



The Bulletin

Quarterly Magazine of the
Genealogical Forum of Oregon

Volume 67, Number 4

June, 2018

In This Issue:

- *Spanish Flu of 1918—Missing Memories of Betty (Krantz) Winther*
- *Linnemann Family Reconnects after 200 years*
- *The Woodbury Chronicles*
- *Origin of John Radcliffe*
- *Finding George Washington Bell (Beall)*
- *Perry Milton Albin Bible*
- *Share Your Genealogy—Why Wait?*
- *Spotlight, Writing Tips, Book Reviews, And More!*

The Unlikely Suicide of William A. James

Kate Eakman



Was it suicide or murder?

SATURDAY, JULY 7
 9:30 a.m. to noon
FRITZ JUENGLING, PhD, AG



HALF-DAY SEMINAR GERMAN GENEALOGY



MEYER'S GAZETTEER
CHURCH & CIVIL RECORDS

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Learn how to read the old records. This class will detail the strategies that the experts use when reading old records. With a few tricks, some work and perseverance, a person can unlock these old records.

FRITZ JUENGLING, PhD, AG®

Dr. Juengling received his Bachelor's degrees in German Studies and Secondary Education at Western Oregon University, his Master's and Doctorate in Germanic Philology with minors in both English and Linguistics at the University of Minnesota. Germanic Philology is highly specialized, combining languages, linguistics, paleography and history. His graduate degrees required competence in English, German, Medieval Latin and two other modern languages. He chose Dutch and Norwegian. He also took courses in Old and Middle High German. He is an Accredited Genealogist® for Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, and Sweden through the International Commission for the Accreditation of Professional Genealogists, and certified by the *Verband deutschsprachiger Berufsgenealogen*. Dr. Juengling is a Research Consultant at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah.

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GENEALOGICAL FORUM OF OREGON

GENTALK

SAT., AUG. 18
2 P.M.

GETTING READY TO CHECK OUT: END OF LIFE PLANNING

with
Leslie Brinkley Lawson



Photo: Creative Commons, Teresa Alexander-Arab

As genealogists, we love end-of-life records: death certificates, probate/estate paperwork, cemetery records, obituaries, etc. But in our personal lives, maybe we're not so enthusiastic. Learn how to plan for the inevitable, for the sake of your genealogy research and for your loved ones. It doesn't have to be expensive, and it doesn't have to be difficult, let Leslie show you how.

Leslie Brinkley Lawson. FCG is a full-time professional genealogist, specializing in forensic genealogy (missing/unknown heirs, and probate research). She is credentialed by the Council for the Advancement of Forensic Genealogy (CAFG), and is a past president (2010-2015). She is the president of the Oregon Chapter of the Assn. of Professional Genealogists (APG), and is a member of the GFO.

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

2505 S.E. Eleventh Ave., Suite B-18

Portland, Oregon 97202-1061

info@gfo.org ♦ 503-963-1932 ♦ www.gfo.org

The Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization as classified by the Internal Revenue Service.

As such, gifts, contributions, and devises made to the Society are 100 percent tax deductible.

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

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THE BULLETIN

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Thank You: to all the people who helped put this issue together.

This Periodical has been submitted to Allen County Public Library to be indexed in PERSI.

CALL FOR ARTICLES

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

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

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

Send submissions to bulletin@gfo.org. You may request a current “Instructions and Guidelines” by contacting us in writing or at the email address above. The information is also available at gfo.org/learn/our-publications/gfo-bulletin.html.

Deadlines for submission to the *Bulletin*:

March issue: January 1

September issue: July 1

June issue: April 1

December issue: October 1

Table of Contents

The Unlikely Suicide of William A. James <i>Kate Eakman</i>	1
Spanish Flu of 1918—Missing Memories of Betty (Krantz) Winther (born October 22, 1913 in Mishawaka, Indiana) <i>Lyleth Winther</i>	9
Linnemann Family Reconnects after 200 years <i>Carole Linneman</i>	10
The Woodbury Chronicles <i>Charles W. Erickson</i>	16
Origin of John Radcliffe <i>Mark Grafe</i>	23
Finding George Washington Bell (Beall) born 1823 in Georgia <i>Christine Stoffels-Bell</i>	28
Perry Milton Albin Bible <i>Nanci Remington</i>	31
Share Your Genealogy—Why Wait? <i>Nanci Remington</i>	34
Spotlight: HistoryGeo—Family History Using Maps <i>Judith Leppert</i>	38
Writing Tips: Edit, edit, edit <i>Marti Dell</i>	41
Book Reviews	
International Vital Records Handbook	43
Powhatan Indian Place Names in Tidewater Virginia	44
Tips & Quips for the Family Historian	45

Letter from the Editor

Some of you may be aware that we have, once again, had staff changes here at the *Bulletin*. It was wonderful having Kate Eakman as co-editor for the March issue, but she decided that this was not for her. So the hunt for another editor continues. We were fortunate to have several volunteers step up to assist with this one issue, including Nanci Remington, Martha Kennedy-Lindley, and Geoff Smith.

Article submissions have continued to arrive at a surprising rate—so we're no longer lacking for content. I truly enjoy reading the articles submitted, and I hope this trend continues well into the future. What about you? Don't you have a story to write? Please do, so that others may have the pleasure of reading it.

Tales of the Spanish Flu continue in this issue, and I hope you are entertained or informed by the snippets from newspaper accounts during that harrowing time. Lyleth Winther shares a personal story about how the pandemic affected her mother-in-law, Betty, who, as a small child, lost her mother to the deadly virus.

Loss is also a theme in Kate Eakman's story about the death of one of her ancestors, William A. James. Was it suicide or murder? Kate's story delves into the details in an attempt to discover an answer—a fascinating, and yet tragic, story.

We are honored that Charles Wesley "Bud" Ericksen has allowed us to reprint his story about some of his Minnesota pioneer ancestors. Bud has access to diaries written by his ancestors that give a vivid account of some of the hardships with which they dealt. This issue includes the first installment of this three-part story.

Another author, lucky to have first-hand information from the ancestors themselves, is Mark Grafe. He shares with us a letter full of great genealogical information.

We hope you will enjoy Carole Linneman's account of her experiences on a recent genealogy tour to Germany. All of us who would love to take such a trip are sure to be envious!

This issue, Nanci Remington shares an Albin family Bible abstraction and a Tools article about sharing your genealogy. Providing access to your genealogical research may be the step you need to take to break down your brick walls. Nanci explains how easy it is to share your family history. Judith Leppert shines a spotlight on an underutilized resource at the GFO called HistoryGeo, and I have provided additional writing tips about editing your work in my column.

We are very grateful to Genealogical.com for providing so many wonderful books for our collection. Be sure to check out this issue's book reviews on topics as far ranging as Powhatan Indian Place Names to how to find International Vital Records.

This issue marks the end of my third year as editor here at the *Bulletin*, and the end of the fourth year for Jay Fraser as layout editor. As with all journeys, there have been challenges and there have been wonderful highs. I am proud of the issues I have helped create, and I thank you all for the opportunity to assist with this endeavor. However, it is time for me to pass the torch to someone else. Therefore, this will be my last issue as managing editor. It will also be the last issue for Jay Fraser as layout editor. We have both enjoyed our time assisting with the *Bulletin* every quarter, and continue to look forward to reading it. We wish all the best to our successors.

Respectfully, Marti Dell



The Unlikely Suicide of William A. James

Kate Eakman

These are my great-grandparents, William Albert “Will” James and Amanda Elmira “Ellen” Gray. The photograph was taken about 1936 in the yard of their home at 617 Beachley Street in Meyersdale, Somerset County, Pennsylvania.

Growing up, I do not recall hearing a lot about Will. When, as an adult, I began to write our family’s history, I mentioned him to my dad, John James, and got the most surprising bit of news: Will was murdered by his second wife!

According to my father, after Ellen’s death, Will remarried but soon regretted it. His second wife (whose name Dad refused to speak) was “crazy,” although in what way Dad would not explain. He did say that one day, out of the blue, she slit Will’s throat, flushed the knife down the toilet, and then claimed it was suicide.

His story continued with the Somerset County sheriff and the coroner, commonly considered to be both lazy and inept, an accusation heard from others on both my paternal and maternal sides of the family. Dad felt that ruling Will’s death a suicide was easier for them, so that is what they did. Such a ruling was difficult to accept, given that a man who slit his own throat could hardly be expected to remain upright long enough to pull the chain on the overhead flush toilet. And why would he flush the knife anyway?

Dad finished the story by telling me that sometime later his father Melvin, who was Will’s youngest son, was walking down the street when he saw “that woman” coming towards him on the sidewalk. Immediately, Melvin crossed to the other side of the street so that he did not have to see or talk to his father’s killer. According to my dad, Will’s second wife finished her days in the local state hospital, a place for the insane, proving that she was crazy.



William A. James and his first wife, Ellen, in 1936. Photo from the author’s collection.

Intrigued . . . and who wouldn’t be? . . . by a murder mystery in my very own family, I began to dig some more. While the truth of the story may never be known, there are a number of facts and interesting points to consider in the story of the death of William James.

WILLIAM AND ELLEN

William Albert James was born on 8 June 1872 to John W. James and Rebecca Ritchey. Will and Amanda Elmira “Ellen” Gray were married on 8 May 1892 in Grassy Run Township, Somerset County, Pennsylvania. Although he was employed as a miner when he and Ellen married, Will had to have the consent of his parents to get married because he was under 21 years of age. His parents had divorced prior to this, and Will appears to have been

Meyersdale Pa. March 8 1943
 Know ye all Concerned
 That I William A. James of 617
 Beachley St. Do Skill and Desire
 that after my Death the personal
 articles Belonging to me, as named
 below, be Given to my Son
 Melvin C. James, or his heirs in
 accordance to my Skill and Desire
 My Wolfhide Over coat
 My Fathers. Waltham (Gold) watch
 My Fathers. Army Record (Framed)
 My Fathers Army Discharge
 My Fathers Large (Framed) Picture
 My Fathers Large Trunk and contents
 My Daniel Marks (Carved) Cane
 My U.S Army Calendar
 Given this 8 day of March 1943
 and under my Signature
 William A. James
 Melvin these articles are Sacked to me
 Please take care of them

William A. James' bequests to his son, Melvin C. James.
 Original in possession of author.

living with his mother and step-father because they signed the documents permitting Will's marriage.

By 1900, Will had stopped mining and turned to farming, renting a farm in Elk Lick, Somerset County, Pennsylvania, where he and Ellen raised their two eldest children: Mary and Robert. Also living with them was Ellen's 20-year-old brother Thomas, who worked on the farm with Will.

The family continued to grow, which may have been what prompted Will to return to mining between the 1900 and 1910 censuses. By the time of the 1920 census, the family had moved to the house on Beachley Street in Meyersdale, and Mary had married and moved away. Will and Ellen owned the home in which they lived, although there was a mortgage on it. Will was still employed by a coal mining company, but he had become a weighmaster, state-licensed to weigh the coal brought

out of the mines by each miner. Weighmasters were required by law to have and use accurate scales, and by the very nature of their position, they had to walk a fine line to keep both the coal mine owners and the individual miners happy.

Ellen, listed as "Amanda E." in the 1920 census, worked from home as a dressmaker. Son Robert was also a weighmaster. Daughter Florence worked as a seamstress in a shirt factory, Grace worked in a cigar factory, and fifteen-year-old Melvin attended school. Will enjoyed music, poetry, and fiddle-playing in his spare time. At least one of his poems was printed in the *Meyersdale Republican*.

Between 1920 and 1930, the other children married and left home, and Will's father, John, a Civil War veteran, came to live with Will and Ellen, where he remained until his death in 1934. Will was employed in an automobile factory. It appears that the house on Beachley Street was paid for by 1930, and its value was \$2,500 or about \$128,000 in today's money. The house is at the south end of Meyersdale and was built in 1897.

Ellen developed a heart and kidney disorder which led to uremia or kidney failure. She died at home on 3 February 1938. She was buried in Union Cemetery where Will's father, John, had been buried.

Two years later, the 1940 census showed that Melvin had moved his family in with his widowed father. Whether Will had asked Melvin to join him, or Melvin felt that his father needed companionship, it must have been crowded at the house on Beachley Street. The household included 67-year-old Will, Melvin, age 35, Melvin's wife, 34-year-old Mary (my grandmother), and their six children: twelve-year-old William B., Mary J., age eleven, Patricia, age nine, Jacqueline, age five, two-year-old Geraldine, and five-month-old John, my dad.

The house had lost a great deal of its value, possibly a result of the Great Depression, and was worth the equivalent of about \$16,000. Melvin paid his father rent of \$2, or about \$80 today. We also learned that William had completed the fifth grade, Melvin had finished one year of high school, Mary had completed the seventh grade, and children Bill, Mary Jo, and Pat had completed the sixth, fifth, and third grades, respectively. The other children were too young for school.

Neither Will nor Melvin reported working in 1940, and both were looking for employment. The column labeled "number of weeks worked in 1939" indicated that Will had worked for twelve weeks for the State Highway Department. Melvin had worked for two weeks at

a dry-cleaning establishment. The combined income of the two men for that year was comparable to a present-day income of \$8,500. At some point between the enumeration of the 1940 census in April and his death on 30 May 1944, Will remarried.

When my own father died, I came into possession of his papers and found a number of documents related to the death of Will James. I added several others during my investigation and found that some papers, vitally important to understanding what happened on the day of Will's death, had been destroyed.

WILL AND IDA

On a small piece of paper, dated 8 March 1943, Will wrote a will of sorts, bequeathing several specific items to my grandpa, Melvin James. Beneath the list, Will dated and signed the document, and it appears he later wrote a personal plea: "Melvin these articles are Sacred to me Please take care of them."

There were eight items on the list. I know the whereabouts of only one of them today because it is in my possession. Most of the items appear to have belonged to John W. James, although a few were clearly personal possessions of Will. The items listed were Will's wolf-hide coat, his father's gold Waltham watch, his father's framed army record (this is the item which was passed down to my dad and then to me), his father's army discharge, his father's large framed picture, his father's large trunk and its contents, Will's carved Daniel Marks cane, and Will's U.S. Army calendar.

The papers also included newspaper articles, all undated, and probably from the *Meyersdale Republican* or the *Somerset Daily American*, but I am certain of the provenance of only one of the articles. All of them deal with the facts and suppositions surrounding the death of Will James. I will let the articles tell the story.

The first article was rather sensational and asserted that Will had "slashed his throat with a small pocket knife." He was found dead in the first-floor bathroom at 11:00 a.m. by his wife. The county coroner, Dr. P. C. Dosch, determined that Will had been dead for an hour.

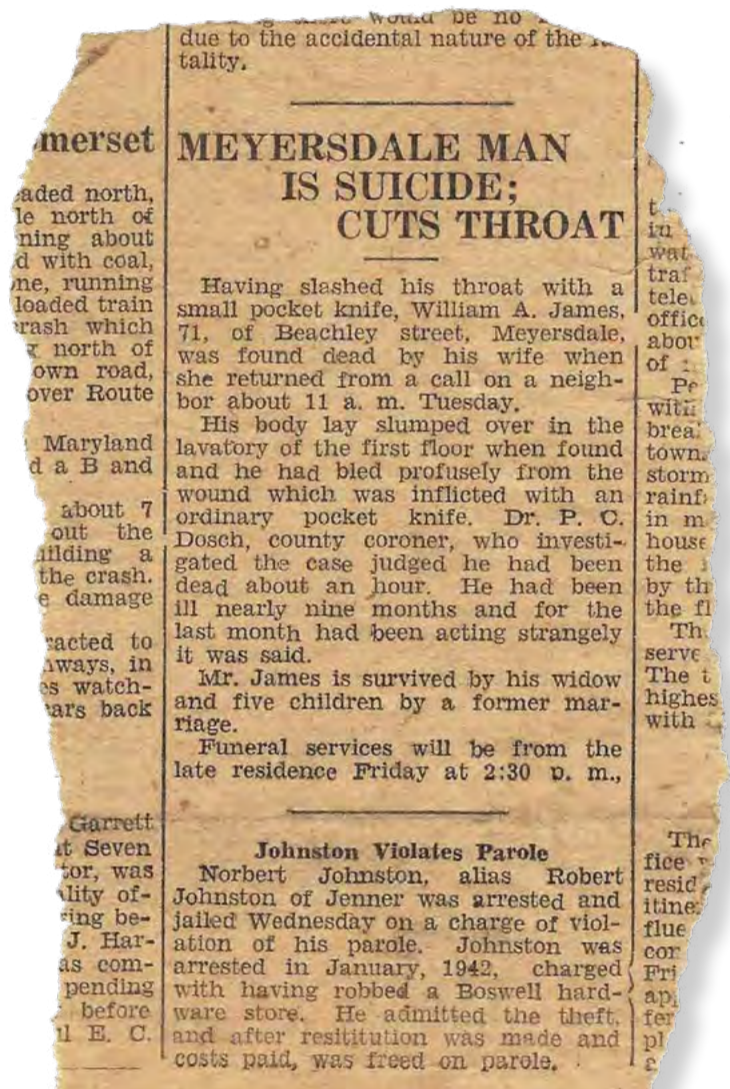
The newspaper article also claimed that Will had been ill for nearly a year and "for the last month had been acting strangely it was said." We do not know who claimed that Will had been acting oddly or what he had done that made someone say that he was acting strangely. As this is the only time and place that any mention was made of his supposed illness or strange behavior, it

seems possible that the reporter or his source was exaggerating in the initial story.

Although Will's wife featured prominently in the story, her name was not mentioned.

An article datelined 1 June 1944 provided new details and information, much of it in direct contradiction with the initial story. We learned that a penknife was used to sever Will's jugular. Despite the fact that Will was reported to be "of a genial disposition," was "held in high esteem," and that less than an hour before he died Will talked with a neighbor who said that Will was "in the best of spirits," the coroner deemed an inquest unnecessary and issued a verdict of suicide.

In the last paragraph of the article, we finally learned the name of Will's second wife: Ida. A simple notice that she was among the survivors was the only mention of this woman. The fact that she discovered his body upon



This is likely the first report of Will's death and the only one to suggest that he was ill and "acting strangely."

returning home after visiting with a neighbor was not included in the new article. Will's children and their places of residence were noted, as well as the name of his half-brother, Matthew Hicks.

A third newspaper article, probably also printed on 1 June 1944, added a few more details not found in the previous article, and again, barely mentioned Ida or her role in discovering her husband's dead body. We learned from this third article that Meyersdale Police Chief John Bittner and Somerset County detective William P. Diveley assisted in the investigation of Will's death, although what they were investigating after the coroner pronounced Will's death a suicide is unclear.

Will's good nature and positive spirits were again noted, with the added information that when talking with his neighbor less than an hour before his death, Will was "looking over his garden and did not seem to have a care in the world."

Once again, Ida was only mentioned at the end of the article as the surviving second wife. Although the maiden names of his mother and first wife were noted in this article, Ida was simply referred to as "Mrs. Ida James" with no mention of her parents, her place of birth, or when she and Will were married.

This article also read more like an obituary, noting Will's date and place of birth as well as the names of his parents.

Will's death certificate offered only a few additional pieces of new information. The informant for this document was not Will's wife Ida, but his son Robert who reported that his father was born on 8 June 1871 in Fulton County, Pennsylvania to John W. James and Rebecca Richie, both also of Fulton County. Will was eight days shy of his 72nd birthday. He had lived in Meyersdale for the past 37 years and had worked as a miner. Ida, age 55, was listed as Will's wife, providing an approximate date of birth for her of about 1889.

