that ensure the use of only metadata, recent computer hacks at vendors such as 23andMe have caused a steep decline in the number of people using personal DNA test kits.
- **High costs:** While not often discussed, deploying artificial intelligence can be expensive for vendors, resulting in higher prices for the genealogy consumer. The machines and servers used for AI processes require more powerful chips as well as simply just more power to run. Besides an increase in costs, there are environmental and climate impact costs through the need for more energy to power AI computers.

CONCLUSION

Artificial intelligence is seen as powerful but also as something to be feared. It isn't much different than how our earliest ancestors reacted to the discovery of fire. That new technology had great benefits and advanced progress in many areas of human life. But fire also brought new dangers and uses that might not have been anticipated.

The best way to cut through the current hype and misinformation around AI is to stay informed. Learn from other genealogists how they are using artificial intelligence to improve their genealogy research.

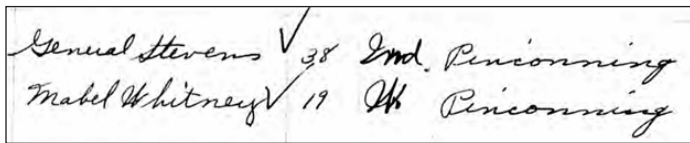
Whether you decide to take a full plunge or just dip your toe in the AI pond, you'll discover amazing possibilities and ways to take your search for your roots to the next level.

The Native American Heritage of General Stevens (1860–1934) of Saginaw and Bay Counties, Michigan: Two Sources

Nanci Remington

My research on General Stevens began while helping a friend determine if the stories of Native American ancestry were correct. I discovered two interesting sources of information, namely, the United States Census Indian Schedules and the Carlisle Indian School Records.

After following multiple marriages, divorces, and changing surnames, I determined that my friend’s great-grandfather was General Stevens. General’s third wife was Mable Eunice Whitney, my friend’s great-grandmother. Their marriage record lists General’s race as Indian.¹



Snippet from 1911 marriage record.

Mabel and General married in 1911 and divorced in 1919.² Both events took place in Bay County, Michigan. Further research led to the names of General’s other wives and children, as well as his parents.³ That information, along with collateral research, led to two very interesting and unique sources.

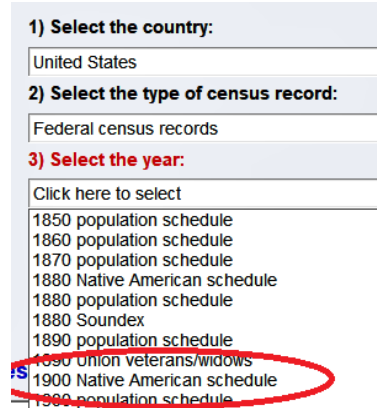
THE 1900 UNITED STATES CENSUS INDIAN SCHEDULES

In 1900, General Stevens was enumerated on the U.S. census living with then wife Nancy Sawmick and four children.⁴

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|----------|----|----|------|------|----|----|----|---|---|
| Stevens General | Head | 31 | 31 | Sept | 1864 | 35 | 9m | 14 | | |
| Wife | Wife | 34 | 34 | Jan | 1871 | 28 | 9m | 14 | 5 | 4 |
| Lucy | daughter | 14 | 14 | Nov | 1886 | 13 | | | | |
| Agnes | daughter | 14 | 14 | Jan | 1891 | 8 | | | | |
| Isaac | son | 14 | 14 | Jan | 1896 | 5 | | | | |
| Raymond | son | 14 | 14 | Oct | 1897 | 3 | | | | |

Excerpt from the 1900 United States Federal Census, General Population Schedule, General Stevens [Stevens]. The column for “Color or Race” was recorded as “Indian” but indexed as White.

I went to add the source citation using the template included with my desktop genealogy program.⁵ The first step was to enter the type of record. Each item provided a dropdown menu of items to choose from. As I began the citation for the 1900 census for General Stevens, I chose United States Federal census records and started to select the 1900 population schedule. But I saw something I had never noticed before—one of the choices was a 1900 Native American schedule.



1. “Michigan, U.S., Marriage Records, 1867–1952,” Bay County, Return of Marriages, record number 14017, General Stevens and Mabel Whitney, 24 February 1911; digital image, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/601191:9093?ssrc=pt&tid=153749201&pid=212032421895> : accessed 29 June 2023).

2. “Michigan, U.S., Divorce Records 1897–1923,” Bay County, Return Relative to Divorces, record number 6451, Mable Stevens and General Stevens, 2 July 1919; digital image, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/6469590:9092?ssrc=pt&tid=153749201&pid=212032421895> : accessed 29 June 2023).

3. More information about the lineage of General Stevens and Mable Whitney was in a private tree on *Ancestry*. Much, but not all, is also found in the *FamilySearch* family tree. The ID for General Stevens is LB8N-S46; *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/LB8N-S46> : accessed 29 June 2023).

4. 1900 U.S. census, Bay County, Michigan, Pinconning Township, population schedule, Enumeration District (ED) 56, sheet 18, dwelling 264, family 264, General Stephens; digital image, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-D8QL-DN?cc=1325221&wc=9BQ2-L2G%3A1030554301%2C1032712101%2C1032823901> : accessed 29 June 2023); citing NARA microfilm T623. The surname is spelled Stephens on the 1900 census. On most records, the spelling is Stevens. The given name is recorded as General on all records.

5. According to the publisher, *SourceWriter* creates sources that meet “genealogy industry standards.” *Millenia, Legacy Family Tree* (<https://legacyfamilytree.com/> : accessed 22 August 2022), Legacy 9.0 Deluxe Edition Features.

An entry in the FamilySearch Wiki explained the difference between this schedule and the American Indian Census Rolls.⁶ More research found that in 1900 and 1910, additional information was collected for Native Americans.⁷ This information, on a page titled "Indian Population," was added to the census at the end of each township or county. On the 1900 census, it is at the end of the township and can be reached by clicking on the "next" arrow when looking at the online image of the census pages.

There are two parts to the schedule. The top half includes the same information as the regular population schedule. But the bottom half of the page, titled "Special Inquiries Relating to Indians," contains information such as Other Names; Nativity, which included the tribe of the individual and both parents; whether the individual was of Mixed Blood and, if yes, a percentage; Conjugal Condition; Citizenship information; and Dwelling type.

The instructions printed on the page state:

Detached Indians living either in white or negro families outside of reservations should be enumerated on the general population schedule (Form 7-224) as members of the families in which they are found; but detached whites or negroes living in Indian families should be enumerated on this schedule as members of Indian families in which they are found. In other words, every family composed mainly of Indians should be reported entirely on this schedule, and every family composed mainly of persons not Indian should be reported entirely on the general population schedule.

The names that appear on the Indian Schedule, at least for Pinconning Township, Bay County, Michigan, are indexed on Ancestry.com but link to the wrong image. The pages are indexed on FamilySearch, but the search results look almost identical to the general population schedule. It would be easy to miss this information on either site.

County Bay **INDIAN POPULATION.**
 Township or other division of county Pinconning Township
 Name of incorporated city, town, or village, within the above-named division, _____
 Enumerated by me on the 1st day of June, 1900, John C. Stevens

| LOCATION. | NAME | RELATION | PERSONAL DESCRIPTION | | | | NATIVITY. | |
|-----------|---------------------|----------|----------------------|-----|------|------|--------------------------------|---|
| | | | SEX | AGE | HAIR | EYES | Place of birth of this Person. | Place of birth of Parents of this Person. |
| 147-147 | Sambin James | Head | M | 34 | Brn | Blu | Michigan | Michigan |
| | Thomas | Wife | F | 32 | Blk | Blu | Michigan | Michigan |
| 264-264 | Frank Thomas | Head | M | 31 | Blk | Blu | Michigan | Michigan |
| | Martha | Wife | F | 28 | Blk | Blu | Michigan | Michigan |
| | Isabel | Daughter | F | 4 | Blk | Blu | Michigan | Michigan |
| | Sarah | Daughter | F | 2 | Blk | Blu | Michigan | Michigan |
| 263-263 | Selwick Eliza | Head | F | 27 | Blk | Blu | Michigan | Michigan |
| | John | Son | M | 7 | Blk | Blu | Michigan | Michigan |
| | Samson | Son | M | 7 | Blk | Blu | Michigan | Michigan |
| | Martha | Daughter | F | 2 | Blk | Blu | Michigan | Michigan |
| | David | Son | M | 5 | Blk | Blu | Michigan | Michigan |
| | Stella | Daughter | F | 4 | Blk | Blu | Michigan | Michigan |
| | Arnon | Son | M | 2 | Blk | Blu | Michigan | Michigan |
| 244-244 | Stephens General | Head | M | 34 | Blk | Blu | Michigan | Michigan |
| | Emily | Wife | F | 32 | Blk | Blu | Michigan | Michigan |
| | Agnes | Daughter | F | 18 | Blk | Blu | Michigan | Michigan |
| | Lucy | Daughter | F | 15 | Blk | Blu | Michigan | Michigan |
| | John | Son | M | 12 | Blk | Blu | Michigan | Michigan |
| | Raymond | Son | M | 7 | Blk | Blu | Michigan | Michigan |
| 247-247 | Shanbiquamon Thomas | Head | M | 64 | Blk | Blu | Michigan | Michigan |