The coroner added the date, time, and location of Will's death: 10:00 a.m. on 30 May 1944 in his home. He reported that the death was a suicide when he completed the death certificate on the same day as Will's death. The cause of death was "Cutting throat with pocket knife (left side severing left external jugular vein)."

Will was buried next to Ellen, and their children put a tombstone over their graves. Ida was not mentioned, and she is not buried in that cemetery.

These various documents provided some very specific information about Will's death but left some puzzling gaps. None of the news accounts nor the death certificate made any mention of the location of the pocket knife

or pen knife used to kill Will, and it seems likely that if it had been found floating in the toilet bowl that detail would have been reported. If the knife had successfully been flushed down the toilet, then it seems a search for the weapon would have been instituted, most likely requiring that some of the pipes from the house be dug up. But again, no mention of this was made by any of the news stories. This suggests that the family story which I was told, that Ida had attempted to dispose of the knife by flushing it down the toilet, was simply a story. It is, of course, possible that this detail was never released to the newspapers, but there seems to be no reason to have concealed it, especially if everyone involved in the investigation was satisfied that Will committed suicide.

Also unnamed in the stories, and mentioned only in the first, was the neighbor who Ida called on before 10:00 in the morning. Likely a visit between friends which may have occurred every morning, it would have been nice to know the name.

Missing from all accounts is what Ida did upon discovering her dead husband and how she summoned assistance. I can imagine Ida walking in the door and announcing her return by calling for Will, perhaps asking after his garden or inquiring as to what he wanted for lunch at noon. Upon receiving no reply, she went looking for him and discovered his bloody and lifeless body slumped over in the bathroom. At that point one of two things should have happened:

Either Ida started to scream, or she ran to Will and attempted to assist him.

If Ida stood in the house screaming, or if she ran out of the house screaming, surely that would have been included in one or more news story. A 55-year-old respectable housewife screaming, literal, bloody murder would draw the attention of everyone within a block or two of the house. Neighbors would have been discussing and gossiping about the most exciting event to have occurred in Meyersdale in years, and therefore Ida's reaction would have been "fair game" for the reporters. Beachley Street is in a quiet neighborhood even today, and Meyersdale is a small town with stores and houses clustered close together in the valley. A screaming woman would have caused a lot of stir.

If Ida attempted to assist Will, she would have been covered in blood. It would have taken only a moment to realize that he was dead, and then help would have been summoned. This meant either using a telephone, if they had one, or going outside to a neighbor's house and asking for help. The sight of a middle-aged woman with her dress and hands covered in blood would surely have

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS

520 17608
File No. _____
Registered No. 32

HVS 20007
Primary Dist. No. 56-10-41
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

1. PLACE OF DEATH:
(a) County Somerset
(b) City, town or township Meyersdale Pa
(c) Name of hospital or institution:
(If not in hospital or institution write street number or location)
(d) Length of stay: In hospital or institution _____ (Specify whether
In this community 37 years years, months or days)

2. USUAL RESIDENCE OF DECEASED:
(a) State Penn (b) County Somerset
(c) City or town Meyersdale Pa
(If outside city or town limits, write RURAL)
(d) Street No. 1617 Beachley St
(If rural give location)
(e) If foreign born, how long in U. S. A.? _____ years.

3. (a) FULL NAME William A. James
3. (b) If U. S. Veteran, complete reverse side of certificate.
3. (c) Social Security No. _____

5. Color or race White
6. (a) Single, widowed, married, divorced Married
6. (b) Name of husband or wife Ida James
6. (c) Age of husband or wife if alive _____ years
7. Birth date of deceased June 8, 1907
(Month) (Day) (Year)

8. AGE: Years 71 Months 11 Days 22
If less than one day _____ hr. _____ min.

9. Birthplace Fulton County Pa
(City, town, or county) (State or foreign country)

10. Usual occupation Mixer

11. Industry or business _____

12. Name John W. James
13. Birthplace Fulton Co Pa
(City, town, or county) (State or foreign country)

14. Maiden name Rebecca Richel
15. Birthplace Fulton Co Pa
(City, town, or county) (State or foreign country)

16. (a) Informant's own signature R D James
(b) Address Meyersdale Pa

17. (a) Buried (b) Date thereof June 20, 1944
(Burial, cremation, or removal) (Month) (Day) (Year)

(c) Place: burial or cremation Funeral Home

18. (a) Signature of funeral director R. Reichert
(b) Address Meyersdale Pa

19. (a) June 2, 1944 (b) Mary B. Weber
(Date received local registrar) (Registrar's signature)

MEDICAL CERTIFICATION
20. Date of death: Month May day 30
year 1944 hour 11.0 minute A.M.
21. I HEREBY CERTIFY, That a view was held upon the body of the above named deceased on the 30 day of May, 1944; that the jury rendered a verdict giving the cause of death as follows:
Immediate cause of death Choking - throat with pocket knife - (left hand) - (right hand)
Due to external jugular vein
Due to 1646

Other conditions _____
(Include pregnancy within 3 months of death)

Major findings:
Of operations _____
Of autopsy _____

PHYSICIAN _____
Underline the cause to which death should be charged statistically.

22. If death was due to external causes, fill in the following:
(a) (Probably) Accident, suicide, or homicide (specify) suicide
(b) Date of occurrence May 20, 1944
(c) Where did injury occur? Meyersdale Somerset Pa
(City or town) (County) (State)
(d) Did injury occur in or about home, on farm, in industrial place, in public place? at home
(Specify type of place)
While at work? No (e) Means of injury _____

23. Signature John W. James Coroner
Address Somerset Pa Date signed 5/30/44

MARGIN RESERVED FOR BINDING
WRITE PLAINLY WITH UNFADING INK—THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD
OF DEATH IN PLAIN TERMS, SO THAT IT MAY BE PROPERLY CLASSIFIED. EXACT STATEMENT OF OCCUPATION IS VERY IMPORTANT. SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON BACK OF CERTIFICATE.

N. B.—Every item of information should be carefully supplied. AGE should be stated EXACTLY. PHYSICIANS should state CAUSE OF DEATH in plain terms, so that it may be properly classified. Exact Statement of OCCUPATION IS VERY IMPORTANT. SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON BACK OF CERTIFICATE.

Death Certificate for William A. James.

been the cause for much talk in town and again, would seem to be the sort of detail to be included in every news story about Will's death.

Finally, I am curious about the mention of the police chief and detective being involved and yet by the end of the day, the coroner had already declared Will's death a suicide. The detective would not have been called until 11:30, and because the journey from Somerset to Meyersdale takes about an hour by car today, along winding and narrow roads, it would have taken him at least that long to have made the journey in 1944, arriving no earlier than 12:30 in the afternoon and more likely not until 1 p.m. Presumably, the sheriff and detective would have taken statements from Ida, the various neighbors, and Will's two sons, Robert and Melvin, who lived in Meyersdale at that time. All of this would have taken time, regardless of the cursory nature of the investigation.

There was no mention of a suicide note. Apart from the initial article, everyone claimed that Will was in good health and good spirits, and no one could understand why he would commit suicide. And yet, before the day was over, in a matter of a few hours after Ida first found Will's dead body, with no autopsy performed, it was determined that Will had committed suicide, and no inquest was necessary.

If, as my dad claimed, Ida had killed Will, why was the murder covered up? Why not arrest her and put her on trial? What benefit was it to the coroner and the police chief to conceal a murder? Why the rush by the coroner to quickly label Will's death a suicide? How could a thorough investigation have been carried out in just a few short hours?

I contacted the Somerset County Courthouse and requested copies of the investigation records and coroner's

report for the death of William James. Unfortunately, the records have all been destroyed. The most important records which could shed light on Will's death no longer exist, and none of the men involved in the investigation are alive today.

Among the papers my dad had saved for many years was a final accounting of Will's estate after his death. Will's house and all the personal property was sold at auction, and after the various bills were paid, the proceeds of his estate were divided between Ida and Will and Ellen's children. This suggests that Will did not have a will, but died intestate, leading to the sale of the property and the subsequent division of everything he owned.

Will's personal property, clothing, furniture, tools, and basically everything but the house, sold for \$308.05. The house and land were sold to Jacob and Viletta Colblentz for \$2,025. According to Pennsylvania state law, Ida was entitled to \$500 from the estate. Then taxes and court fees, burial costs, and old debts were paid as well as the costs of selling the estate. All that remained was \$221.75 which was divided between Ida and the five children, with Ida receiving one-third of the balance, and the rest divided evenly among Robert, Grace, Mary, Florence, and Melvin. Ida received a total of \$573.92 and the children each received \$29.57, or about \$777.50 today.

It is possible that this disappointing distribution of Will's estate had something to do with Melvin's hatred of Ida in later years. If he was expecting to receive something closer to Ida's settlement, it is easy to see how the payment he received would have been disappointing. And if Melvin believed that his step-mother was an interloper who had no right to any of Will's estate, he would have begrudged her any settlement she received.

In an effort to understand the division of Will's estate, I contacted the Somerset County Clerk of Orphans' Court to acquire a copy of the entire probate file. The first thing I discovered was a copy of the will of William A. James, dated 3 October 1934. Will bequeathed an antique safe to his son, Robert; his wolf-hide coat to Melvin; a piano to Grace, and \$25 in gold to each of his daughters May and Florence. Because Will had written his will prior to Ellen's death, he left the remainder of his estate to her for use during her lifetime, and then directed that Robert, Grace, Mary, and Florence each receive \$200. Melvin was not given any special legacy beyond the wolf-hide coat. Any remaining money was to be evenly distributed among all five children.

The section regarding Ellen was obviously null and void, and Ida would have been entitled to her widow's

share of \$500 plus half of the remaining estate. It appears that she agreed to take only one-third of the remainder of the estate after the bills were paid. It is curious to note that had Ellen survived Will, Melvin, my grandfather who was so bitter against Ida, would have received significantly less than his siblings under the original will.

Although Ida is clearly the villain in my family's version of this little drama, I could not help but be curious about her. According to my dad's story, his father had publicly snubbed the woman who no one seemed to want to name or remember. Also, according to Dad, she died in the local state-run asylum for the insane. Although he did not say when this happened, he made it sound like her death occurred during Melvin's lifetime, sometime between 1944 and 1954, when Dad was a child between the ages of six and sixteen.

I wondered if Ida really did go to the Somerset State Hospital, and if so, why. I also wondered why everyone seemed to ignore her after Will's death. The newspaper accounts included her name almost as an afterthought, and even Will seemed to have taken no regard for her future, failing to update his will in a way which would have provided her with a place to live.

And, of course, I wondered if Ida had really killed Will. If so, and she was truly insane, perhaps this was a case where the powers that be decided it would be "best" if Ida simply was committed to the state hospital and Will's death was labeled a suicide, rather than subject her to a trial. This would have been even more likely if Ida had been deemed unfit to stand trial and therefore lived out her days in the institution.

And finally, I wondered where her "people" were in all of this. There was no mention of parents or siblings rallying to Ida's side, and Dad never mentioned any family. It seems as though Ida just appeared, full-grown, and then just as suddenly, she disappeared from the stage.

A brief notice that Will's funeral had occurred provided me with a clue for tracing Ida. Ida was again mentioned as his widow, but her name was written "Ida Jones James." This suggested to me that either she had been married to a Mr. Jones prior to her marriage to Will, or that her maiden name was Jones. However, a search for her name in the census records of 1920 through 1940 in Somerset and the surrounding counties turned up too many options to be certain that any one of them was the woman I was seeking.

A search for the marriage record for Ida and Will failed to yield any results, so I contacted Somerset County and requested a search for that document, which resulted in the news that there is no record of



Ida mopping the floors of the Somerset State Hospital in May of 1959.

their marriage in that county. This suggests that Will and Ida married in another county, but which one, and how did Will meet Ida if she lived in a distant place?

Finally, I returned to the online newspaper archives and found several surprising mentions of Ida. Because I was under the impression that she died within ten years of Will's death I searched for her in Somerset County between 1944 and 1954. There was no mention of her death. I extended my search to 1960 and found an article which talked about Ida living in the state hospital.

Ida was prominently featured in an article discussing the cleanliness of the state hospital, including a large photograph of Ida busily mopping the floors. According to the article, Ida had been part of a team of patients in charge of keeping the floors clean, but no one worked up to her standards. Eventually, Ida requested she be given sole responsibility for cleaning the floors, and she spent her days at that self-appointed task.

The image of Ida constantly cleaning the floors raises all sorts of questions: Was she such a compulsive cleaner

prior to Will's death? If so, did that have anything to do with his death? Did the shock of seeing Will's blood all over the floor cause this compulsion? Or was this a Lady Macbeth sort of reaction to causing the death of her husband?

Beginning in the early 1960s, the *Somerset Daily American's* "Sunshine Lady" column would post a plea for birthday cards for Ida every January. This suggests that Ida was alone and had no family to visit with her or write to her. The last such plea was in the 1969 edition of the newspaper which noted that Ida was a resident of the Somerset Home for the Aged in nearby Berlin, a county-run facility for indigent elderly people.

There was no obituary for Ida during the following year, nor was her place of burial noted in any online databases. A search of the Social Security Death Index revealed that she died in July of 1969. Her Social Security number indicates that she made the application in Pennsylvania during the year 1966, most likely at the behest of the State of Pennsylvania so that she received some Social Security benefits to help pay for her care. I ordered Ida's SS-5 from the Social Security Administration and received, instead, the Form OAC-790, "Request for E/R [Earning Record] Action," used to file a claim for benefits.

The only information it contained was Ida's date of birth, 30 January 1890, and the date of the application on 21 March 1966. Her parents' names, as well as their places of birth, are marked UNK, or unknown. In the remarks section, someone wrote "Unable to obtain identifying info W-E is an incompetent adult in a state mental hosp ER needed to process SSA18." An SSA-18 is an Application for Hospital Insurance Entitlement suggesting that the State of Pennsylvania was attempting to acquire some form of payment for Ida's care. But I was no closer to learning more about Will's second wife than I was before.

The story of William Albert James and his second wife, Ida Jones James, is a tragic one. Regardless of the events of Will's death, whether a murder or a suicide, it is clear that one of them was deeply troubled and unhappy. The fact that Ida seems to have lived out the final 25 years of her life in a series of state- and county-run institutions, compulsively scrubbing the floors, with no visitors, also suggests an unhappy, or at least lonely life.

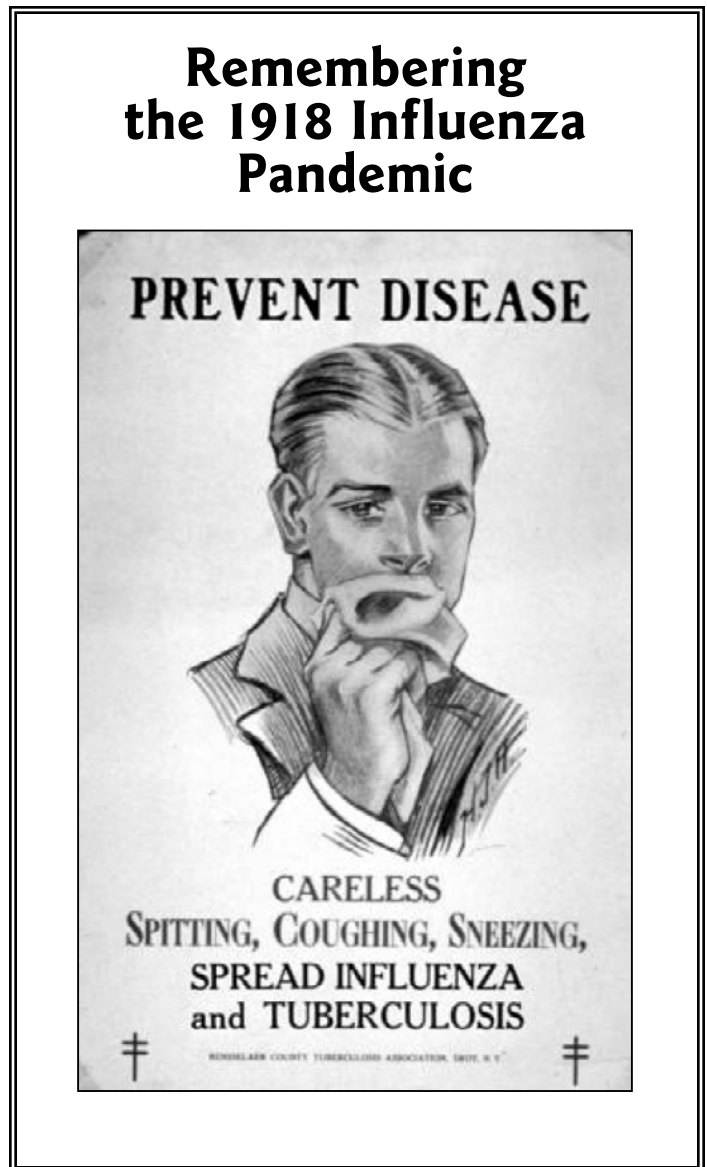
This story is also an excellent example of how family stories can contain a grain or more of truth but be so heavily colored by one person's perception or memory that it is difficult to reconcile the family version with the facts. In this case, my father had been taught to scorn

Will's second wife. This woman was so disliked that no one in my family, including my cousins, knew her name. In the family version of the story, Ida was a killer and my grandfather was cheated out of his rightful inheritance by a gold-digging madwoman. The reality was much

more complicated. The final answers to our questions have been lost along with the police and coroner records. What we do know is that both Will and Ida were sad characters whose lives ended tragically.

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Spanish Flu of 1918— Missing Memories of Betty (Krantz) Winther (born October 22, 1913 in Mishawaka, Indiana)

Lyleth Winther

“I have no memories for three days after my mother died.” So said my mother-in-law, Betty, when I asked about her childhood days back in Mishawaka, Indiana.

“I can remember being five years old, sitting on the floor by her bed where she lay ill, tying my shoes. I remember chattering away to my mother, and then my next memory is of my grandmother walking me down the Catholic Church aisle to say goodbye to my young mother three days later.”

Betty went on to share with me, from what she knew or was told, that her mom had been caring for nearby neighbors in need who were suffering from the Spanish Flu epidemic of 1918—a pandemic—when her mom got sick with it, contracting pneumonia. And maybe the fact that she was pregnant complicated matters. She was already the mother of four children—two boys and two girls, Louis, Matilda (Tillie), Michael, and Betty.

After the fact, Betty also said her grandmother was livid when her daughter passed away, and she held it against Betty’s father, who refused to take his wife to a hospital. Was that because the hospitals were already full (as I’ve read in other accounts about that period of time), or he was afraid he’d contract the flu himself and bring it home to the four children living there. Grandmother and the young Hungarian immigrant father did agree on sharing the care of the kids. Grandma took the two youngest children who she thought would need more nurturing maternal care, having just lost their mother. Betty’s dad agreed to keep the two older children.

Eventually, Betty’s dad remarried one of his widowed sisters-in-law, who brought two children into the mix. He and his new wife, Teresa, also brought another child into the world—a daughter Ethel. When Betty’s sister Tillie (Matilda) slapped one of the step-sisters in a dispute, it was decided Betty, now living in Detroit with her grandmother and the younger brother Michael, would come back to her dad’s house, and Tillie would go live



with the grandmother. Betty said with remorse, that if she had remained with her grandmother, she would have heard stories of her mother’s younger years and may have even asked some follow-up questions. Betty might also have gone on to high school, which her step-mother denied her, while the step-sisters got to attend. Her step-mom said Betty was needed at home to help bring income into the family. As a result, Betty went to work as a nanny for a young boy in a nice family. The parents were good to her, and she stayed with them some ten years, until she married and started a family of her own. However, Betty’s salary was turned over to step-mom Teresa, to help run the household, with only a portion being given back to Betty as an allowance.