SCHEDULE No. 1.—POPULATION—
SPECIAL INQUIRIES RELATING

| OTHER NAME, IF ANY. | NATIVITY. | | | MIXED BLOOD. | CONJUGAL CONDITION. | CITIZENSHIP. | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|---------------------|--|-------------------------|----------------------|
| | Title of this Person. | Title of Father of this Person. | Title of Mother of this Person. | | | Is this Indian (or mixed blood) in property? | Year of naturalization. | Year of citizenship. |
| Lo-gon-gong | Potawatomi | Potawatomi | Potawatomi | No | Yes | No | None | No |
| Mawela | Chippewa | Chippewa | Chippewa | Yes | Yes | No | | |
| Nah-Beeh-sagau | Chippewa | Chippewa | Chippewa | No | Yes | Yes | | No |
| None | Chippewa | Chippewa | Chippewa | No | Yes | Yes | | No |
| None | Chippewa | Chippewa | Chippewa | No | Yes | Yes | | |
| None | Chippewa | Chippewa | Chippewa | No | Yes | Yes | | |
| Selwick | Chippewa | Chippewa | Chippewa | No | Yes | Yes | | |
| Woo-wa-maw | Chippewa | Chippewa | Chippewa | No | Yes | Yes | | |
| None | Chippewa | Chippewa | Chippewa | No | Yes | Yes | | |
| None | Chippewa | Chippewa | Chippewa | No | Yes | Yes | | |
| None | Chippewa | Chippewa | Chippewa | No | Yes | Yes | | |
| None | Chippewa | Chippewa | Chippewa | No | Yes | Yes | | |
| None | Chippewa | Chippewa | Chippewa | No | Yes | Yes | | |
| None | Chippewa | Chippewa | Chippewa | No | Yes | Yes | | |
| None | Chippewa | Chippewa | Chippewa | No | Yes | Yes | | |
| None | Chippewa | Chippewa | Chippewa | No | Yes | Yes | | |
| None | Chippewa | Chippewa | Chippewa | No | Yes | Yes | | |
| None | Chippewa | Chippewa | Chippewa | No | Yes | Yes | | |
| None | Chippewa | Chippewa | Chippewa | No | Yes | Yes | | |
| Shanbiquamon Thomas | Chippewa | Chippewa | Chippewa | No | Yes | Yes | | Yes |

Excerpt from the 1900 Indian Population Schedule for Pinconning Township. General Stevens appeared with his English name at the top and his Native name at the bottom.

In the case of General Stevens, he was enumerated in both the general population schedule and, a few pages later, on the Indian Population Schedule, where he and his family were recorded as full-blooded Indians from the Chippewa tribe.⁸

6. FamilySearch > FamilySearch Wiki > "United States Special Inquires Related to Indians," database ([https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/United States Special Inquiries Relating to Indians](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/United_States_Special_Inquiries_Relating_to_Indians) : accessed 29 June 2023).

7. Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness, "Research Guide – U.S. Census Records/1850-1940 Native American Census Schedules," database (<https://raogk.org/census-records/native-american/> : accessed 29 June 2023).

8. 1900 U.S. census, Bay County, Michigan, Pinconning Township, Indian Population Schedule, ED 56, sheet 23, dwelling 264, family 264, General Stephens; digital image, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-D8QG-7F?cc=1325221&wcc=9BQ2-L2G%3A1030554301%2C1032712101%2C1032823901> : accessed 29 June 2023); citing NARA microfilm T623.

| | | |
|----|--------|---------------------------|
| 14 | 264264 | Stephens General |
| 15 | | Nancy |
| 16 | | Lucy |
| 17 | | Agnie |
| 18 | | Isaac |
| 19 | | Raymond |
| 14 | | Stw-Wah-tie-shik Chippewa |
| 15 | | none Chippewa |
| 16 | | none Chippewa |
| 17 | | none Chippewa |
| 18 | | none Chippewa |
| 19 | | none Chippewa |

Corresponding entries from the top and bottom sections of the 1900 Indian Population Schedule for General Stevens.