Another interesting aspect of my mother-in-law’s life that was lost over the years was her proper name. When she agreed to go with a sister-in-law to Denmark on a visit, a passport was required. As Betty didn’t have a birth certificate recorded, the home Catholic Church records had to be checked and copied. Betty had thought that possibly her mom had named her “Elizabeth,” and “Betty” came from that. But no, she was named the Hungarian equivalent—Isabel. With that surprising find, until she passed away in 1997, she went by Betty Isabel Winther. Another mystery her mother might have shed light on if she had lived.

FAMILY FOOTSTEPS

Linnemann Family Reconnects after 200 years

Carole Linneman

I dreamed of a trip to Germany all my life, to see where my great-grandfather came from before he started our family and lived as a baker and a farmer in Ohio, Indiana, and Missouri. Would I be able to walk the streets of Osnabrück where Johann Rudolph Wilhelm Linnemann was born in 1863 and baptized? Come along on my trip with me for the answer.

Dreams came true when on May 13, 2017, I found myself in Düsseldorf, Germany. I started a journal that I used every day to record the many wonderful discoveries and people I met on this adventure. My first discovery was that not everyone speaks English in Germany as I had been told by many. “I got no English,” was my first encounter with a taxi driver, but he understood the name of the hotel I was hunting. Lots of opportunities to practice my limited German and enough patient, multilingual helpers filled my 12-day adventure. The natives were friendly, and I was able to pick up and use at least one new German word each day. *Genau* was my first word which means right or correct—much more fun than *Ja*. I had arrived—*Genau*.

I arrived a day ahead of my tour group to get my feet on the ground and to see Düsseldorf. An open-air bus tour revealed a city with many beautiful buildings, palaces turned into hotels, and churches with tall spires all along the Rhine River. The twisted tower at St. Lambertus was part of this town’s amazing history.¹ Also, a child doing cartwheels is the town’s special symbol. One story of its origin is that when the soldiers came back after a war in the Middle Ages, the general came ahead and asked the children to show their joy at having their men back, so the children turned cartwheels. Lots of people from other cities compete in a yearly cartwheeling tournament. The hop-on hop-off feature of the bus could have extended the tour for days and was well worth the fifteen Euros. Düsseldorf was a joyful town,



Detmold Schloss by Tsungam, via Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 4.0.

and I wish I could still do cartwheels to express my joy at finding myself there.

The Family Tree Heritage Tour for Northwest Germany began the next day. There were 20 people in our group, all headed different directions some days and together on group visits other days. We went north for a two-hour bus ride to the spa town famous for its mineral salts, Bad Salzuflen. In the middle of town are graduated towers which filter water and collect salts and minerals. The water trickles down and gathers at the bottom where hands can be swished around in the gathering salts. Blackthorn, attached to the sloping roofs of the tall buildings, gives the air a humid seashore taste and smell. Many people come to town for a “cure” and enjoy the fresh air and ambling strolls. The town is full of delights with an open-air market and specialty shops plus a Rathskeller for great dining. The streets at night are magical with the church spire in the backdrop and an accordion player on the corner adding a foot-tapping beat. Except for an ATM nearby, the shops and half-timbered buildings made it feel like we had landed in the middle of a fairy tale.

The first day, we learned to ride the trains, read the schedules, buy tickets, and make switches by going to the Bahnhof or train station in town. It was a ten-minute walk from the hotel along a fairy-tale street lined with rows of sycamore trees. Hopping on the train and off and on again we ended up in Detmold and toured the local

archive. The archive director gave us ideas on research and put us in touch with actual records. All applauded when one of our members found a book that held his ancestor's name. Proceeding to the city center, we discovered a castle with a moat and a swan swimming amid the lily pads. A castle tour and open-air museum shared the flavor of the history of Germany. Common sights included cafes and bookstores, along with statues, lots of bike riders, and many older couples holding hands.

Each of us on the tour chose up to three ancestral villages to visit, where tour experts had done research to provide family and history connections. Our own genealogy research and family trees sent to the coordinator in Germany in advance gave a starting point. At the end of each individual's trip, it was a show-and-tell time as we learned from each other's stories and family visits.

I picked three villages from my research that confirmed that my paternal line did come from northwestern part of Germany. Osnabrück, Quakenbrück, and Lemförde were my destinations. Every one of my villages had a surprise waiting for me as well as a special guide and interpreter. Tour directors gave me a folder packed with my daily agenda and pictures of the people I would be meeting, along with their addresses and phone numbers. Train tickets were given to me the night before, and a letter was provided for one of my villages to tell the taxi driver, in English and German, where I was going.

My first stop, Osnabrück, which means "ox bridge," was the home of my great-grandfather who came to America in 1883 at the young age of 19. As a child, my curiosity about Germany grew until I imagined walking in his footsteps to see what this city was like. I actually got to do this in what is called *The City of Peace*, a large city of over 160,000 in Lower-Saxony.

Picking names from the Osnabrück phone book prior to my trip, I had written letters to five Linnemanns, searching for cousins. Dieter Linnemann surprised me by answering in two weeks, and we thought we might be cousins since we had similar names in our family and both our great-great-grandfathers had been carpenters. I was delighted when he offered to be my guide and compare family trees. I failed to ask one very important question while we were e-mailing. Religion was left out of our discussions, and as his family is Catholic and mine Lutheran, we probably are not related. That was a disappointment, but I will adopt him as a special cousin. When we met at the train station, he was carrying a red umbrella so I could easily recognize him. He brought along a friend and interpreter, Hartmut, and we began our adventure together.

An active castle with a delightful moat was our first stop. It was just like you imagine a castle should be. Standing against the clear, blue sky it was tall and proud and inviting but there was a "No Entry" sign at the inner courtyard. Walking around the castle, it was possible to view the pastures and the outlying buildings. There was a half-timbered storage house that looked like it had just been built. The spaces between the wooden beams are filled with mortar or bricks and covered in white chalk which makes it look so clean and new. It was like being frozen in time back in the 17th century. There were people living in the castle called Schleddehausener Schelenburg, right outside the city of Osnabrück.

We explored by car the range of land which included a small hotel that had once been the mill and headed to St. Marien Church in the town square of Osnabrück. This is where my great-grandfather was baptized, and as I touched the ornate door, I realized I was standing on the cobblestones where many of my ancestors would have stood. Beautiful, historical churches and buildings



St. Lambertus, Düsseldorf. Photo by Alice Wiegand, CC BY-SA 3.0



St. Marien in Osnabrueck.

surrounded us while we sat in the town square. A newspaper reporter had been alerted to my arrival, and he came to record the story of my first trip to Germany. Showing a picture of my great-grandfather and telling of my desire to know about his life was a curiosity for everyone. They were amazed that I would travel so far.² The news story came out after I was back home and included a picture taken on the steps of the Town Hall with my new friends. We toured that building and sat in the “Peace Room” to learn about the signing of the Treaty of Westphalia which ended the Thirty Years’ War in 1648. The seriousness of the room was tangible even though all was spoken in fast German. All the leaders at the time of the signing had their pictures on the walls, totally surrounding us. Once the treaty was signed, a rider on horseback was sent out to all the towns to announce the end of the war. The children still gather outside the Town Hall every October 25th to celebrate the end of the war by riding on hobby horses in a parade. The mayor rewards them with a pretzel. My great-grandfather Rudolph would have participated when he lived in Osnabrück. A walking tour down the narrow streets paved with cobblestones and bricks revealed that the

doorways are so close you could easily toss an egg to the neighbor across the way. I was walking in my grandfather’s footsteps!

Quakenbrück, meaning “quaking bridge,” was my second village, and its name came from the time when the horses walked across the bridge, causing it to quake or shake. It is a small town of 12-15,000 people north of Osnabrück on the River Hase. This was the birthplace of Johann Gerhard Diedrich Linnemann. Arriving in Portland in 1852, he was Portland’s first tailor when there were only 400 people in town. His later residence in Gresham, Oregon, was a curiosity to me because our surnames are the same. What are the chances that when you move to a new state and town that there is a street with your name and a history of a civic-minded pioneer who lived in the same town almost 200 years before you—with your surname? I recently discovered that Johann indeed is a cousin, and that Rudolph’s father and he had been first cousins. With the help of friends from the German Special Interest Group at the Genealogical Forum of Oregon (GFO) and a German researcher, we narrowed down his hometown in Germany and found an answer to the question “Could we be related?” Yes-yes-yes! We are first cousins, four generations removed. My great-great-grandfather Johann Frederick Anton Linnemann and Gerhard were first cousins and both had been born and baptized in Quakenbrück, Germany.

Arriving by bike, the curator of the local museum introduced me to what had been originally a merchant’s house where all sorts of things were sold in the past. There were five floors with collections of all kinds of occupational tools, artifacts, and samples of local items both past and present. He initiated me in all things Quakenbrückish including how to run the tools that make wooden shoes for people and horses so they didn’t sink in the mud. Frogs are the town’s mascot, and in Germany their sound is “quack-quack.” Their images can be seen everywhere. Multi-colored frogs in front of stores and a silver frog by the silver shop are examples, and the museum sells small ceramic frogs made by local children. There is a frog trail that marks all special interest points as it wanders around the town. Soon I stood at the baptismal font inside St. Sylvester Lutheran Church, where all my Linnemann ancestors were baptized, and I sat in the pews where my family would have been on Sunday. Originally the town castle and both the Catholic and Lutheran churches stood side by side until too many repairs had to be made. A new Lutheran church was built in another part of town with a special home nearby for the *Küster* (Sexton). The last Lutheran



Linnemann in town was the *Küster* of St. Sylvester, and he lived in that house right next to the church. Might he have been a part of my family?

Local genealogists found two more generations of my Linnemanns here. They confirmed that this was my family's hometown and that they were book merchants in the 18th and 19th centuries. The curator of the

Quakenbrück Museum was happy to trade paperwork including my family tree. I had written a story about my pioneer cousins, Gerhard and his wife Elizabeth, that was to be published in the spring GFO *Bulletin*. It was a story of their history and adventure from Germany to Oregon and how successful they were in helping to develop my town of Gresham, Oregon. It was like completing the circle as I handed this to the curator for their archives.

There were plenty of opportunities to enjoy the local German cuisine. We had many evening meals together as a group. May was the month for spargel or asparagus. It was in everything—soup, salad, and as a vegetable with sauce. It is as thick as fat carrots and grown under a tent for its white color. I found schnitzel a tasty addition, plus Apfelschorle which is apple juice and club soda. These were my favorite foods, always at a colorful restaurant like a clipper ship with other crazy genealogists. The portions were huge. I sometimes ordered a child's portion and still left some behind, all delicious.

Our group tours added flavor to our adventures. The Pied Piper took our group on a tour of the town of Hamelin. We heard the famous story about the rats and the children and ate at the mill by the river where the rats would have drowned if they hadn't known how to swim.

Bremerhaven and the Emigration Museum was the last group trip and completed the picture of what my immigrant ancestor Rudolph would have experienced. There is

a huge difference between steerage and first class. I felt seasick just looking at the crowded conditions at the bottom of the ship. Looking out at the North Sea, wondering if his family stood where I stood and watched as his ship left, brought a lump in my throat and a tear to my eye. This emotional time brought home the bravery our ancestors needed to make such a long, exhausting trip to a new life.

The third and best of my village tours is the one I now consider "My Hometown," Lemförde, the birthplace of Rudolph's mother, Charlotte Müdeking. Northeast of Osnabrück and bordered by the town of Quernheim, it is near Lake Dümmer. The house of my great-great-grandmother Charlotte and her mother was discovered here (*See Sidebar*), as was a cousin who still lives nearby on the family farm in Quernheim. It was a dream come true and hard to believe until it really happened. I knew about six to eight weeks in advance of my trip that something special was waiting in this village for me. Riding with my interpreter in her mini to Lemförde, we arrived at the original home of my grandmother which has been moved and restored. It is now the community library holding 11,000 books. A celebrity moment happened when I walked up to the library door and was surrounded like magic by the mayor, librarian, town historian, and my cousin Hannelore with her family. The first thing she asked me was my age, and we found we are close enough that if I had lived there, we would have most likely been playmates. Her great-great-grandfather and my great-great-grandmother were brother and sister. They were born and lived in the house that is now the



One of the Frog Path Markers. Photo by Presse03 CC BY-SA 3.0

Eselstrasse Number 57

This story starts with two brothers named Schumacher who live and work in the village of Lemförde. One of the brothers goes off to war as a soldier and the other stays home to farm. The soldier, who has fought in the Thirty Years' War and many wars in other countries, returns home. He brings with him a lady from Turkey, riding on a donkey, and a fellow officer named Johan Gronewig. Susanna is the name of the lady, and she marries Mr. Schumacher. Two years later when Mr. Schumacher dies, she marries Mr. Gronewig, and they build a house together. It is a half-timbered house made of heavy beams of wood with white square spaces between the supports. These spaces are filled with other materials like stone and mortar and possibly brick, then covered with white chalk. There is an upstairs and a downstairs and the house keeps the family safe and warm on Eselstrasse (Donkey Street).

Standing for over 300 years, number 57 house on Eselstrasse provides a home for many families. The Masch family moves into it in 1785. Maria Margarethe Charlotte Masch, one of the children, stays in the house after marrying Johann Heinrich Müdeking and starts her own family of seven children. Her first two children, Heinrich and his sister Charlotte, play in the yard and walk to town and the castle.

The Müdeking's move to the country to farm as the family grows in 1832. The house is sold; other families and even businesses find it useful. It is part of the community until 1979 when it is taken down and given to a local professor. He stores the wood under cover, and the land is then sold to the neighbor who builds a brick house on it. Forgotten for years, the wood from number 57 stays quietly under cover until 1998 when a private investor takes ownership and decides to restore the house to its former design. It is rebuilt in the center of town with the original wood and door frame and offered to the town of Lemförde as a library. It holds 11,000 books and is appealing to all ages. It stands next to the town castle which has also been rebuilt, and they both look over the town.



Eselstrasse Number 57. Photo from Author's collection.



Lemförde Library



Northwest Germany Tour Group in Bad Salzuflen.

library and then moved to Quernheim to farm as the family grew. Cousin Hannelore has lived at the family farm all her life and now owns it with her husband Karl. My family is still here!

Wandering inside the Lemförde library, I found a warm and inviting place to cozy up with a book. The upstairs has a place for community activities like yoga classes. I took a book to donate to the children, *A Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle, and traded it for a library card. Our entourage spent the day together, touring the town of Lemförde, visiting the family church, having lunch at the Dümmer See (a wildlife habitat), and walking around the farm in Quernheim. Hannelore

spoke enough English that we were able to chat. Everything was sparkling, neat and clean and so welcoming. Together at the kitchen table, we looked at photos of relatives from family albums. We compared faces as I brought out family pictures of my own children. The whole crew had coffee and strawberry shortcake at the family dining table and the stories flew around as everyone laughed. I was almost glad that I didn't understand everything that was said because I was so busy making memories and soaking in every face. I was sure I was in a dream. My new family asked if I would come back and when I said "Yes!", they said, "We will be waiting for you."

ENDNOTES

1. St. Lambertus dates from the 13th century and is the oldest surviving building in Düsseldorf. Lots of statutes and unusual relics are inside, like those of St. Apollinaris. The story behind the crooked steeple is that a young woman was going to be married. She lied to the priest and said she was a virgin, and at that moment, the tower went crooked just like her lie. Legend says that the tower will straighten when a virgin is married in the church—still waiting! The tower was crooked for a different reason. On one side of the steeple, the wood they used was wet, and as it dried, it warped, twisting the wood and one side of the tower! During WWII, Düsseldorf was heavily bombed and the crooked steeple burned down. When the people of Düsseldorf were rebuilding after the war, they had the opportunity to make the tower straight this time, but they chose not to and at great extra expense, told the architect to make it crooked in keeping with tradition.
2. News story—Interview in Osnabrück and picture on the steps of the Town Hall in the plaza with new friends. <https://www.noz.de/lokales/belm/artikel/909579/dieter-linnemann-aus-belm-trifft-verwandtschaft-aus-den-usa> (Editor's Note: This article is in German.)

Remembering the 1918 Influenza Pandemic



Street car conductor in Seattle not allowing passengers aboard without a mask in 1918.

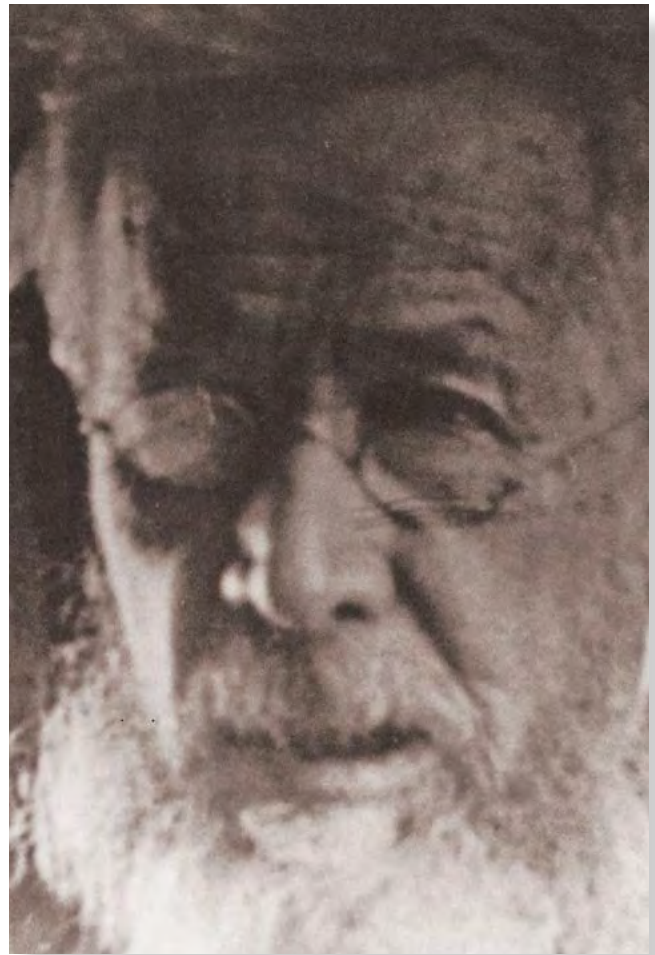
The Woodbury Chronicles

Charles W. Erickson

Editor's Note: We sometimes forget there was a time when the middle of the country was considered "out west." The hardships of first settlers had many similarities despite differences in climate and terrain, and the Oregon and Minnesota Territories were being settled at about the same time. This three-part series was originally published in 2010 in the Sibley County Historical Society Newsletter and is being reprinted here with permission from the author.

Have you ever thought how special it would be to have a chance to sit down and enjoy an arm-chair, in front of the fireplace, face to face chat, with someone that was a living participant and witness to the historical settling of the Minnesota Territories? Of course all of us realize that in life, as we know it, this chat is not possible. However, I have been blessed with the opportunity to have this conversation through ancestral documentation. My name is Charles Wesley Erickson, Jr., and I can assure you that I was completely thrilled and captivated as their personal stories and experiences were related to me.