General's mother, Ellen, was also enumerated on both schedules. The general population schedule reports that she and the two children living with her are Indian.⁹ The Indian Population Schedule reports that Ellen is full-blooded Indian of the Chippewa tribe and that her children are half Indian.¹⁰

Tracking General Stevens was challenging on many levels, and this record confirmed his Native heritage. The record for his mother was especially helpful when connecting her to General's father on the 1860 census, where she was recorded with her Native name.

CARLISLE INDIAN SCHOOL RECORDS

Nancy Sawmick was General's second wife. No marriage record has been found, but the children have records that name their father as General Stevens and their mother as Nancy Sawmick. Researching Nancy's children, even though they are only distant relatives, led to the most interesting find of all the research.



"Indian School Band and Girls Quarters, Carlisle, PA, 1909." National Archives and Records Administration, via Dickinson College Collection. This photo was found in an interesting article by the National Park Service, "The Carlisle Indian Industrial School: Assimilation with Education after the Indian Wars (Teaching with Historic Places)," (<https://www.nps.gov/articles/the-carlisle-indian-industrial-school-assimilation-with-education-after-the-indian-wars-teaching-with-historic-places.htm> : accessed 7 June 2023).

| | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|---------------|----------|----------|-----|
| 6 | 44294 | Stevens Ellen | Head | In | In |
| 7 | | Celia | daughter | In | In |
| 8 | | James | son | In | In |
| 9 | | Sarah | daughter | In | In |
| 6 | A-Was-e-ge-go-gua | Chippewa | Chippewa | Chippewa | no |
| 7 | Was-ju-no | Chippewa | White | Chippewa | 1/2 |
| 8 | none | Chippewa | White | Chippewa | 1/2 |
| 9 | Bam-be-ges-quok | Chippewa | Chippewa | Chippewa | no |

The 1900 Indian Population Schedule. Ellen, General's mother, appears at the top and bottom of the page. Her children are noted to be one-half Chippewa.

9. 1900 U.S. census, Bay County, Michigan, Pinconning Township, population schedule, ED 56, sheet 20, dwelling 294, family 294, Ellen Stephens; digital image, FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-D8QG-V8?i=38&wc=9BQ2-L2G%3A103054301%2C1032712101%2C1032823901+&cc=1325221> : accessed 29 June 2023); citing NARA microfilm T623.

10. 1900 U.S. census, Bay County, Michigan, Pinconning Township, Indian Population Schedule, ED 56, sheet 24, dwelling 294, family 294, Ellen Stephens; digital image, FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-D8QL-KQ?i=44&wc=9BQ2-L2G%3A103054301%2C1032712101%2C1032823901+&cc=1325221> : accessed 29 June 2023); citing NARA microfilm T623.

Application for Enrollment in a Nonreservation School.

(For a child not enrolled at an Agency.)

For and in consideration of the United States assuming the care, education, and maintenance in the United States Indian School at Carlisle, Penna., of Lucy Stevens, (Name of child.) (Sex.) I, Nancy Stevens (Parent, guardian, or next of kin.) of Pinconning P. O., State of Mich., do hereby voluntarily consent and agree to The enrollment in said school for a period of five years, and also obligate and bind myself to abide by all the rules and regulations for Indian schools.

I further say that the said child was born at Saginaw Co on July 22, 1878; (Date.) that the father, General Stevens (Name of father.) is a 1/2 Indian of the Chippewa Tribe located at Pinconning Agency; that he left the tribe about did not; (Approximate date.) that the mother, Nancy Stevens (Name.) is a full Indian of the Chippewa Tribe located at Pinconning Agency, and left the tribe about did not; (Approximate date.)

Excerpt from enrollment form for Lucy Stevens.

Nancy and General's two daughters both spent time at the Carlisle Indian School in Carlisle, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania. This was discovered on the 1910 census where the residence for both girls was the "Girls Dormitory," and their occupation was "Ration Indian."¹¹

Looking for information about the school led to the Carlisle Indian School Digital Resource Center.¹² This site not only gives a history and photos of the school, but it also has student records that are available online. And there are records for Lucy and Agnes Stevens.

From these papers, we learn that General Stevens was "a 1/2 Indian of the Chippewa [Ojibwe] Tribe located at Pinconning Agency" and that Nancy was a "full Indian of the Chippewa Tribe located at Pinconning Agency." There is so much more about the girls' life at the school, about the places they lived when boarded out as housekeepers, and of their return to Michigan.

ADDENDA

My friend took a DNA test. The results report his ethnicity as 8.0% Native American, which indicates a

second-great-grandparent being Native American. The paper trail leads to General's mother, Ellen, a member of the Ojibwe/Chippewa tribe of Michigan.



Agnes and Lucy enrolled in September of 1908 when Agnes was 19 and Lucy was 10. This photograph shows students from that same era. "A. Ella Johnson and unidentified students at the Carlisle Indian School, c. 1909." Images, Carlisle Indian School Digital Resource Center. Citing NARA_1327_b141_f5541_0002.

11. 1910 U.S. census, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, Middlesex Township, Indian Population Schedule, ED 32, sheet 25A, Carlisle Indian School, lines 9 and 10, Agnes and Lucy Stevens; digital image, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MG6N-NCY> : accessed 29 June 2023); citing NARA microfilm T624.

12. Carlisle Indian Industrial School, Pennsylvania "Carlisle Indian School Digital Resource Center," student files, information and progress cards, 1908–1913, Lucy and Agnes Stevens; digital image, "Student Records," (<https://carlisleindian.dickinson.edu> : accessed 29 June 2023).

Book Review

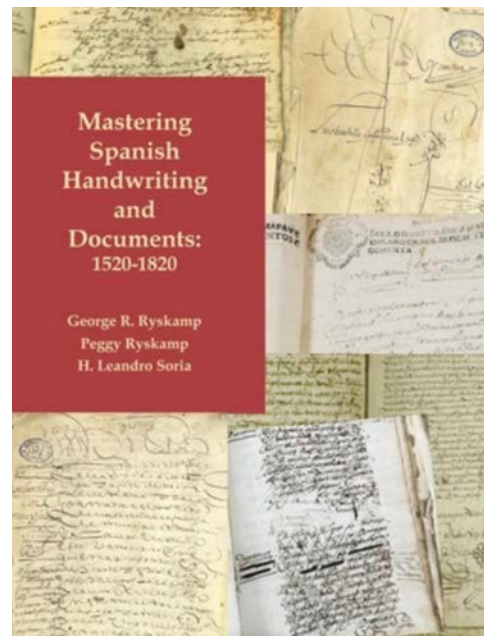
Finding Your Hispanic Roots

Harold E. Hinds Jr.

Title: **Mastering Spanish Handwriting and Documents: 1520–1820**
Author: George R. Ryskamp, Peggy Ryskamp, H. Leandro Soria
Publisher: Genealogical Publishing Company
Publication Date: 2023
Pages: 330
Price: \$60.00 + shipping
Order from: Genealogical.com
GFO Call No.: 946 .How-To Hand Lang Rysk

George R. Ryskamp was synonymous with the development of Hispanic genealogy in the U.S. In 1984 he published *Tracing Your Hispanic Heritage* (Riverside, CA: Hispanic Family History Research), the pioneering study of Hispanic genealogy. This seminal volume was followed over the years by the following: *A Student's Guide to Mexican American Genealogy* (Phoenix, AZ, Oryx Press, 1996); *Find Your Hispanic Roots* (Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1997); and with his wife, Peggy H. Ryskamp, *Finding Your Mexican Ancestors: A Beginner's Guide* (Provo, UT: Ancestry Publishing, 2007). All of these are available at the Genealogical Forum of Oregon's library. These volumes provide a basic to intermediate introduction to the field. If you are a true beginner, perhaps it would be best to start with Peggy and George's 2007 volume, despite its primary focus on Mexico.