My great-great-grandfather, Charles Wesley (C. W.) Woodbury and wife Martha Elizabeth were original settlers of the Minnesota Territories. They maintained a hand-written journal from 1854 through 1892. The journal provides a true vision of what their lives were like as they settled in Minnesota. Although many events of the day were routine or repetitious, there were many days when they faced life-threatening challenges. On many occasions their faith and strength to survive was tested beyond imagination. They experienced blessings as well as tragedies, gladness and sadness, as their lives unfolded at that time. In addition to the journal there are letters from C. W. to his sister Clarissa in New Hampshire and from Clarissa to C. W. in return. For the moment, I would like to share a small sample of excerpts from the journal and the letters with all of you. The selections I've chosen are their written words and spelling. The use of capital letters and punctuation is inconsistent. I

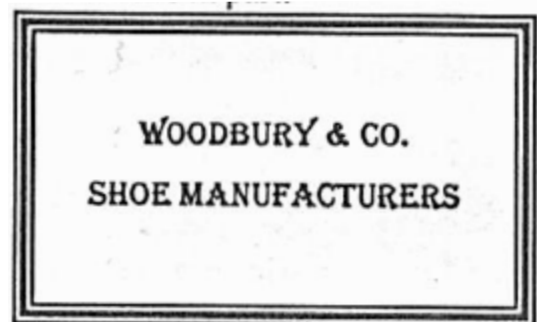


Charles Wesley (C. W.) Woodbury

have added a period here and there in an attempt to make reading a little easier.

C. W. Woodbury came from a long lineage of Woodbury's that immigrated from Somersetshire, England to Massachusetts, in 1624. According to history, John Woodbury was one of the "Old Planters" of Naumkeag, now known as Salem, Massachusetts.

C. W. Woodbury was born in Salem, New Hampshire on January 22, 1823, to parents David and Clarissa Woodbury. (Note: Later, C. W. also had a sister named Clarissa.) As a young adult, C. W. became a shoemaker by trade. His business card of 1854 reads in part:



He married Martha Elizabeth in the summer of 1846. In 1847 they were blessed with the arrival of their first child, Martha Alice. Two years later Clara Augusta entered into their lives and they were blessed again with Charles Edmond in 1854. That same year, with their three children in hand, they headed for Minnesota and on August 2, 1854, arrived in Eden Prairie, Minnesota Territory, on the steamship *Globe*. On August 18, C. W. bought a claim from William Thoms for \$135. The views were stunning in all directions. He proceeded to build a small house, bought a pair of oxen, a pig, and two hens. With this, Charles Wesley Woodbury and Martha Elizabeth began a life of raising children, crops, and livestock.

(Their property was located west of what is now known as the Flying Cloud Airport (Eden Prairie, Minnesota) in Sections 21, 28 and 29, Township 116, Range 22. A topographical description of the area would be a wonderful blend of tillable acreage transforming into rolling hills and valleys that slope towards the river, with stunning views in all directions. The future saw a portion of their property to the south being developed into a golf course. My son and I had the opportunity to walk this entire area as we played the course. I have revisited the property several times. The golf course is gone now and multiple housing is on the horizon and approaching rapidly. My first impression of this area is that part of it would have been a great location for a vineyard. It is very remindful of the pictures I've seen that show the beautiful wine country in Italy. The terrain is such that the ninth and final hole on the course had an elevator that the golfer would use to return to the clubhouse and parking level. Grace Church, a mega

church by today's definition, has been erected on a northern part of the property. I had the privilege of being involved in the construction of this structure so I have been on this land often.)

C. W. loved Eden Prairie and expresses this in a letter to his sister Clarissa and husband Timothy S. Jacobs in Manchester, New Hampshire, dated 11/12/1854.

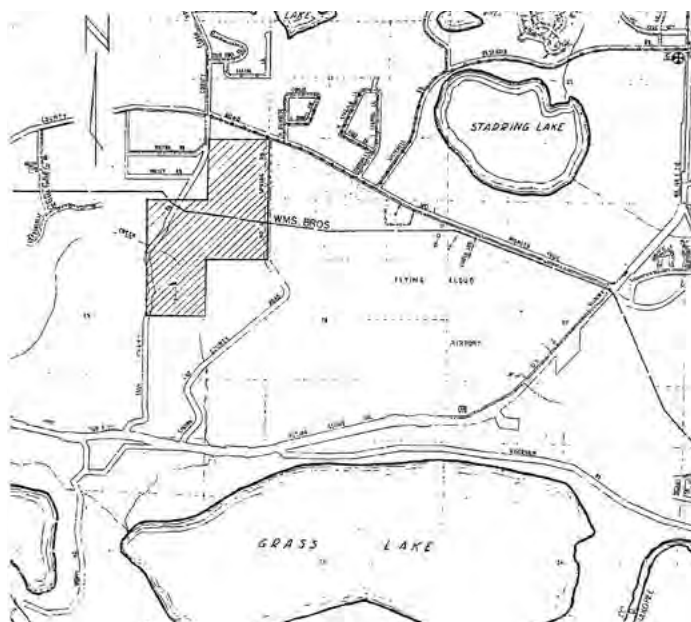
The prairie is 20 miles long and from 2 to 6 wide on the river. We are on one end. It is almost one by it self. It is 4 miles long and 3 wide of clean prairie. Prime land easy cultivated. My farm is on the west end of the prairie (which runs west) next to the woods which extent back a great many miles. My clame has about 185 akers prairie & from 40 to 50 of timber. There are some 12 to 15 ponds within 3 miles of me and 6 miles there is one 40 miles long. Thes are all full of ducks, geese, fish, mink, otter, etc. The land is high & dry enough though one could suppose from the number of ponds that it would be low, sunken &



BACK ROW: Charles E. Woodbury, Will Firle, Martha Woodbury holding Baby Benjamin Woodbury, Miss Speed (teacher), Eliza McEwen Delger, Clara Woodbury, Mary McEwen. FRONT ROW: David Woodbury, Charles Firle, Alec Phillips, Charlie Phillips, Cyrus McEwen, Matthew McEwen, Sarah Phillips, Harvey Cook [Koch], Bessie Gertrude Woodbury, Maggie Cook [Koch]. District 36, Sibley Township, 1866. This is a copy of a tintype photo, for which the Woodburys paid 75 cents.

unhealthy. But it is one of the most healthy places on the globe. There is a fine spring of pure cold water running through my place where we get our water . . . I like first rate. It is a very pleasant place. We are 2 miles from the steamboat landing and they pass right in sight every day so you can come from Manchester to within 2 miles of my place by steam. I can make money here hand over fist . . . We have to work pretty steady for a while in the fall but the spring & summer is not hard. A man can live as well again & not work more than a 1/3 as hard as in the East. Every body is well and hearty here . . . The longer I stay the better I like. We all like it.

(I have visited the site of the spring that he makes reference to and have tasted the water. The Dakota name for this creek was Winohinca Ktepi, meaning "the creek where they killed the woman." The name recalls an attack by Ojibways on a woman here who was scalped and left for dead. The woman survived the attack; explorer Joseph Nicollet heard in 1838 that she then had children who had grandchildren and great-grandchildren. White settlers called the stream Riley Creek, named after a family that settled in Eden Prairie in 1853. Dakota Indians occupied this creek valley even after the surrounding country was settled by whites. The creek drains from Riley Lake and the spring is still used by the general public today. They arrive with a variety of containers to be filled



This present day map shows the location of the Woodbury property in Eden.

and used for their personal home consumption.)

Issues regarding crops, weather, amusements, Indians, community involvement, pests, and family, (newborns and the passing of elders) were recorded daily as they occurred. In some cases months passed between the exchange of letters from C. W. and Martha and the replies from relatives in New Hampshire. Those out east read about the activities of the Indian population and could not be convinced that Minnesota is the great place that C. W. claimed it to be.

Regarding crops and weather, he continues on in the same letter:

I lost about 100 bushels potatoes & 4 tons hay. The one by frost. The other by fire . . . We had about 2 in. snow last Thurs. night and it has been cold enough since to freeze hell over. Thursday morning was warm & pleasant & had been all fall.

From a letter written by C. W. to his sister Clarissa in New Hampshire dated 2/12/1855, he tells about a part of their social life.

This winter we have a singing school once a week. A party or ball every two or three weeks. These with what other amusements we can find make the time pass very well.

In the same letter C. W. mentions the Indians.

They are very civil to the settlers. They will come in armed with guns, hatchets, knives, bows & arrows, sit down without saying a word, look around at everything in the room. (We have the room papered with Gleason's pictorials. They take the attention of the Indians.) Some times ask for something to eat. Others sit a while and go off. There are some very handsome squaws among them. The Sioux (Sous) & Chipaways are always at war. They have a martial hatred of each other & never meet without fighting.

The Chipawas live N & E of the St. Croix which is the line between. They had a fight last week between St Paul & Stillwater. The Sioux are having a pow wow now about 2 miles from here at their

camp. They make the damnest noise that you ever heard. We can hear it here plain as if close to.

In yet another letter to sister Clarissa from both C. W. and Martha dated 2/03/1856, Martha tells her about their community organization, Lyceum.

We have a Lyceum of 32 members. One night there was 53 present & one says where do they all come from. We have discussions, dialogues, etc every Wednesday Evening . . . I forgot to mention that our Lyceum has a paper and Charles has been Editor but has resigned his office or rather his term was out. Every office serves four weeks and then they choose new.

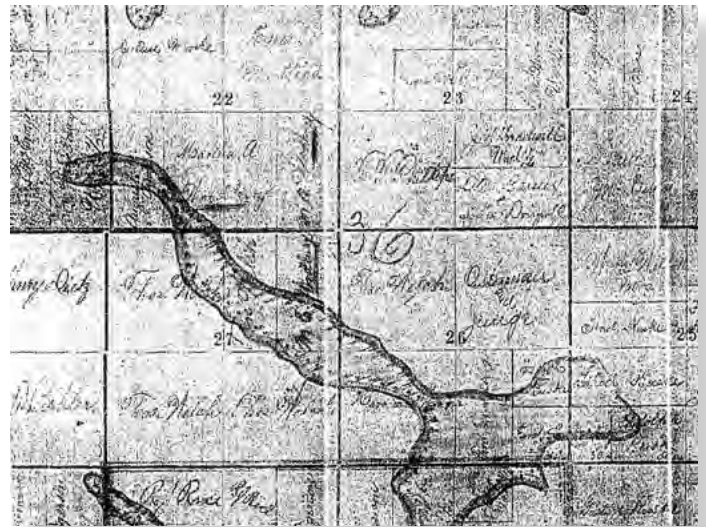
In the journal, C. W. describes the "grasshoppers" in picturesque detail.

May _ 1857 Planted about an acre of corn. The grasshoppers are hatching some places on the breaking. They as thick as can be. If they are as thick when they get their growth they won't be able to all light on the ground at once.

July _ 1857 The grasshoppers are leaving fast. They rise into the air as high as one can see. The air is full of them about noon on clear days. They get to their growth in about five weeks. When full grown they are one inch and an eight long. Their wings are about two inches and a half from tip to tip and white like tissue paper. They have an outside case to their wings which is brown. When about grown it is of a velvety color and has two spots close to the roots of the wing. They are very handsome or would be if they had not eat nearly everything for me. The blackbirds are coming back, I hope they will pitch into them.

August _ 1857 The grasshoppers have left.

As noted previously, the first mention of Indians was in the journal entry dated 2/12/1855. In short, from that date on, the actions of the Indians became more feared by the Woodbury family as well as the other settlers. Graphic and sometimes gruesome descriptions of the aftermath of battles between opposing tribes and the



This plat shows the Woodbury property in Sections 22 and 27 in Sibley County. At this time the property was in Kelso Township. In 1864 it was divided off into Sibley Township. The large area is the woods known as Norwegian Grove.

killing and kidnapping of whites can be found as the terror mounted. The last entry regarding this subject, while they lived in Eden Prairie, was dated 4/26/1858.

Through the journal and letters to the family, C. W. and Martha express their thoughts regarding the planning and location of the railroad. They and others felt tremendous excitement about the opportunity to have access to a safer, faster way of travel, along with the availability of a broader selection of goods and services.

(Can you imagine how exciting it must have been for them to be living right there and then as that portion of Minnesota was developed? A new bridge or highway constructed today could never compare to their experience.)

As I close on their chapter of life in Eden Prairie, 8/02/1854 to 7/17/1860, I would like to add the journal entry from 9/05/1859:

Monday. The wife of Charles W. Woodbury was safely delivered of a Boy which weighed 10 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. It was born about $\frac{1}{4}$ to 2 o'clock P.M. David Willard Woodbury.

A journal entry by C. W. on 7/17/1860 tells about their new start.

Tues. Sold my place in Eden Prairie for 1550\$. Debts amounted to about 900\$ leaving about 600 net. I went to Illinois to get a place where I could raise fruit but a fruit farm was good for nothing else and there was too much sickness. Every little

town had its grave yard to thickly settled. I returned to Minnesota and in Shakopee saw a Mr. Stoun of Kelso, Sibley County, 12 miles from Henderson who talked so hiley of his country that I went with him and brought 80 acres of him and 80 of a Mr. Thompson in Section 22 & 27 Township 122 Range 28.

He makes it official on 8/18/1860.

Sat. Bought farm 18th of August 1860.

Charles Wesley and Martha Elizabeth Woodbury couldn't say enough good things about their new life. It is well to mention journal entry dated 8/20/1860.

Mon. Commenced to build a house . . . The land cost 332\$ Taxes & cost 10.50 whole cost 342.50\$ house 110 = 452.50\$. We have commenced anew with the experience of our other place. Some farther from market but with better land and more see room now, I will with good health and decent good luck, have me a farm as good as any in the county, if not in the state, and as productive in 10 years. I have as good a place as any in this town, which is not yet organized into a town.

C. W. was a party to the development and organization of an agricultural group as is noted in the journal on 3/19/1861.

Wed. Had a meeting at Daniel Whips to organize an agricultural society. A constitution was adopted and the following named persons were chosen officers. President H.L. Thomas, -Vice Presidents J.Q.A Grant & Arnold Delger, -Recording & Corresponding Secretary C. W. Woodbury, -Abraham Searl Treasurer, -Directors L.S. Reynolds, Ben Tipton, E.M. Gordon, C.O. Colby, Gideon Searl. The society is called the Kelso Town Agricultural Society.

(I have translated the names noted above as written in the journal. Other variations of the spelling might be found in other records or publications.)

The entry on 4/13/1861 states that a committee was chosen to draft a constitution.

On 4/20/1862 C. W. describes their new farm with the following words found in the journal:

Sat. Planted some potatoes, peas, asparagus & cabbage. The first on our new place. The first time an agricultural tool of a white man was ever used on the land. It was with curious sensations of pleasure, pride and awe that I planted this afternoon. Pleasure that we had a prospect of again raising our own living, that the land was so rich and mellow. It was gratifying to think that I could walk over the ground in summer and see the crops growing so green and luxuriant. It was with pride that I could think the land was ours, absolutely ours, all paid for. It is ours from the center of the earth four thousand miles deep, and as high up as we are a mind to go. It is a small thing to be proud of I suppose but can't help it. I live in hopes of having more and better.

It was with a kind of awe that I thought I was the first white man that had put seed into the ground that had laid quiet since the creation. It was just as it came from the hands of the creator.

(I have read this piece of the journal over and over. I find his thoughts and feelings extremely profound, poetic, heartwarming, and touching, far beyond taking everything for granted and far surpassing our own imagination and emotion when expressing our own personal fortune and happiness. The way he describes the depth and height of his property is beyond what I could ever put into words. It would have been wonderful to experience a Thanksgiving Day with them as they truly realized the blessings that were bestowed upon them. I have been on this property, Sections 22 and 27 in Township 112 Range 28 and found myself trying to be there as he described their lives.)

It is written in the journal on 5/1/1861:

Whife had a child born at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 8 in the morning (a girl)

(Although it was not mentioned at that particular time, the baby was named Minnie May Woodbury or Little May, as they later referred to her.)

Even as they consistently praised their farming way of life and the blessings of that life, relationships with the Indians took a turn for the worse. It is recorded in the journal on Wednesday 8/20/1862:

Report came in 12 o'clock last night that the Indians was coming, killing and destroying as they come. We dressed and left home in a hurry.

In the same entry C. W. mentions the families of Mr. Whips, Mr. Reynolds, Mr. Grant, Mr. Manuels, and Mr. Gleason, as they fled from the horror of the attacks together.

There are many other entries in the journal describing the terror and savageness that they and their neighbors faced almost daily. An entire article could be written incorporating these entries. At this time I will close writing about the Indians with the following selections.

On 10/05/1862 his sister Clarissa Woodbury Jacobs, Manchester, New Hampshire, sent a letter to C. W. that expresses her concern for their safety.

It is a long time since we have heard from you and we feel very anxious to hear from you as we hear that the Indians are murdering the settlers and destroying their property. We hear that they have burnt Henderson and have been all over the country in that direction, and we hear that you may have lost your property. I think of you a great deal but hope things are not as bad out there as they papers represent.

C. W. replies to Clarissa's letter on 11/20/1862.

I will give you a short condensed history of things here since the 19th of Aug. At 4 o'clock Tuesday p.m. I put the last bundle of wheat into shock. I had 19 acres. At ½ past 11 that night a courier came full speed and told us to flee for our lives as the Indians were killing & burning the settlement clean as they went and were within a few miles of here. I put a few things in the wagon got the family in and started at midnight. We went about five miles east to a large log house where all the neighbours were collected. We fortified the house & staid there 3 days when the Indians came into the neighborhood, killed a

woman and 3 children, burned the house, hay & grain stacks. We saw the smoke about 4 o'clock p.m. and fled for LeSeuer on the river. . . The Indians came no further that way . . . (You say you hope things are not so bad as the papers represent? For once the papers have not told the whole, nor half the worst. Such inhuman barbaricts as I have never heard nor thought of. I will not try to tell of the cursed cruelties and as such seans as is not fit to be seen. . . Heaps of blackened rubbish, broken and charred furniture, wagons, cattle & horses mark the roads for 150 miles. I never expected to see such seans, and hope I never shall again.) I don't feel like writing more now.

On October 21 Martha sent for a doctor to attend to their Little May. The following day Doctor Mayo arrived from LeSueur but it was too late to do any good. October 23 found May getting worse and on 10/24/1862 Little May, the daughter of C. W. and Martha passed away.

C. W. expresses their feelings of deep sorrow regarding the death of Little May in the same letter.

We have met with a lose. Our little May is dead, (my pet) & died too while I was gone. She has been sick sometime but we had not thought much of it as she was cutting her teeth and the day I went away she was so much better. I thought she would be all well when I came back and I pictured to myself, while I lay camped at night, how pleased she would be to see me but – how shall I write it. Instead of the joyous prattle I found her locked in the icy arms of death. Poor May. It was like cutting soul and spirit asunder, but she is in her little grave in a little grove of poplars close to our garden. There at her rest, the little bud.

(When I read about her death and burial, I couldn't help but wonder how many folks were buried on farm sites or areas similar to what he described in his letter. How many of those final resting places have been obliterated unknowingly, leaving no trace, by changes in ownership over time? It gives a real meaning to the phrase "dust to dust.")

Continuing on from the same letter, C. W. addresses the death of his father.

How different with our Father. Whatever of talents was given him, he like an honest man improved and like shock of corn fully ripe has been gathered to his long home. Father and Mother, they lay side by side. I had hoped that he would have lived a few years longer . . . If there is any living hereafter I not only have the hope but the shure faith of meeting all, my May, Father, Mother & all in that happy land.