In 1993 he was hired by Brigham Young University (BYU) to establish a focus on Hispanic genealogy. I first met George at the 1994 National Genealogical Society Conference at Houston, Texas. We found ourselves luncheon partners and quickly discovered we were probably the only two Latin American scholars in attendance. We stayed in contact. In 1996, I was invited to deliver a lecture at BYU on Tepoztlán, Mexico, and George spent most of the day introducing me to the BYU genealogy library, and the genealogical and history faculty. Then over the following years, I had the privilege of serving as a non-BYU expert in accessing George's scholarship as he sought promotions in the History Department's Family History section. In 2013, George suddenly became ill with acute pancreatitis and would never fully recover. He died 1 July 2022.



Mastering Spanish Handwriting and Documents: 1520–1820 (Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co, 2023), produced with Peggy and George's former student, H. Leandro Soria, is George's crowning achievement. Although the book was launched in 2012, it was not published until well after George's death. In the Acknowledgements the surviving authors comment that "we had no idea of the unexpected health issues that would affect its completion" (p. xi). Given its posthumous publication and that no attribution as to which parts were contributed by the survivors, it's impossible to know who was mainly responsible for the various parts, although evidently its basic outline followed a course that George and Leandro took in Avila, Spain.

The authors suggest three different approaches to reading the volume: Beginning Level, Intermediate Level, and Advanced Level. This division evidently was in response to an advance appraisal of the text. James Scott Taylor commented "Who is your intended audience: beginning researchers, advanced genealogists, or professional historians?" The author's response: the "intended audience encompasses all three" (p. xvii). "The initial concepts for the handwriting study found in this book is one developed while the authors worked with students at the Center for Family History and Genealogy at Brigham Young University in creating the Spanish Script Tutorial

at script.byu.edu” (p. xvii). Unfortunately, while BYU students, perhaps comprised of native Spanish speakers, students returning from a two-year mission in a Spanish-speaking country, or advanced majors in Spanish, could certainly benefit from the Book’s and Tutorial’s guidance and examples, this is not a beginner’s text, unless you have at least three years of college instruction in Spanish or are a native speaker. Even then, a rudimentary knowledge of paleography is indispensable. As a survivor of a graduate-level course partly devoted to Colonial Spanish handwritten documents, my assessment is that unless you have achieved the following, this book is not for you: (1) you read printed Spanish with ease, (2) you are adept at reading cursive documents in your native language, (3) you have traced a Hispanic family line back to the Colonial period, which implies a working knowledge of 19th-century handwriting, (4) you are willing to devote considerable time and effort working through examples in the book and online at BYU’s tutorial.

The book aims to go beyond mastering handwriting: “This book takes family and local historians beyond those basic elements [in handwriting study], enticing them [you] to explore documents in historical, institutional,

social and cultural contexts, giving them a deeper, more accurate and fulfilling research experience” (p. xv). So beyond a focus on *Cortesana Procestral*, and especially *Itálica* handwriting styles, and on basic parish records (birth, confirmation, marriage, and death), the authors provide the larger historical and cultural context of documents’ language, format, and procedures.

In addition, documents have been selected to “reflect central themes encompassed within the mentalities of the people” (p. xv). In this regard, the chapters devoted to notarial records (8–9, 11) are invaluable. These capture multiple aspects of everyday life and business transactions. When letters rarely survive, they provide a window into the pre-modern and colonial worlds, especially at the local level.

Finally, the “Follow-up reading in footnoted and bibliographic sources will point toward concepts that give a historical perspective on life in Spain and her colonies from 1492 to 1820” (p. xv). In general, these recommendations are excellent for Spanish-language studies, but at times pertinent English-language sources are omitted, e.g., Ruth Pike’s excellent *Aristocrats and Traders: Sevillian Society in the Sixteenth Century* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1972).