The letter also contains further detail that describes fleeing the Indian attacks and the loss they and others suffered as a result. It also expresses more of their feelings in regard to losing Little May. Although life at that time can be good, there continues to be obstacles, hardships, and heartbreak.

On Friday, December 19, 1862, the journal notes that it was the day set for the hanging of thirty-nine Indians.

The last date I want to mention from the journal was entered by Martha on 12/26/1862, Friday.

Pleasant & thawing. Wind N.W. Charles picking over the potatoes in the cellar. 38 of the Indians hung that was to be last week.

In closing this article I feel that it is important to repeat Martha's summarization of the year 1862 as written.

The reign of the year 62 is over it but leaves sad memories behind not soon to be forgotten. Especially to the present inhabitants of Minn. In connection with the Southern War, the sudden attacking by the Sioux Indians upon the White Settlers at New Ulm to Yellow medicine . . . Men, Women and Children hardly without a moments warning brutally murdered by the Knife of the Savage while living on their farms in Peace and Plenty apparently with nothing to molest or make them afraid. Others that escaped with their lives left destitute, their Property destroyed, their years of hard labor lost.

Disease & Death has also done its work among us. It has visited alike the Stately Mansions and Humble Dwelling. With us we could bear our loss in crops but when Death came and took our youngest, our little May from us it left A wound



Undated photo of Charles and Martha Woodbury.

where time nor human skill cannot heal. The oldest of our family connexions Father Woodbury ripe in years had been laid in the grave. Our little May was soon called to follow her grandpa to another world. Though they never saw each other on earth, we trust they have met in heaven.

This article spans the time beginning in 1854 and extends through December of 1862. There are many other entries of interest in the journal and letters that provide additional detail beyond what I have offered thus far. Continuing into 1863, new adventures with additional names, actions, organizations, education and challenges are recorded. It would be my pleasure to share more of their true experiences with you in the future.

TRANSCRIBED LETTER

Origin of John Radcliffe: Letter from Geoffrey Reynolds Yonge Radcliffe (Hertfordshire, England) to Alston Radcliffe (Toronto, Canada) dated 14 May 1957

Mark Grafe

Geoffrey Reynolds Yonge Radcliffe (Hertfordshire, England) to Alston Radcliffe (Toronto, Canada), letter, 14 May 1957, privately held by Mark Grafe. This letter was forwarded to Reginald Heber Radcliffe, Mark's grandfather, by Charles Alston Radcliffe.

This four-page letter discussed research that Geoffrey R. Y. Radcliffe's father, Francis R. Y. Radcliffe performed prior to publishing *Pedigree of the Radcliffe Family of New Sarum, co. Wilts. etc.* in 1905 with Charles Henry Radcliffe. John Ratcliff, a.k.a. John Radcliffe, whose parents are unknown, was a great-grandfather to Geoffrey; second great-grandfather to Alston and Heber.

Only the letter itself is transcribed; underlining and additional words were probably added by Heber Radcliffe. Punctuation was not corrected. "Dr. Radcliffe" refers to the Reverend George Radcliffe, D.D. The notations "(sic)" were added by Geoffrey; any notation thus: "[sic]", as well as the comments, were added by Mark Grafe.

Glebe House Knebworth Herts
14 May 1957

My dear Alston

I was much interested in the leader from the Toronto Globe & the quotation from the New York Times and glad to find that our men did not go by default across the Atlantic. The sad thing was that our Government obviously had no idea of comparative strength of Egypt & Israel and rushed in too soon. If they had conducted themselves with telling the United Nations that if they did not intervene effectively we were going to do so and had then intervened when Israel had reached and probably crossed the Canal, no doubt by then blocked we could



Radcliffe to Radcliffe, letter, 1957 - From Author's records.

have abetted Israel comfortably to do the job and nobody would have complained.

But the purpose of this letter is to tell you that the research with the origin of John Radcliffe was done many years ago by my father and in the most thorough fashion with a great mass of research with wills and parish registers and ended in drawing blank and nothing but some lucky accident will ever get us any further. The positive results were as follows:-

1. He spelt his name RATCLIFFE [sic] and my great-grandfather matriculated at Oxford under that spelling and only changed it when he went to Salisbury about 1810 if my memory serves me right. [Comment 1.]

2. He died Nov 18, 1798 aged 63 years according to

[Page 2 of 4]

the inscription on his tombstone at Acton Cheshire [Comment 2.]

3. In the affidavit attached to his marriage license at Chester dated July 20, 1758 he describes himself as “Murin” [sic] and as of the age of 22 years and upwards. [Comment 3.]

4. Christening there two [sic] in the autumn he was born [sic] between July and Nov. 1735. [Comment 4.]

5. When my father went to Acton in his searches in 1885 he found still living there an old Miss Hares, daughter of Ellen Hares, Dr. Radcliffe’s sister. From her he got copies of two letters written by Dr. Radcliffe to his sister which threw no light and a book which I have, “The Young Clerk’s Magazine” a book of precedents - for a lawyer which has inscribed on a fly leaf, John Ratcliff (sic) his hand this Book prise (sic) LO.1.4, bought at Engleton Macclesfield October the 2 1749. [Comment 5.]

6. Miss Hares also said that he had come from that part of the world to Acton in the employment of one Trubshaw a well-known architect-engineer who is in the books & who had charge of rebuilding the Tower of Acton Church. He figures in a list of Trubshaw’s employees in an account of Trubshaw published by a descendant and looks from his place in the list to have been just a working man.



Selected locations near Acton, Cheshire, England. Map drawn by the author, 2018.

This led as you may imagine to an intensive search of the parish registers in the neighborhood

[Page 3 of 4]

of Macclesfield and it produced only two insignificant entries:-

(1) Marriage at Leek near Macclesfield Oct 5 1735 of Willoughby Ratcliff of Leek to Mary Chappel

(2) Baptism at St Michael’s, Macclesfield Oct. 18 1735 of John son of Willoughby Radcliffe of Heaton. [Comment 6.]

Unusual as the Christian name Willoughby is we have never seen it again anywhere. [Comment 7] Finally Uncle Charles found in the old home at Evellen St. Salisbury which his Father built, several old letters part of a larger number of which he remembered his mother destroying a great deal as her husband had told her they were no longer of any use to the family. They turned out to be original letters of James II when Duke of York and his wife Anne Hyde and a missing part of the Clarendon MSS in the Bodleian Library at Oxford to which Uncle Charles gave them. The Clarendon MSS in Bodley was got from a Joseph Radcliffe barrister & curator of the last Lord Clarendon in the male line who died in the middle 1700’s. We have carried the pedigree of that Joseph Radcliffe back and forward for about three generations each way & found no trace of any connection with the Macclesfield area or with any Willoughby. They were in London all the time. [Comment 8]

[Page 4 of 4]

Some day no doubt Willoughby Radcliffe will Turn up and the search can start again. Let me know your new address when you move

your affb cousin

Geoffrey

COMMENTS

1. There are at least three documents with John Ratcliff’s signature; his marriage bond, his marriage license, and his daughter’s marriage bond. He spelled his name “Jn Ratcliff,” and “John Ratcliff.” John’s son



The bell tower at St. Mary's Church, Acton, Cheshire, England. The parish register states a storm blew down the tower on 15 March 1757. Brick repairs are shown above the old stone. Photo courtesy of the author.

matriculated at Oxford and was married in 1801 under the name of George Ratcliff. In 1809 he remarried as Rev. George Radcliffe, widower.¹

2. Parish registers and the body stone inscription show John was buried 18 November 1798. The earlier graveyard transcription states he was aged 63. A transcription from 2010 reads 65. The numbers 3 and 5 can appear similar on worn engravings.²
3. John's marriage bond and marriage license are both dated 20 July 1758. Both documents, from Acton Parish in the Diocese of Chester, clearly state he was a mason. English marriage bonds routinely show individuals to be "twenty-one and upwards." The marriage bond, filled out by Rev. Jos Brereton, for "John Radcliff" has him at "twenty-two years and upwards" and Ann Skellorn at "twenty-five years and upwards." John signed the marriage bond "Jn Ratcliff" and Ann did not sign the document.³

4. If the age and date on the marriage bond are correct, and the age and date of John Ratcliff's monumental inscription are correct, then he was possibly born between 20 July 1735 and 18 November 1735. There were fifteen christenings at St. Mary's in Acton Parish between those dates in the autumn of 1735, including John Wood and John Pace, but no John Ratcliff. The records show baptisms, not dates of birth.
5. It appears a thirty-three-year-old lawyer, Frances R. Y. Radcliffe, rode his horse or carriage to Acton and spoke with his first cousin once removed, Mary Hares, from whom he received a publication introducing legal papers. The magazine inscription attempts to link a young man with an education and Macclesfield. *The Young Clerk's Magazine* was published in 1739.⁴ It would be interesting to compare the signature from *The Young Clerk's Magazine* with the "John Ratcliff of Hurleston" signature from the Cheshire marriage banns.
6. A "Willoughby Ratcliff" married 5 October 1735 at St. Edward's Church in Leek, Staffordshire, England, Mary Chappel.⁵ "Willoughby Radcliffe of Heaton" had a son, John, baptized at Wincle, Cheshire, England, 18 October 1735, two weeks after that marriage.⁶ A civil parish of Heaton is located between Leek and Wincle in Staffordshire. This was the only baptismal record found prior to 1900 that fit the assumed time period for John.

Mary Hares' oral account of her grandfather coming from the Macclesfield area is a part of John Ratcliff's story.² However, Mary was born almost five years after the death of her grandfather.^{2,7} Mellor is fifteen miles northeast of Macclesfield. A connection with the Radcliffe family who owned Mellor Hall in the 1600s is hearsay.⁸

The "J. Ratcliffe" on Trubshaw's 1758 list of employees fits with John Ratcliff's 1758 marriage documents describing him as a mason. "J. Ratcliffe" appears to have worked for Charles Trubshaw a total of twelve days. James Bold, whose name appears at the top of Trubshaw's list, was reported as employed for seventy-three days. J. Buckley, of Hurleston, was listed as employed for eighty-five days; and Ed Banks, a mason from Wybunbury, appears to have been there ninety-eight days.⁹ J. Ratcliffe appears fourth in the transcribed list. W. Scofield's entry was illegible; George Allen's record of days worked was missing; and

Danl Walley of Hurleston likely worked for forty-one days, possibly as a bricklayer.¹⁰

7. Prior generations attempted to link the Willoughby surname to this family. They possibly missed Willoughby Ratcliff, son of Willoughby Ratcliff and Elizabeth, possibly baptized 11 July 1715, in Stepney, London.¹¹ Someone born in 1715 could have married in 1735. London is over 160 miles southeast of Leek. Travel by carriage would have been three or four miles per hour, making for a journey of four to seven days. There are no entries in parish registers suggesting a Willoughby Ratcliff was born in Heaton or Leek, both in Staffordshire, England.¹² There are burial entries from 1730 for Radul Ratcliff and Radulphus [Ralph] Ratcliff in Leek, suggesting a possible reason to travel from London.

A Willoughby Ratcliff married Mary Chappel on 5 October 1735 at Leek, Staffordshire, England. Following her name, the words “of Prestbury” were crossed out.⁵ The *Clergy of the Church of England* database lists about twenty chapels and schools under



Rev. George Radcliffe, D.D., son of John Ratcliff and Ann Skellorn, portrait circa 1833. Photo courtesy of the author.

Prestbury, including a St. Michael’s Church in Macclesfield and St. Michael’s in Wincle.¹³

John, son of a Willoughby Radcliffe of Heaton, was christened 18 October 1735 at St. Michael’s Church, Wincle, in the borough of Macclesfield, the county of Cheshire, England.¹⁴ Heaton, Staffordshire, England, did not have a church. The Parish Church of Rushton Spencer has records of baptisms, marriages, and burials for inhabitants of Heaton and other small communities. Willoughby Radcliffe does not appear at Rushton Spencer, only the John Ratcliffe family. John Ratcliffe and Elizabeth of Heaton had children baptized between 1743 and 1760.¹⁵

There were Chappel families in the Wincle and Wild-boardclough area.¹⁶ Mary (Chappel) Ratcliff’s place and date of birth and death are also unknown. There are many people in Derbyshire, Cheshire, and Staffordshire, circa 1715 to 1800, named Mary Chappel and Mary Ratcliff.

There are no entries in either the *FamilySearch* or *Findmypast* databases for the death of Willoughby Ratcliff. Francis R. Y. Radcliffe was not convinced Willoughby Radcliffe was the father of John Radcliffe of Hurleston.¹⁷ No Willoughby Radcliffe appears in the Bishop’s Transcripts from 1662-1810 for the parish church in Mellor.¹⁸

8. Joseph Radcliffe, of Lyon’s Inn, and two others were appointed executors of the will of the 3rd Earl of Clarendon after his death. Although he did not inherit the Clarendon papers, it was assumed Joseph was given the documents. Trustees for the estate of Joseph Radcliffe of Lyon’s Inn sold Clarendon papers in 1764, after Joseph’s death in 1760. Many Clarendon papers were purchased by trustees of Dr. John Radcliffe (1652-1714), the celebrated physician. They donated the papers to the Bodleian Library and the Radcliffe Library at Oxford.

In 1888, nine Clarendon letters from circa 1680 were presented to the Bodleian Library by Charles H. Radcliffe after they had been printed in the *National Review*. These letters were said to have been in the possession of Rev. George Radcliffe D. D. (1780-1849).¹⁹ Rev. Dr. George Radcliffe lived on Castle Street in 1841; his son, Rev. George Radcliffe, M. A. lived on Endless Street from 1841 until around 1858.²⁰

ENDNOTES

1. Joseph Foster, Hon. M.A. Oxon, Alumni Oxonienses, the members of the University of Oxford, 1715-1886, (Oxford : James Parker, 1891), 1169. Also, "Hampshire Marriage Transcription," East Dean, Hampshire, England, George Ratcliff and Ally Newman, 28 December 1801; database, *Findmypast*, (<http://search.findmypast.co.uk/record?id=gbprs%2fm%2f810038742%2fi>, accessed 26 November 2015); citing Hampshire Genealogical Society; and St. Michael's Church (Southampton, Hampshire, England), handwritten copy of parish register, marriage of Rev. George Radcliffe, widower, and Catherine Elizabeth Brandreth, 25 July 1809; FHL microfilm 1,596,363.
2. Charles Henry Radcliffe and Francis R. Y. Radcliffe, *Pedigree of the Radcliffe Family of New Sarum, co. Wilts, etc.* (Exeter and London, England: William Pollard & Co. Ltd., Printer, 1905), entry for John Radcliffe. Also, M. J. Grose, *St. Mary's Church, Acton Nr Nantwich, Cheshire, Monumental Inscriptions*, CD, (Nantwich: Lancon Publishing, 2010), 127. See FamilySearch > Books.
3. "Cheshire Marriage License Bonds and Allegations 1606-1905," unpaginated, John Ratcliff and Ann Skellorn, 20 July 1758; digital image, *Findmypast* (<http://search.findmypast.co.uk>, accessed 4 February 2016), no image number. Also, Acton Parish (Acton, Cheshire, England), Christenings, Marriages, and Burials, Acton, England. FHL, Salt Lake City, "Marriages, Acton, England, Vol. 4, G. S.; 942.71/A2 V26a," Volume 5, 1758; 20 July 1758, John Ratcliff, T.P. Mason, married Anne Skellorn, T.P. (Sp); witnesses were Ann Jackson and J. L. ; FHL microfilm 0,924,609, item page 37.
4. Mess. Bettelworth, Hitch, and J. Hodges, *The Young Clerk's Magazine*, (London: Nutt & Gosling, 1739); *Hathi Trust Digital Library*, (<http://babel.hathitrust.org>, accessed 3 December 2015).
5. St. Edward's Church (Leak, Staffordshire, England), Parish Register, wedding, Willoughby Ratcliff and Mary Chappel, 5 October 1735; digital image, *Findmypast*, (<http://search.findmypast.co.uk>, accessed 25 November 2015), image 114. Note, following Mary Chappel, "of Prestbury" has been crossed out.
6. St. Michael's (Winkle, Cheshire, England), Parish Register, baptism of John, son of Willoughby Radcliffe [Rudcliffe] of Heaton, 18 October 1735; FHL microfilm 1,656,950, "Baptisms at Winkle 1735."
7. Acton Parish (Cheshire, England), parish register, 3 July 1803 entry for Mary, daughter of Thomas and Ellen Hares of Stoke; digital image, *Findmypast*, (<http://search.findmypast.co.uk/record/browse?id=gbprs%2fchs%2f4019086%2fo0462>, accessed 3 December 2015), image 482.
8. Joseph Tilley, *Old Halls, Manors, and Families of Derbyshire, Vol 1* (London: 1892); transcription, *Wishful Thinking* (<http://texts.wishful-thinking.org.uk/Tilley/MellorHall.html>, accessed 1 March 2016).
9. Wybunbury Parish (Wybunbury, Cheshire, England), marriage bond, 24 December 1775, page 1 of 2; digital image, *Findmypast*, (<http://search.findmypast.co.uk/record/browse?id=gbprs%2fchs%2f4018435%2fo1681>, accessed 27 November 2015), no image number. Note, Ed Banks Senior and Junior were masons in 1775.
10. Susanna Trubshaw, *Family Records*, (Stafford: R. and W. Wright, 1876), 41. Also, St. Mary's Church (Acton, Cheshire, England), parish register of marriages, p. 30, Elizabetha Ratcliffe and Thomas Walley, bricklayer, 19 February 1710; digital image, *Findmypast* (<http://search.findmypast.co.uk>, accessed 4 February 2016).
11. *Findmypast*, "England Births and Baptisms c1538-1910 Transcriptions," Willoughby Ratcliff, son of Willoughby Ratcliff and Eliz., baptized 11 July 1715 at Stepney, London, England, database, (<http://search.findmypast.co.uk>, accessed 21 November 2015).
12. St. Lawrence Church (Rushton Spencer, Staffordshire, England), parish registers, 1701-1744; digital images, *Findmypast*, (<http://search.findmypast.co.uk>, accessed 5 December 2015) images 5-92. Also, St. Lawrence Church (Rushton Spencer, Staffordshire, England), parish registers from 1744 to 1768; digital images, *Findmypast*, (<http://search.findmypast.co.uk>, accessed 5 December 2015), images 3-64. Also, St. Edward's Church (Leek, Staffordshire, England), parish register of baptisms and marriages; digital images, *Findmypast*, (<http://search.findmypast.co.uk>, accessed 5 December 2015).
13. *Clergy of the Church of England database* (<http://db.theclergydatabase.org.uk/jsp/locations/index.jsp>, accessed 24 January 2016), Jurisdiction Diocese, Chester.
14. St. Michaels Church (Winkle, Cheshire, England), baptism of John, son of Willoughby Radcliffe of Heaton, 18 October 1735. Also, St. Michaels (Macclesfield, England) Parish Register, 23; digital image, *Findmypast*, (<http://search.findmypast.co.uk>, accessed 23 November 2015), image 287. Note, baptisms at St. Michael's in Winkle have been entered into the Parish Register for St. Michael's in Macclesfield.
15. St. Lawrence Church (Rushton Spencer, Staffordshire, England), parish register, 11 March 1743, page 83; digital image, *Findmypast*, (<http://search.findmypast.co.uk>, accessed 30 November 2015), image 85 of 92.
16. St. Michael's (Winkle, Cheshire, England), FHL microfilm 1,656,950, "Baptisms at Winkle 1735." Note, three months before the baptism of John Radcliffe at Winkle, Isaac Chappel's daughter was baptized. Other Chappel families are from "Clough."
17. Frances R. Y. Radcliffe, "Willoughby Radcliffe," *Notes and Queries*, 1889, s7-VIII (209).
18. Mellor Parish (Greater Manchester, England), Bishop's Transcripts, "Baptisms, Marriages, Burials, 1662-1810," filmed at Litchfield, Staffordshire, England; FHL microfilm 823,815. The village of Mellor at one time had its records associated with Glossop, Derbyshire, England; parish registers are now held at Matlock, Derbyshire, England.
19. Falconer Madan, *A Summary Catalog of Western Manuscripts at the Bodleian Library at Oxford*, (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1895); *Google Books* (<https://www.google.com>, accessed 4 December 2015) > Clarendon MSS, Radcliffe > A Summary Catalog of Western Manuscripts in the Bodleian Library... > page 559-560.
20. 1841 England, Wales, & Scotland, census, Parish of St. Edmunds, Salisbury, Wiltshire, page 15-16, Castle Street, George Radcliffe, 70, clergyman; Alston Radcliffe, 31, clergyman; Charles Radcliffe, 26, solicitor; John Radcliffe, 18, Asst. Clerk; Frederick Radcliffe, 12, Pupil; Mary Radcliffe, 58; and about 20 pupils; digital image, *Findmypast* (<http://search.findmypast.co.uk>, accessed 7 January 2016); citing The National Archives, London, England. Also, 1841 England, Wales, and Scotland, census, Wiltshire, New Sarum, Endless Street, p. 6, Fanny Radcliffe and children: Mary, Henry, Alfred, Herbert, and Fanny; digital image, *Findmypast* (<http://search.findmypast.co.uk>, accessed 7 January 2016); citing The National Archives, London, England.

USING SPECIAL CENSUSES

Finding George Washington Bell (Beall) born 1823 in Georgia

Christine Stoffels-Bell

I have been researching my family tree for about six years. For a long time, I was reluctant to start looking for the Bell side of the family because that surname is quite common. But I knew enough about the Bells from other family members to trace them back to the 1880 United States Census. There, I discovered that not only was George Washington Bell, my second great-grandfather, deaf, but his wife and oldest son were deaf as well. The 1880 census shows George W. Bell (marked deaf),



“An Enumerator Collecting Statistics...” published in Frank Leslie’s Illustrated Newspaper, June 14, 1890.

13. (1880)

Page No. 115-1

SCHEDULE 1.—Inhabitants in Precinct 5, in the County of Upshur, State of Texas, enumerated by me on the 11th day of June, 1880.

No.	Name	Sex	Age	Color	Married	Single	Widow	Divorced	Deaf	Dumb	Mute	Blind	Other
127	John Bell	M	57	White									
128	Sarah A. M. Bell	F	35	White									
129	C. C. Bell	M	10	White									
130	Martha Bell	F	8	White									
131	George W. Bell	M	5	White									
132	William Bell	M	3	White									
133	John R. Bell	M	2	White									
134	Jack M. Bell	M	1	White									
135	Henry H. Bell	M	1	White									

1880 U.S. census, Precinct No. 5, Upshur County, Texas, population schedule, ED 115, p. 14, dwelling 125, family 125, George W. Bell.

age 57; wife Sarah A. M. (marked deaf), age 35; and their children, C. C. (marked deaf), Martha, George, William, John R., Jack M., and Henry H. It also indicates that George was born in Georgia, his parents were born in North Carolina, and Sarah and her parents were all born in Tennessee. The Bell family was farming in Precinct 5, Upshur County, Texas.

I felt this discovery would make it a “piece of cake” to dive deeper into the Bell family history. In the 1870 census, I found George and Sarah (both marked deaf and dumb)¹ with children Christopher, or C. C., and Martha in Precinct 5, Upshur County, Texas. In 1860, George or “G. W.” (deaf and dumb) was in Northern District, Clayton County, Georgia, living with Abner Burks and family. This is where the census trail ended for me. I was unable to find a George Washington Bell in 1850 who was deaf.

Because George wasn’t married in 1860 and was married in 1870, I started looking for a marriage record between those dates. My research led me to the *U.S. Special Census on Deaf Family Marriages and Hearing Relatives, 1888-1895*. This record stated that “Bell” and Sarah Reynolds were married in 1867 in Upshur County, Texas. It also stated that George had a sibling born about 1838 who was also deaf, but this still didn’t indicate who his parents were or where he was born. I know this record is for my relative because I already knew Sarah’s maiden name was Reynolds. The record also says the

marriage took place in Upshur County, Texas, and the 1870 census shows them living there.

I next tried to gather more information about George's children, hoping for additional clues. Sometimes children live with relatives, such as grandparents, aunts, or uncles. I was also looking for George's death certificate since I could trace him to 1880 but no further. By concentrating on the 1880s in Texas, I found the Agricultural Census for 1880 and came upon the *U.S. Federal Census 1880 Schedules of Defective, Dependent, and Delinquent Classes*. I believe this special census was taken to determine if people with disabilities were self-sufficient. It was my big breakthrough! In this record, George stated he had gone to the American School for the Deaf in Hartford, Connecticut, for five years ending in 1840. It also lists Sarah, who is deaf from scarlet fever, and C. C., their oldest child.

I contacted the school and asked for any information they could share with me. To my surprise, not only did they have him enrolled from 7 August 1835 to 21 September 1840, but they had his birth date, parents' names, and sibling information. Though he is listed as Washington Beall in the school records, I know this is the same person because of his entry in the 1880 special census and the fact that there are no other Bells or Bealls in the school—except for his sister Louisa.²

The following was provided by the American School for the Deaf, Museum Archives, and is taken from Admission Records, Volume II:

Name: Washington Beall

Student: #506

Born: October 24, 1823

Parents: George and Jemima

Home: Covington, Newton County, Georgia

Admitted to School: August 7, 1835

Left School: September 21, 1840

Notes: W. B. was born deaf. W. B. is a Georgia beneficiary (send) letters to Rev. Charles H. Sanders, Covington.

Siblings: Betsy, Eleanor, Mary, Louisa (10 yrs. old, d & d), Penelope, Soloman, Robert (4 yrs. old, d & d), Rebecca.

I was also able to find some information about his sister, Louisa (the d & d notation * deaf & dumb); she also attended our school.

copy

11-7 *copy*

[Please answer the questions as fully as possible, and return the record to E. A. Fay, Kendall Green, Washington, D. C.]

No. 341

MARRIAGE RECORD

OR

Bell (husband) and *Sarah Reynolds* (name of wife before marriage)

I. DETAILS RELATING TO MARRIAGE

1. Date of marriage? *1867* Place of marriage? *Upshur Co*
Were the parties related before marriage? *No* If so, what relationship?
Give any other details known relating to marriage.

2. OFFSPRING. Total number of children born of this marriage? *7 or 8*
How many deaf? *0* How many hearing? *All* How many died in infancy? *0*
Give any other details known relating to offspring; for example—names, dates of birth or death, causes of death, ages at death, etc., where possible. If any are or were deaf, write the word deaf after their names.

II. QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED BY HUSBAND.

1. PARENTAGE. Names of your father? _____
Name of your mother before marriage? _____
Were your parents related before marriage? _____ If so, what relationship?
Give any other details known relating to parents; for example—causes of death, dates of death, ages at death, etc., where possible.

2. BROTHERS AND SISTERS. Give your full name and date of birth, and the names of all your brothers and sisters, with dates of birth, if possible. Where dates are not given, state whether names are in the order of birth or not. *Bell, b. about 1838*

How many of these (yourself included) are or were deaf? _____ How many hearing? _____
How many died young (under two years)? _____ Give any other details known; for example—causes of death, ages at death, etc. Write the word deaf after the names of all who are or were deaf.

3. OTHER RELATIVES. Have you any deaf relatives other than brothers and sisters or children? _____
If so, give relationship and names, if possible.

4. NOTE. Are you deaf or hearing? *D* If deaf:
Age when deafness occurred? _____ Cause of deafness? _____
Attended what School or Institution? _____
Residence when admitted? _____
Year when admitted? _____ Age when admitted? _____ Years under instruction _____
Present residence? *Hartford, Texas*
Occupation? *farmer*

Remarks *Think Bell was a semimute because the person giving the information said he used excellent language.*

Date of information *Apr 8/93* (Signed) *Harris Taylor*

U.S. Special Census on Deaf Family Marriages and Hearing Relatives, 1888-1895, Upshur County, Texas, Bell and Sarah Reynolds.

Name: Louisa Beall
 Born: 1833 (no specific date listed)
 Admitted to School: July 10, 1837
 Left School: May 14, 1842

Notes: L. B. is a Georgia beneficiary, born deaf. Sister of Washington. Went home with Rev. S. G. Hillyer.

I was not able to locate the admission details for the other child who was deaf, named Robert. Perhaps he did not attend school, the family may have moved, the child may have been sick or died.

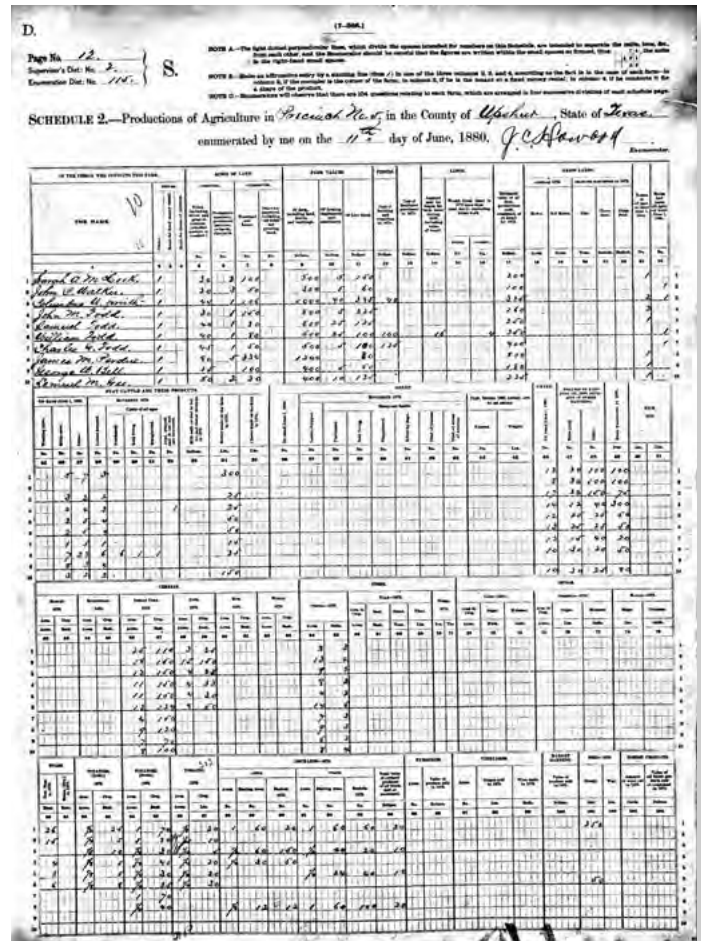
It is always fascinating to find family history, and we are very happy to help you and share our records. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions, or if I can be of any further assistance to you on your search.

I was thrilled! I had found my George Washington Bell—or Beall! Now that I knew the names of his parents and siblings; I concentrated on going further back in time. I found a George Beall, who I believe is George Washington’s father and my third great-grandfather, living in Newton County, Georgia, in 1830. There are two people under the age of 14 listed as deaf and dumb in his household. The ages fit with George Washington and Louisa³, two of the three deaf children in the family. I believe that Robert (the third child who was deaf) was born in 1838 and therefore would not have been included in the 1830 census. I calculated Robert’s birth year from the American School for the Deaf records shown above.

The research continues! My next focus will be to try to discover when and where George Washington’s parents were married, as well as his mother’s maiden name. Who knows where my journey will lead?



1880 U.S. census, Precinct No. 5, Upshur County, Texas, “Schedules of Defective, Dependent, and Delinquent Classes,” Deaf Mutes, ED 115, George W. Bell.



1880 U.S. census, Precinct No. 5, Upshur County, Texas, agricultural schedule, ED 115, p. 12, George W. Bell.

ENDNOTES

1. Although this terminology might be offensive to many today, it was the language of this time.
2. “The concept of self-reliance and the belief that religious salvation is possible through understanding the Bible determined the methods and purposes of the founders. Literacy, salvation and the skills needed to earn a living were the goals. Achieving these required clarity and fluidity of communication, which is

3. Although the American School for the Deaf records indicated that Louisa was born in 1833, I found her living with siblings Penelope, Solomon, and Rebekah in the 1850 Census, and she is listed as being born about 1828. I also found her tombstone which indicates her birth year as 1827. Therefore, I believe Louise and George are the two deaf children mentioned in the 1830 census.

Perry Milton Albin Bible

Nanci Remington

The entries were retyped by Nanci Remington from an earlier transcription and photocopies of the original Bible pages. A note with the Bible says that it was found in a secondhand store in the mountains behind Hood River in 1982 and returned to a family member in Indiana. The copies of the pages were given to the GFO by member Doris Flynn.



There is a notation on the inside cover that indicates this Bible was given to Perry Milton Albin by his father Abraham Albin. The Bible was published in 1853, and Perry was first married in 1855, so it may have been given to him at that time.

The notation goes on to indicate that Elva Albin Campbell became the owner of the Bible in 1923. This coincides with her father Perry's death on 3 March 1923 in Guernsey County, Ohio. At the time, Elva was living in Portland, Oregon. Though born in Ohio, she came to Oregon sometime between 1900 (when she is found in the census in Ohio) and 23 December 1903 when she married Otto Campbell in Multnomah County, Oregon.

The Bible entries note many birth, marriage, and death dates for the Albin family, beginning with the marriage of Perry Milton to "Elin" on 17 May 1854. There are entries for their children and children born to a



Albin Bible entry on blank page opposite "The First Book of Moses, called GENESIS."



Albin Bible, first entries under FAMILY RECORD.

second and third marriage for Perry Milton. The most recent entry is the death of Ira C. Albin Senior in 1964. Elva Campbell died 12 October 1969 in Portland.

With some exceptions, the relationships between the family members are not given, and research shows some notable omissions, such as the third wife of Perry Milton. She was the mother of Ira C. Albin whose children are all listed. There are also some discrepancies with the information found in civil records, including the first recorded marriage. The registration shows that Perry Milton Albin married Martha Ellen Trott in Guernsey County, Ohio, on 17 May 1855—a year off from the Bible entry.

RESOURCE:

Most of the information found in this Bible is supported by other sources. Most notable is a biography of Perry Milton Albin found in the 1911 book *History of Guernsey County, Ohio*, written when Mr. Albin was still alive. This book is available on microfiche at the GFO library.

OTHER SOURCES:

Ohio, County Marriages, 1789-2013; Image 238 of 331, Perry Milton Albin-Martha Allen Trott; digital images, FamilySearch, www.familysearch.org (accessed 25 Dec 2017).

Oregon State Library, 1966-1970 Death Index; Image 3180 of 3317, Elva Alb Campbell; digital image, "Oregon, Death Index, 1898-2008," Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com: 25 Dec 2017). Rec. Date: 25 Dec 2017.



Albin Bible FAMILY RECORD and New Testament title page.

TRANSCRIPTION OF BIBLE ENTRIES

Note: The dates and spelling are as written in the Bible. A few entries are missing the final numeral as they were not on the photocopies. The order has been retained but some of the formatting has been standardized for publication. Handwritten entries are italicized. Publication date of 1853 is shown on the New Testament page.

[Inside front cover]

From
Abraham Albin
To
Perry Milton Albin
to
Elva Albin Campbell 1923

FAMILY RECORD

Milton and Elin Albin Married May 17th 1854
Mared may

Elva Albin born July 26 1883

Lydia M. Albin died September 19th 1885

Perry Milton Albin Died March 3 - 1923 Saturday
5.45 A.M.

Mikel. R. Son of Milton & Elen Albin Died May 11th 1866

William A. Albin Died September 1st 1868

Ellen M. Albin Died Oct 31st 1868

Osbern O. Albin died 23rd of Sep. 1875

Jennie Mabel Albin died 3rd of Sept. 1875

Ira C. Albin 1892 was born Febere the 10 1893

Octa W. Albin was born April the 21 1904

Octa W. Albin Hunt Died March 9- 1927 Wed 12.30
Noon

Thomas F. Albin Born April the 6 1856

Asbey Slv Albin Bor April the 11 1858

Charles A Albin Born June the 28- 1860

Violy Victory Albin Bor. Octobr 19 1862

Michael R Albin Born April the 20 1866

Viola Victory Albin Stingle Died Dec 25- 1929

Wm A Albin Born Sept the 19 1867

Edmon M Albin was born Oct. 23rd 1870

Osbern O. Albin was born Aug. 9th 1873

Jennie Mabel Albin was Born April 22nd 1875

Perry E Albin was born Febuary the 10 1877



Albin Bible, entries in FAMILY RECORD.

Blanch L Albin was born the 29 of October 1881 and she died the 6th of february 1882

Edmon M. Albin and Agnes Vadnais married- June 19- 1901 wednesday

Otto G. Campbell and Elva Albin married Wednesday Dec 23, 1903

Everett Albin and Mabel Touvell married Saturday June 6- 1914

Ira C. Albin and Laura Secrest married Saturday Oct. 3- 1914

John Hunt & Octa Albin married Tuesday Aug 5 - 1919

Edmon M Albin and Emma A Stark married May - 18 - 1929

Charles Milton Albin and Yvonna Cheffe married Dec. 2 - 1931.

Rollin S. Trumball and Anna Marie Albin married Sunday July 29 - 1934

Wayne Brown and Elva Wanda Albin married Wed December 24- 1935

	BORNE	DEATH
E. M. & Agnes Albin's children:		
Ed	Oct 23-1870	Sept 19, 1952
Agnes	Nov 24, 1875	July 1-1914



Albin Bible, handwritten family records.



Albin Bible, handwritten family records opposite "The Gospel according to St. Matthew."

- [children] Portland Ore
- Charles Milton Albin Dec-31-1906 Portland, Ore
- Anna Marie Albin May 6-1908 Portland Ore
- Agnes Albin died July 1-1914

- Ira C and Laura Albin's children: Buffalo, Ohio
- Elva Wanda Albin Sun April, 11-1915
- Milton Andrew Albin Dec. 14 - 1918 June.10-194
- Virginia Jane Albin Dec. 12-1920
- Alice Victorine Albin Dec 31-1922
- Violet Winona Albin Jan 26 - 1925
- Ira C. Albin Jr. Aug 30-1926
- Ira C. Albin Aug 30-1926 Aug 30-192
- Robert Albin Oct 10-1927 Oct 10-192
- Pearl Albin Feb 4-1929 Feb 4-1929
- Herschel Duane Albin Nov 23-1930
- John Secrest Albin July 11-1932 Aug 5-193
- Clifford Franklin Albin Sept 18-1933 Oct 23-193
- Laura Albin April 10-1894 Dec 14,196[2]

- Rollin S Trumbull Jr Portland Ohio (Anna M. Albin Trumbull son) Dec 25 - 1935
- Willis Ira Brown Buffalo Ohio (Elva Albin Brown Son) Nov 4-1936
- Charles Everett Brown Jan 14-1939 (Elva Albin Brown son)

- Edmon M. Albin Oct 23-1870 Sept 19-1952
- Perry Everett Albin Feb 10-1877 July 13-1953
- Ira C. Albin Sr. Feb 10-1893 July 7-1964

TOOLS FOR GENEALOGY

Share Your Genealogy— Why Wait?