Genealogical Forum of Oregon **GenTalk**

MEXICAN AND SPANISH COLONIAL GENEALOGY RESEARCH

July 20, 2024 ☀️ 2:30 p.m. PT

Free Registration at gfo.org/gentalk >

Presenter
Moises Garza

Book Review

The Story of Yorktown: Told by the Men Who Were There

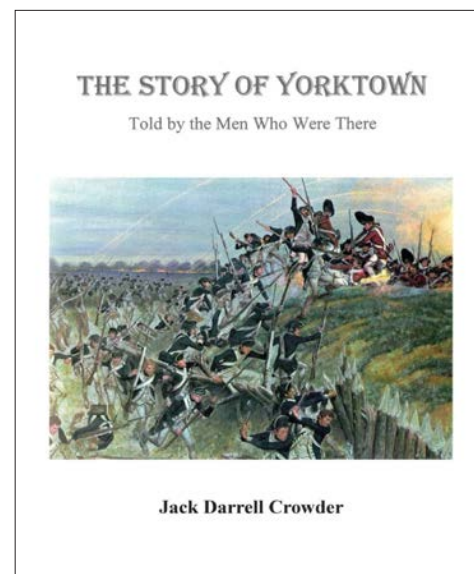
Reviewed by Sheridan Lucas

Author: Jack Darrell Crowder
Publisher: Clearfield
Publication Date: 2023
Pages: 238
Price: \$35.77 + shipping
Order from: Genealogical.com
GFO Call No.: 975.45 York York .Mil-Yr 1781 Crow

Let me start with this: I found this book to be both fascinating and frustrating.

Author Jack Darrell Crowder is a historian and educator who specializes in the American Revolutionary War. He has written many books focused on specialized areas of the war such as the role of women, different ethnic groups, chaplains, and underaged soldiers. In this book, he uses original sources to tell the story of the battle of Yorktown. I thought I was going to review a standard history book, but this was more like a manual on forts and weapons. I think a person interested in military weapons, tactics, and warfare would really enjoy it. At least, I now know the difference between cannons, howitzers, and mortars. In other words, field artillery. The sections on building forts, trenches, defensive lines, and other methods to advance an attack front were way too detailed to hold my interest, by virtue of the great number of terms and detailed descriptions used by both sides of the conflict. Add to that the many tactics for assault and defense and my head was spinning.

I feel that the author went to great lengths to examine every original document that he could get his hands on, including the main players: Yankees, British, French, and Hessian. I was somewhat bothered by the few typos and grammar errors of the author that should have been caught by the proofreader. On the other hand, the author kept the original spelling and errors by the writers, and when there was a need to explain archaic terms, he put his explanation in brackets. What I did like was the viewpoint of the various groups.



There was a difference between some of the letters. Many were clear and modern sounding. Others were convoluted. Like George Washington's, for example. His thoughts and syntax wandered all over the page and one had to pay attention to get his point.

I also learned other things. The French were highly trained and well-regarded soldiers who did far more to help the colonies during this war than our history books give them credit for. As usual, Black men got the shaft from all sides. They were turned out to starve when food ran low and the British even deliberately released the former enslaved men and sent them over to the American lines when they were found to have smallpox. When the British ran out of food for their horses, they killed one thousand of them and polluted the river around Yorktown with their carcasses. I'm not sure why they didn't release them to have a chance to forage or at least eat some of them. (Yes, some cultures eat horsemeat. It beats starving.) This war was far more brutal than I ever imagined.

General Cornwallis surrendered in October 1781. Sporadic fighting continued for another two years—another thing our history books don't mention. The King of England wanted to keep fighting, but the British public was tired of the war. He lost his support and finally realized he'd better turn his attention to the rest of his empire which was shrinking in Europe. It really was a miracle that the Americans prevailed. They would never have won the war without their allies and the French, especially, deserve more recognition than they get. It was a long, hard-fought war with horrific casualties, injuries, and hardships endured by all sides. Kudos to Mr. Crowder for using original sources from all sides and letting them tell us the story of this war in their own words.

Book Review

Genealogical Research in Ohio, 3rd Edition

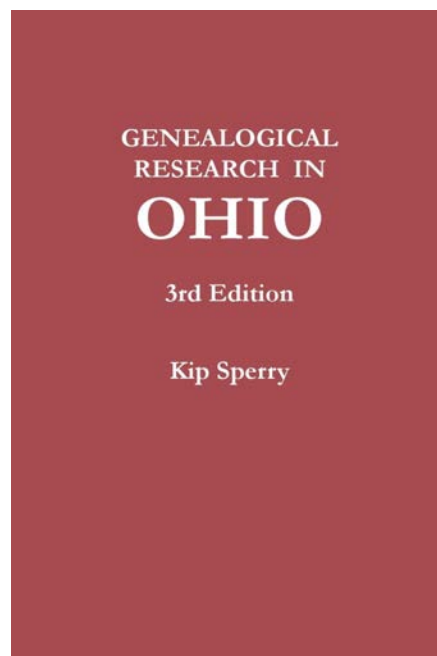
Reviewed by Anne Sharp

Author: Kip Sperry
 Publisher: Genealogical Publishing Company
 Publication Date: 2023
 Pages: 352
 Price: \$45.00 + shipping
 Order from: Genealogical.com
 GFO Call No.: 977.10 .How-To Sper 2023

Noted genealogical scholar and Brigham Young University family history professor emeritus Kip Sperry specializes in the history of the American Midwest, particularly Ohio. In the third edition of *Genealogical Research in Ohio*, he shares research sources and tips which are drawn from his decades of research and teaching.

Mr. Sperry begins with a list of fun facts about Ohio, a detailed chronology, and a brief history of the state. He adds recommendations for books which delve deeper into the history of Ohio. A listing of abbreviations is provided for easy reference.

The author first lists libraries and archives, in Ohio and beyond, which contain genealogy records. Included are a variety of sources such as genealogical organizations, family search centers, libraries, and lineage societies. Each entry consists of the resource name, the type of information which can be found, and both physical and online addresses. Some addresses are very specific such as the direct email address for requesting obituaries from Ohio newspapers. Many resources, such as the Palatines to America Collection and the Huguenot Collection, are also helpful to researchers beyond Ohio, especially in neighboring states. The author offers tips on the best way to search a particular archive's online catalog for finding genealogical records. He recommends guides to repositories.



Mr. Sperry then recommends sources from major records such as vital statistics and census records to those less known such as documents from fraternal organizations and social registers. Each entry contains locations and recommendations for further reading on the subject, both specific and general. The section on land and property records is helpful as Ohio has an especially complicated history of land grants and surveys. Numerous maps, charts, and illustrations help clarify the complexity.

The third edition of *Genealogical Research in Ohio* is a tremendous resource for beginning to advanced researchers. While the book details research specific to Ohio, it also outlines methodology and a thorough listing of records to consider which would be valuable for anyone interested in growing their genealogy research skills.

In Memoriam

Jerome Keenan Fulton

(1941–2024)

Jerome Fulton died on 26 January 2024, just two weeks shy of his 83rd birthday. He was, with his wife Mary, a member of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon since 2009, where he attended the Great Lakes Region and British Special Interest Groups meetings through 2021, along with Forum seminars and other events.

Jerome was born on 15 February 1941 in Chicago, Cook County, Illinois. He was the only child of William and Susan (Keenan) Fulton, both high school teachers. After graduating from Calumet High School, he completed a Bachelor of Science degree at Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois. Following in his father's footsteps, he pursued the field of science, completing a master's from the University of Chicago, and a PhD in Natural Resources from the University of Michigan. It was here that he met his wife Mary Wills, and they married in 1965.

With Mary and their two children, Jerome moved to Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon, where he taught science at Sam Barlow and Marshall High Schools. He was a bicycle commuter throughout his working years until retirement. Among his many interests were cycling, square dancing, astronomy, travel, performing arts events, and environmentalism. He volunteered at Leach Botanical Garden, the Oregon Natural Desert Association, and Multnomah Soil and Water District.

Jerome was an avid genealogist and compiled a large family tree on the Family Search website. The tree includes his paternal Fulton side and his mother's Keenan family. During his research he traveled to the Scottish Borderlands and to County Down, Ireland, where he found the Keenan horse farm "The Course" and traces of its old racetrack. GFO members and volunteers recall Jerome's intelligence, warmth, humor, and thoughtful input in meetings.

Survivors include his wife Mary W. Fulton, son Richard H. Fulton, daughter Nancy J. Fulton, and two grandsons.



GFO JUNE 2024 EVENTS

Check the calendar for the URL to participate in online events: gfo.org/calendar.

Saturday, June 1

10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Virginia Roots
& Vines

1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m. German Group

Monday, June 3

10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. RootsMagic

Wednesday, June 5

10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Learn and Chat

Sunday, June 9

2:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m. The Writers' Room

Tuesday, June 11

6:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m. Board Meeting

Tuesday, June 12

1:30 p.m.–3:00 p.m. Great Lakes
Interest Group

Thursday, June 13

6:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m. Q Review

Saturday, June 15

9:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m. Genealogical
Problem Solvers

12:00 p.m.–2:00 p.m. African American
Ancestry

2:30 p.m.–2:45 p.m. General Meeting

2:45 p.m. GenTalk:
Let the Tower
Lights be Burning

Sunday, June 16

1:30 p.m.–3:00 p.m. Family Tree Maker

Wednesday, June 19

1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m. DNA Q&A