Nanci Remington

Did you know that the Genealogical Forum of Oregon (GFO) offers a way to share your work with other researchers? Many of us have done a lot of research and have that information tucked away in file folders or computer software programs. If we started decades ago, we have correspondence and oral histories from long-deceased relatives. If we started more recently, we have computer folders full of documents and (hopefully) copies of the emails we have exchanged over the years.

Perhaps we have a tree online—either public or private. Lots of work and collaboration has gone into it, but we don't publish our work due to worries that it isn't finished or there are mistakes. We have seen trees with errors copied over and over, and we don't want to contribute to that cycle.

Yet, there are compelling reasons to take a breather—sooner than later—and let the GFO help preserve the work. We will look at two common excuses researchers use to put off sharing, offer some solutions to think about, then give step-by-step procedures to make sure your work is available for future researchers.

REASON NOT TO SHARE #1: "I'M NOT FINISHED."

For the past six years, I have been working on the GFO manuscript collection. The volunteers working with this committee have sorted, organized, removed staples, opened envelopes, scanned, and created finding aids for thousands of pages of material. This includes the work of former members spanning decades of research. Sometimes the research was done by multiple generations and passed down to descendants. Sometimes there were no direct descendants and the boxes were rescued by friends or neighbors.

One of the largest collections was created by Willis Corbitt. Once sorted, there were nine file drawers with almost 500 folders, plus several tubs of other material including genealogy charts. The files contained several decades of correspondence from his mother's research before Mr. Corbitt had the time to do his own. It in-



cluded research collected by great-aunts, professional genealogists, and local historians.

However, nowhere in the papers is there anything close to a compiled genealogy. There are no online trees that begin to encompass all the names associated with his family. Though a bit of the information has been pulled and shared with GFO members through the *Bulletin*, there is much that is still waiting to be explored.

Unfortunately, the same is true of most of the collections that we have. Although the GFO has a wall of family histories from across the globe, many of our local researchers and former members never get to that point. They are never quite done.

POSSIBLE SOLUTION: "I'M NOT FINISHED, BUT I DID BACK UP MY RESEARCH."

Recently we received several boxes of books from the husband of a woman who had recently passed away. He mentioned that his wife had been active in genealogy and had her family tree saved to a CD. He was going to pass this on to his children but wondered if we would like a copy. He brought in the CD and in a matter of minutes we were able to retrieve a GEDCOM file as well as a Legacy Family Tree file and a collection of photos that had been attached to that file. The family agreed to make this available as a digital file, so we created an ancestor report using Legacy Family Tree (since that was the original software program) that is now available through the GFO catalog (search for *Ancestors of Patricia Ann Knowles* in the GFO library catalog).

Lesson Learned—No genealogy is ever finished. This is more true now than ever thanks to the increasing number of online records, which lead to more sources, which lead to more family and more stories. The use of DNA for research has led to additional research into the descendants of those fourth-great-grandparents. Brick walls don't seem as insurmountable as they used to feel. We just need to keep looking. But as you can see from the manuscripts examples, waiting too long means that all your work may be in vain.

REASON NOT TO SHARE #2: "I'M NOT SURE I HAVE EVERYTHING RIGHT"

I recently watched a webinar called *When Does New-found Evidence Overturn a Proved Conclusion?* by Tom Jones. He gives several examples where even the best of the best researchers had to change a relationship based on new records. You frequently hear how DNA has drastically changed the direction of a person's research because of unexpected cousin matches. We have all been beginners and assumed that a local history or grandmother's stories were correct. Within a week of looking for my husband's ancestors I had his line back to Charlemagne. It took quite a while to delete those names from his tree once I learned a little more.

Possible solution : "I'm not sure I have everything right, but I have put my thoughts, alternate connections, and sources into my notes."

Be kind to yourself and know it is okay to make educated guesses, and it's okay to be wrong. If you are unsure or are working from evidence, not proof, but want to include the names anyway, add a note or comment, maybe in BOLD, so that others can judge the work themselves. I have more than one ancestor where the note under the birth date is "other trees say the parents are ____ and ____, but there are no sources for that information." Crista Cowan shares her thoughts and suggestions on this subject in a short video, *Dealing with Errors in Online Family Trees*.

HOW THE GFO CAN HELP

Quick Share #1: Have your genealogy program generate a report and email it to the GFO.

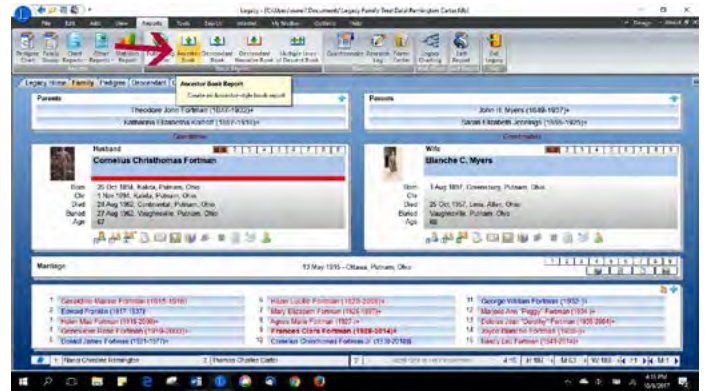
Genealogy software programs have ways to create reports – ancestor reports, descendant reports, family group sheets, and pedigree charts. The styles and procedures vary, but after working through a few settings, it takes but a click of a button to generate a compilation of all your families. You can include sources or not. You can include notes and

photos or not. Save it as a PDF file and send a copy to the GFO at manuscripts@gfo.org.

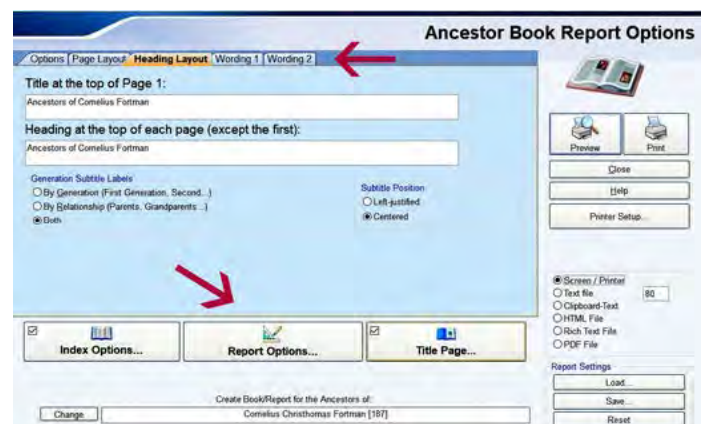
STEP-BY-STEP

The following example uses the Legacy Family Tree software program. See *Resources* for links to other programs.

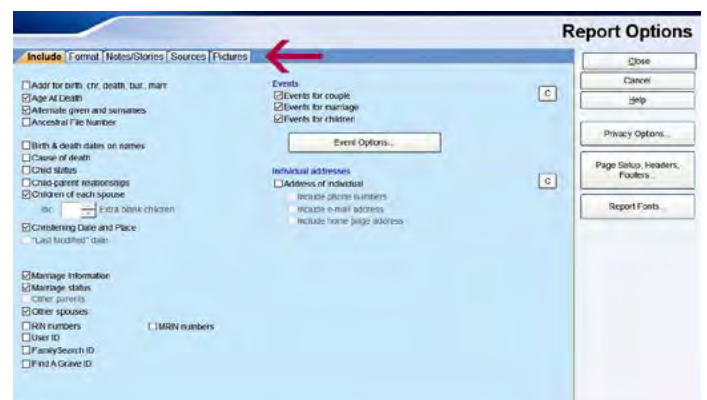
Navigate to the person you want to use as the home person for the report. In this example I will use my grandfather Cornelius Fortman. Once he is highlighted, click on *Reports* in the Toolbar, then *Ancestor Book*.



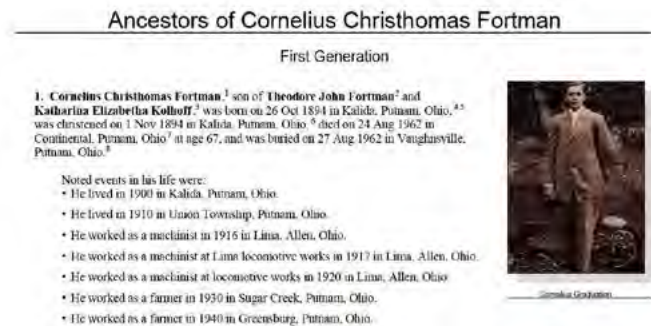
The following screen appears. Notice that there are tabs across the top as well as buttons at the bottom. The tabs give you options to change the default wordings or fonts.



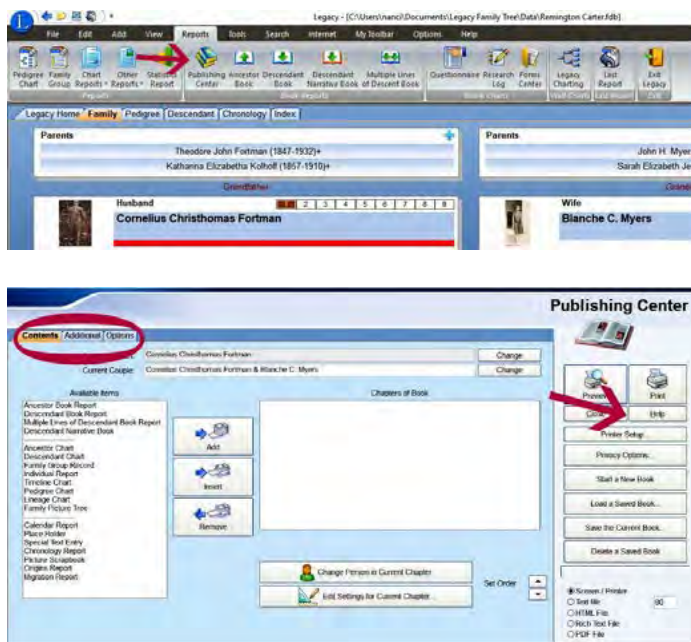
If you click on *Report Options*, you can choose what you want in your book, including sources and pictures.



After you make your choices, close the Options window and click preview. If you like what you see you can print it, save as text, or save as a PDF. (Note: some of these options are not available if you are using the free version of Legacy)



You could also create a book that includes charts, reports, and other information by going to the *Publishing Center*.



Quick Share #2: Create a GEDCOM file and send it to the GFO.

If your family tree is only online, you can download that same information (minus the images) as a GEDCOM file. Send a copy to the GFO and we can create the report for you.

STEP-BY-STEP

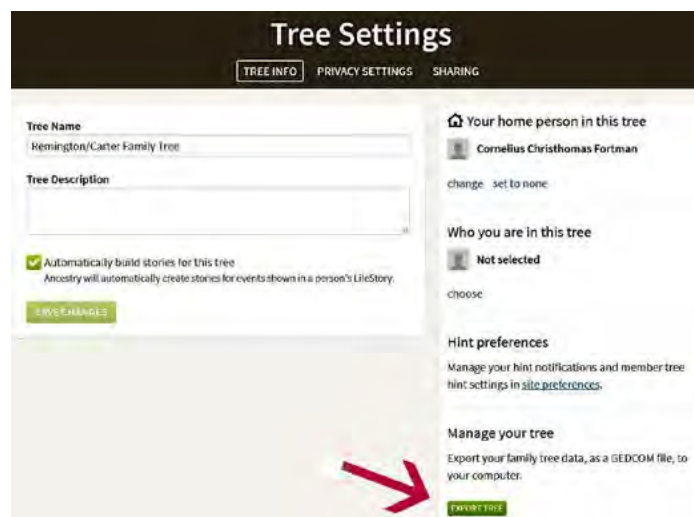
A GEDCOM file is the industry standard for moving data between genealogy programs. It is not perfect, and different programs have added different fields, but it does work. If you have your family

tree online, you can download the GEDCOM, and GFO can create a report.

In this example, we will look at Ancestry.com. Go to your tree, click on the name of the tree so that a dropdown menu opens, then click on *Settings*.



Go to the bottom right and click on *Export Tree*.



Note: If you use a different site, there should be instructions on how to download a GEDCOM file.

Quick Share #3: Create a report and share the files of supporting documents.

If you want to share the digital copies of the documents that you have gathered, we can upload those to our server and link them to your report. These could include letters, photos, and other documents. We ask that you not include material such as entire published books to avoid copyright issues.

STEP-BY-STEP

Create a report or GEDCOM as described above. Look at your digital files and sort them into folders that are labeled by topic. This is typically done by surname and/or location.

Then export the digital files from your computer.

Method 1 – copy to a thumb drive

Method 2 – upload to a “cloud” service such as Google Drive or Microsoft OneDrive. Include a link to the files with the report that you send to the GFO.

Quick Share #4: The GFO can scan your papers.

Still have everything on paper? If you have your papers organized, we can scan them and make the images avail-

RESOURCES:

When Does Newfound Evidence Overturn a Proved Conclusion? by Tom Jones is available through Legacy Family Tree Webinars—<https://familytreewebinars.com/>

Dealing with Errors in Online Family Trees by Christa Cowen is an Ancestry.com video available on YouTube—<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CiWTx9doYvw>

HOW-TO'S FOR CREATING BOOKS:

RootsMagic—<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hocx-lZ2Z3zk>

able to you and to other researchers. Although we don't charge for this service, we greatly appreciate a donation to help cover the costs.

The manuscripts committee has procedures in place that describe retention policies and the creation of finding aids. If you want more information about this or any other option, please contact manuscripts@gfo.org.

What will happen to your genealogical research when you die? by James Tanner is a blog post and webinar with some interesting thoughts—<http://genealogysstar.blogspot.com/2017/11/what-will-happen-to-your-genealogical.html>

Family Tree Maker—<https://support.mackiev.com/582237>Create-a-genealogy-book-using-Family-Tree-Maker-2012-2014>

Remembering the 1918 Influenza Pandemic



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Formamint
THE GERM KILLING THROAT TABLET

SPOTLIGHT

HistoryGeo— Family History Using Maps

Judith Leppert

An underused database available at the Genealogical Forum of Oregon (GFO) is HistoryGeo. I first encountered this website at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City a few years ago. What does it do? The website states that “HistoryGeo.com is a family history software service for linking old maps and land records to your genealogy research.” I’d like to share the most basic parts of this useful tool.

HistoryGeo takes information from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and General Land Office (GLO) and jazzes it up a bit. The site also has a growing collection of indexed period maps from around the United States. I have solved several genealogical puzzles by using information from this website.

The website opens on the GFO computers with two choices. One is the *First Landowners Project* and the other is *Antique Maps Collection*. If you go to HistoryGeo’s home page, you see options to view a blog, user guide, and instructional videos. You can go to YouTube and learn about this site free from your home. *HistoryGeo* is listed when I click on the Instructional Videos link.

Let’s explore the *First Landowners Project*. When the screen opens, there is a U.S. map with each state outlined. However, not every state is dealt with in this option. This project gives information only on the 29 public land states that use the township and range system to plat their land, plus Texas.





**Choose Which of Our
Projects or Collections To Explore!**



First Landowners Project
Displays original landowners of the continental United States according to state and federal records. At present it covers 21 states and contains over 9 million records.



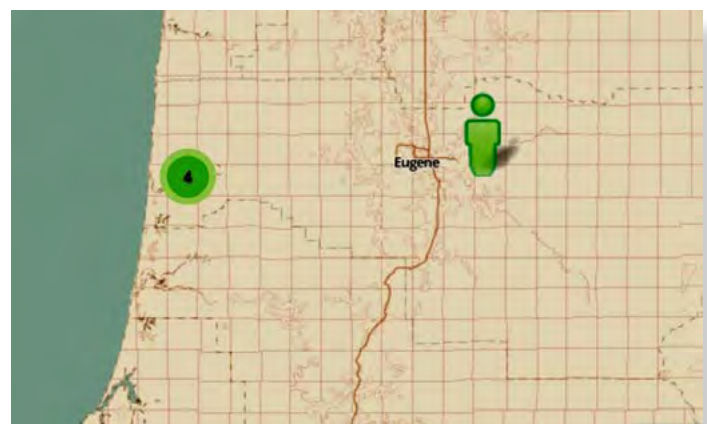
Antique Maps Collection
Our ever-expanding collection of antique maps and atlases.

[Return to Home Page](#)

It is possible to zoom in to see the early landowners’ surveys and/or parcels overlaid on the American map. It is fun to use the *Landowner Visibility* slider at the lower left of the screen to cause the city and other map designations to fade away (or appear) to reveal the land in more detail.

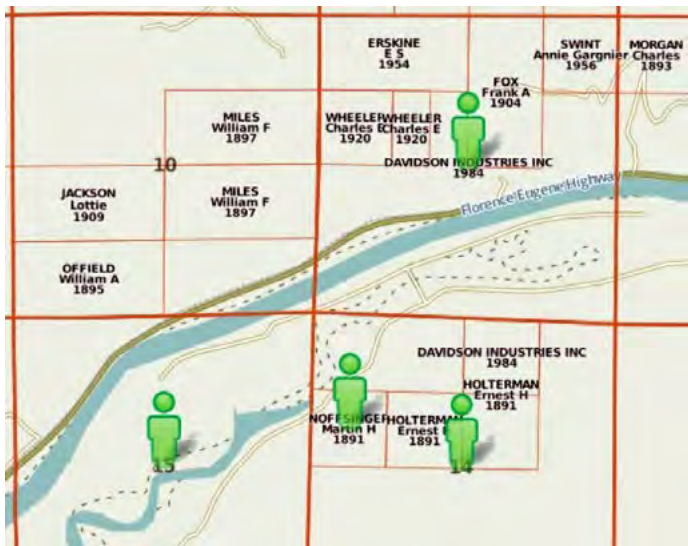
Frankly, I didn’t know the geography of my ancestors’ lands well enough to search in that fashion. Better for me was the top of the screen with the following options: *Search Surname, State, County*. For this example, I typed “Noffsinger” in the *Surname* blank. For *State*, I selected Oregon from their list. I happened to know the *County*, so I chose Lane. Just to the right is a *Search* logo. I clicked that and Voila! Up came a map that showed my people’s land.

What other information did HistoryGeo provide me? First, I saw a little green icon of a man. I also saw a green circle with a number “4” in it. Clicking the little man icon opened an information box that revealed the land was owned by an Allen Noffsinger on 15 June 1893 when the land patent was filed.





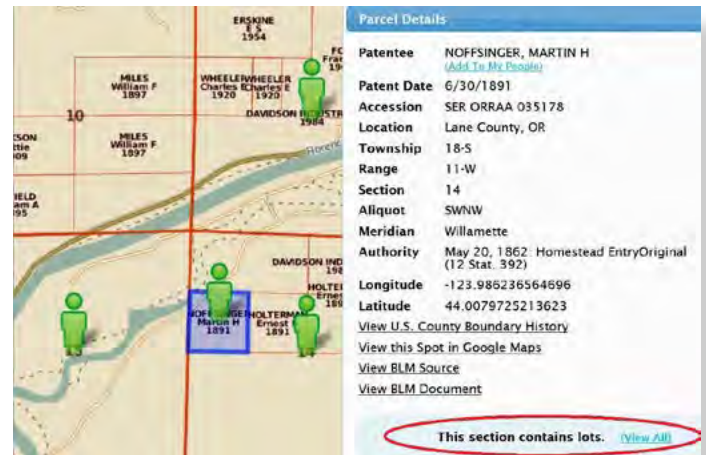
What about the green circle with the “4” in it? It means that there were four landholders near each other with the same surname. When I selected the “4” and zoomed in, up popped four individual icons.



The first one I checked had a description of a section owned by Davidson Industries, Inc. But wait, at the bottom, it read, “This section contains lots.” ALWAYS look at these. Sometimes when I’ve looked up an ancestor, HistoryGeo showed me results that did not appear to contain the name of the person I entered. Instead, the names were found in the lots. Why did my logger, farmer, boat building, and boat transportation relative have lots? I’m sure there are many possible explanations. Maybe he had a house in town for visiting or commerce. His daughter, my grandmother, always said they lived “in town.” Maybe he lived in town until their land claim was finalized. Maybe he housed a relative on that property. Who knows?

Sure enough, there was my great-grandfather, Martin H. Noffsinger, owner of Lot 12. At this point, you can select *Add to my People*. This will allow you to follow “your person” during your study.

Remember, there are three more icons nearby. The one to the south represents a parcel of land owned by Ernest H. Holterman. Again, I clicked on “This section contains lots” and discover Martin H. Noffsinger owned yet another lot. A property to the west has ONLY lots. Of course, Martin H. Noffsinger owned a lot there.



It can be interesting to see the other lot owners’ names. In this case, his neighbor was Northern Pacific Railway. Sometimes, you make interesting genealogical connections with this “lot” information.

Martin H. Noffsinger owned his own section and it, too, had lots. His only neighbor was James A. McLeod. I believe Martin H. Noffsinger also owned land that he logged and farmed, but that is a story for another time.

What else can you do with this information? The land patentee is named, the patent date is given, and accession details are listed. A political description (Lane County, Oregon) appears, township, range, section, aliquot, meridian, and authority are shown. Of course, you want the longitude and latitude, don’t you? My good friend Gerry Lenzen would tell you, “That’s all you need to see the property on Google Maps.” He’s right, of course, but HistoryGeo does it for you. At the bottom of the entry are four links to click to get everything you want: *View U.S. County Boundary History*, *View this Spot in Google Maps*, *View BLM Source*, *View BLM Document*.

Let’s review these links. *View U.S. County Boundary History* explains that Lane County was formed rather late from other counties. In some genealogical searches, the county’s history can pose some real problems for you unless you know about it. It’s fun to *View this Spot in Google Maps*. My ancestor chose land along the Siuslaw River because he floated logs down the river to Florence. The last two links will let you see the original document that assigned the land and a more technical summary.

All Lots For This Section

Location Lane County, OR
 Meridian Willamette
 Township 18-S
 Range 11-W
 Section 15
 Latitude 44.0062002252633
 Longitude -123.998290541484
 View this Spot in Google Maps

People in this Section's Lots

- Blk/Lot 1 - MCLEOD, JAMES A (Add To My People)
- Blk/Lot 20 - NOFFSINGER, MARTIN H (Add To My People)
- Blk/Lot 23 - NORTHERN PACIFIC RAILWAY CO (Add To My People)
- Blk/Lot 3 - OFFIELD, WILLIAM A (Add To My People)

HistoryGeo Search Maps Search Surname
 Search Maps... Search Surname... Genealogical Forum of Oregon

Antique Maps Collection

Colbert Co., Alabama (1899)

Map Contents Resource Info

Resource Info

Currently Viewing Map: Colbert Co., Alabama (1899)

From Resource: Public Domain, Colbert County, Alabama (copyrighted by the Library of Congress, Digitized by Google, East Manly & Co. Engineers, 1896, 11895, 100, 100)

Content Type: Owners

Search all resource contents...

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Albermarly, Mo E J
 Abbeville, Mo E J
 Alexander, J W
 Abbeville, Mo E J
 Anderson, W B
 Anderson, W F

Back to the original page that opens on GFO computers. The second choice is the *Antique Maps* option. Because many of the maps are indexed, you can enter a surname to see if they appear. “Noffsinger” brings up results in three states, including seven in Indiana, all on an 1865 survey map of Randolph County.

I really like the simplicity of the maps. Often, I’ll see three farmers’ lands side-by-side. On the left will be my male ancestor’s place, in the center is somebody I am not related to, and on the right is the farm belonging to my female ancestor’s father. No wonder the two ancestors met and married! Yes, BLM records would explain all of this in township and range terms, but I am more visual, and I appreciate this simple mapping.

HistoryGeo also has some other choices on the right panel: *County Browser*, *My People*, *Snapshots*, *Markers*, and *Migrations*. These are all worth trying. The *My People* selection allows you to save the person into the program. If you find you need to go back to see your person’s record again, just click *My People* and the map will rush across the country to your ancestor’s land. I find *Snapshot* works well to save an image. GFO also has a Snipping Tool on our computers. You could use either to save an image to use in further research. As always, observe copyright laws.

Randolph Co., Indiana (1865)

Map Contents Resource Info

MAP CONTENTS SNAPSHOTS MARKERS

Map Contents

Content Type

Owners

Search Map Contents...

Noffsinger, E P
 Noffsinger, E P
 Noffsinger, E B
 Noffsinger, J
 Noffsinger, J
 Noffsinger, N (twice)
 Noffsinger, C
 Norcross, R
 Norman, J
 Norman, T
 North, T
 North, W
 North, W

You can click on a name to zoom in or hit the flash button to see all results at one time. The map description has a link to the Library of Congress where you can download the map. You can also browse the maps by state and county to see if there is one for the area you are researching. A quick look at the Browse menu shows maps from 33 states and the District of Columbia. These maps are not limited to the public land states and include several from New England and the Southeast.

Do come in to GFO and explore some of the options on HistoryGeo. I think you’ll learn something about your family’s land and perhaps your family too.

WRITING TIPS

Writing Tips: Edit, edit, edit

Marti Dell

In Malcolm Gladwell's book *Outliers: The Story of Success*, he writes "To become a chess grandmaster also seems to take about ten years. (Only the legendary Bobby Fisher got to that elite level in less than that amount of time: it took him nine years.) And what's ten years? Well, it's roughly how long it takes to put in ten thousand hours of hard practice. Ten thousand hours is the magic number of greatness."

Why do I bring that up here? Because I strongly recommend that when you start to write, practice is very important. It truly doesn't matter if you get it down on the paper perfectly the first time. What is most important is that you actually write something—anything—down. Write often and it will become easier; write more, and your writing will improve. It probably won't be perfect the first time, but that's okay, because a key part of the writing process is editing. Even with practice, not every word you write will be a gem worth keeping.

I have the privilege of knowing many professional writers who have given me this advice. In my everyday job, I also am a professional writer, an attorney who has been writing contracts for more than 20 years. I still edit my writing a minimum of two times before I send a first draft off to a client. I have found that the most important part of my writing is giving me enough time to edit what I write before sending it off to the client.

WHY EDIT?

My first drafts for everything read . . . less than optimally. I learned early on that what sounds fine in my own head and initially goes down on paper very likely will not be comprehensible to others when it is read. My speaking style has lots of pauses, inflection, and different syncopation, all of which creates the emphasis and interest I want to impart. However, none of that shows up in my (initial) written word. And so, I edit.

People edit for different reasons, all of which are good. But if I had to sum up the best reason to edit, it is for clarity. Whether it is clarity in word choice, the structure of each individual sentence, the sentence order, the layout of the paragraphs, or the content of



the piece, clarity is a crucial component to make your writing interesting, useful, and correct.

Clarity in the individual sentence structure is important to make sure you are getting the information across clearly. Having long run-on sentences can be confusing to the reader.

Clarity and consistency in your punctuation can be very important for good flow. One of the things we do when editing articles for the *Bulletin* is make sure that dates are listed in a consistent manner and that punctuation is used in a consistent manner. We use the Chicago Manual of Style with a few exceptions, and our style guide is on the GFO website. Although authors do not need to send articles to us having used all the proper punctuation according to our style guide, they do have to be willing to allow us to edit their story in conformance with our style guide. Proper punctuation can truly help to keep a story moving in a clear and interesting manner.

Also, if you find yourself using a term multiple times, clarity can also be achieved by defining it the first time. This will create fewer headaches for both the author and the reader. This is especially true when writing family stories. How many of us have multiple generations with people with the same name. If a person has a nickname and you define them by that nickname early on in an article (or by a location if there is no nickname, or by some other moniker that is different from the others in the story), then there is less likelihood of confusion about generations of people with very similar names.

Clarity in the layout of the article is also important. Will you be writing this story chronologically, or in some other manner? Certainly, if you are writing about the process of finding information on an ancestor, then it probably makes the most sense to write about it in the order in which it happened. However, if you are writing about attempting to prove one single thing about an ancestor about whom you have lots of other information, it might not make as much sense to write about that ancestor's life, or your process, in a chronological manner. There is no "right" way, so long as the story flows and it is as clear as possible.

So, you have decided the topic of your first (or next) story and as you write it, the story takes on a life of its own as more and more details get added to it. Even if it is all about the same person, sometimes editing a story to narrow the focus is desirable. Again, it can help with the clarity of your narrative—both for you and the reader. You can write multiple stories about different times or aspects of an ancestor's life; it doesn't have to be in one big volume. I have found if I break information down into smaller parts, and concentrate on one part at a time, I am more likely to finish my story. Also, I am able to go into more depth and maybe discover—or rediscover—information that I had put aside. Remember, if you find your tale going too far afield, stop to ask yourself if the piece should be about an ancestor's whole life, or just one bit of it? Will that story into which you are putting so much effort be better as two—or three—stories instead?

HINTS FOR GOOD EDITING

1. Don't try to edit in the same session as when you wrote it. Put it down and step away for awhile.

That might be a couple hours, overnight, or a few days. But when you read it later, things will pop out at you that need to be edited that do not when you are still in the initial writing mode.

2. If you find yourself rambling, you might want to rearrange your material, or sit back and ask yourself "What is the point of this story?"
3. When you have the answer to #2, you might find yourself editing things out that you previously thought were crucial. Remember just because you edit it out of this story doesn't mean it is bad. It may merely belong in its own story or a different story.
4. Print what you've written and read it again on paper. You will catch more omissions and mistakes than you will if only reading it on a screen.
5. A trick many writers use is to read what you have written out loud. If you stumble over the material, you might want to revise those areas. You need not remove information, just rearrange the words in a manner that flows more easily.
6. Finally, have someone else read what you have written. Be receptive to feedback. For the *Bulletin*, that is why there are multiple editors and multiple proofreaders. Each of them sees something different that can improve a story.

As Lao Tzu famously said and which has been paraphrased in many ways "The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step." Begin your journey in writing (or continue your journey in writing) by editing often and by learning good editing skills.

BOOK REVIEW

International Vital Records Handbook

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS, APPLICATION FORMS AND ORDERING INFORMATION FOR THE VITAL RECORDS YOU NEED FOR DRIVER'S LICENSES, PASSPORTS, JOBS, SOCIAL SECURITY, PROOF OF IDENTITY, ETC. 7TH EDITION

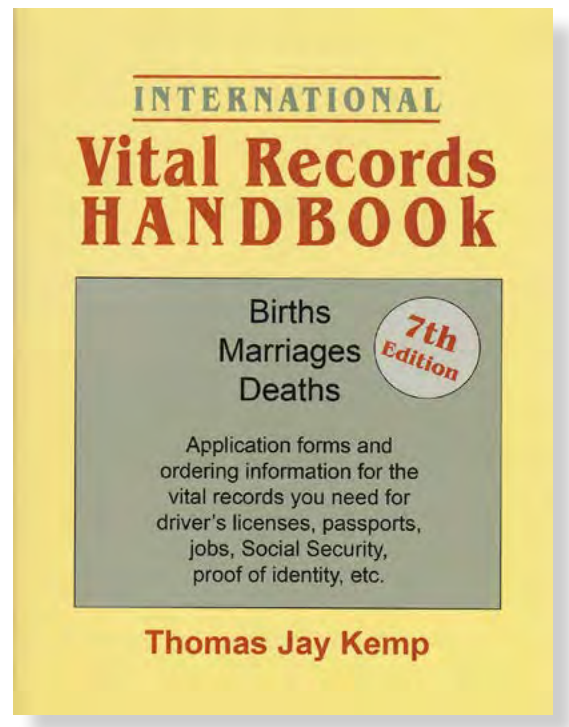
Reviewed by Joan Galles

Author: Thomas Jay Kemp¹
Publisher: Genealogical Publishing Company
Publication date: 2017
Pages: 756
Price: \$84.95 + shipping
Order From: Genealogical.com

Finding specific documents for specific events in people's lives can be difficult. This book sets out to inform the reader of who, what, when, where, and why for most documents needed by individuals, whether for personal or genealogical purposes. The information covers all states in the U.S. and many foreign countries ranging from Afghanistan to China to Tuvalu to Zimbabwe. There is considerable information regarding the status and location of various records and how to obtain those documents. This latest edition has updated information for adoption searches and addresses of repositories and agencies that might help with your search where no registration system or church records are available. Thus, it is a book for all researchers.

The author, Thomas Jay Kemp, is the director of genealogy products at GenealogyBank. He is the author of over 35 genealogy books and hundreds of articles about genealogy and family history. He is an internationally known librarian and archivist. According to his biography, his motto is: It is a Great Day for Genealogy!

Generally, the section for each state or country begins with listings of government agencies where documents may be obtained. The entries for the U.S., Canada, and a few other countries include copies of application



forms, plus information about specific qualifications. For example, in Ontario, Canada, those allowed to obtain some records are restricted.

I used this book to begin my search for my grandparents' marriage certificate which I hoped would have the names of my great-grandparents on it. I looked at Ontario, Canada, and discovered that the Office of the Registrar General had marriage records going back 80 years. I needed a marriage 109 years ago, so I kept looking and was directed to the Archives of Ontario. The phone number was incorrect, but I was able to find the contact information on the website. I wrote a quick email, and they answered within 30 minutes telling me the document was in FamilySearch. Using the name of the town where they had married—from my father's birth certificate—an image of the original marriage certificate was found. Thanks to this book I was given a clue to unlock a family mystery.

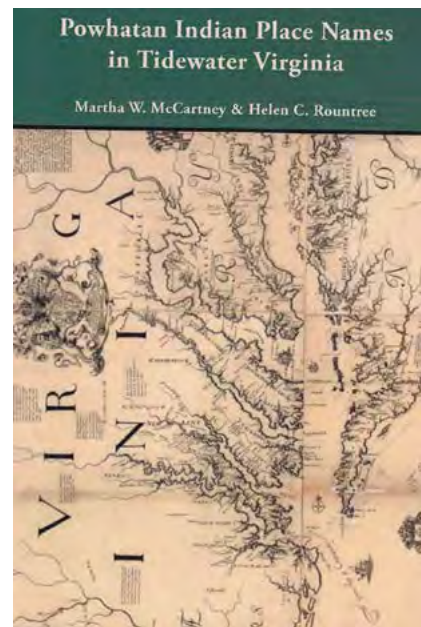
Overall, the book is easy to read with brief explanations where necessary. The book was published in 2017, but this kind of information changes frequently. So while generally accurate, specific information in the book may change. This is a very useful book. As a research assistant at the Genealogical Forum of Oregon, I have already used it to help patrons and to further my own research. If you have multiple places to seek information, this book is a good one-stop investigative tool.

BOOK REVIEW

Powhatan Indian Place Names in Tidewater Virginia

Reviewed by Joan Galles

Author: Martha W. McCartney and Helen C. Rountree.
Publisher: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc.
Publication Date: 2017
Pages: 130
Price: \$20.00 + \$5.95 shipping
Order from: Genealogical.com



This book will be of interest to anyone researching historical and genealogical information in the Tidewater region of southeast Virginia as well as those with a specific interest in Indian place names from the Algonquian language.

The authors are uniquely qualified to compile this information. Dr. Helen Rountree, Professor Emerita of Anthropology at Old Dominion University, began collecting Virginia Indian place names in the 1970s. Historian and co-author Martha McCartney has authored books on Jamestown, America’s first colony. Her specialty is 17th century Virginia history and ethnohistory. In 2001 she received the prestigious National History Award from the Daughters of the American Revolution. The authors’ sources include land patents, local and regional governmental records, public and private archives, and several collections of historical maps.

The book begins with a listing of the references that are cited throughout the book and indicates their source code (e.g., PB for Virginia Land Office Patent Books 1619-1660). Place names then appear in alphabetical order by the most recent name or the most common spelling. Each individual listing follows the name or spelling changes in chronological order back to the 1600s when the Europeans began recording the names. A description of what a place may be is often included, such as “creek,” “Indian town,” or “bay and creek.” Sources included in the entries allow the researcher to locate the original documents and glean even more facts. A typical listing, such as the one for Accokeek, includes the following information:

Creek: Stafford County; a tributary on the left side of Potomac Creek, itself a tributary on the Potomac River’s right side.

Aquokeeke (PB 6:299) (1969)
 Ackhakeek (Madison map) (1807)
 Accakeek (Boye map) (1826)
 Accaceek (Bache map) (1855a)

Indian Town: Stafford County

Accoqueek (Velasco map) (1610)

Place: Stafford County, at the head of Potomac Creek.

Ackokeek (Old Rappahannock County Record Book 1656-1664:351) (1665)
 Akokeek (Stafford County Record Book 1686-1693:177a) (1690)
 Okakeek (Fry-Jefferson map) (1751)

There is very little prose in this book. In addition to the references listed at the beginning of the book, there are two indexes, one for the place names and a second for the Indian people named in the book.

In conclusion, this is a very detailed look at a specific area in the United States that was originally inhabited by Native Americans and later settled by mostly European-based communities in the early seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. It can help identify locations despite changing names and variant spellings, incorporated into historic maps, land records and other documents that may otherwise cause problems for genealogists. One caveat—there are no maps in the book but most of the references are to maps.

BOOK REVIEW

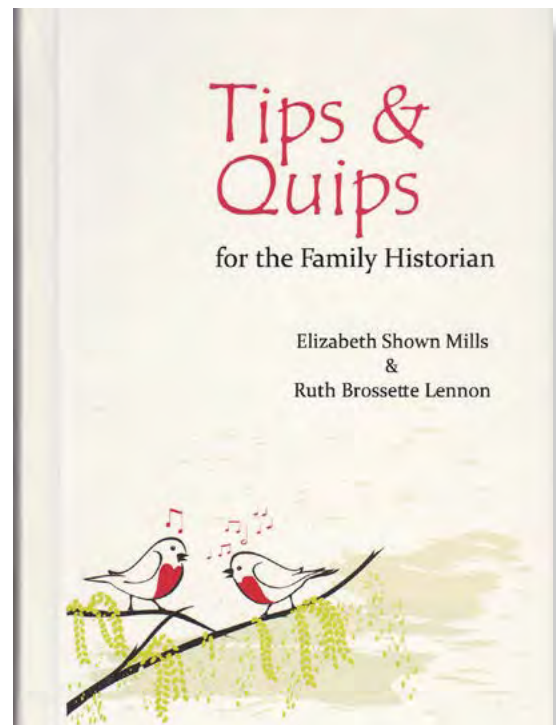
Tips & Quips for the Family Historian

Reviewed by Judith Leppert

Authors: Elizabeth Shown Mills and Ruth Brossette Lennon
Publisher: Genealogical Publishing Company
Publication date: 2017
Pages: 173
Price: \$14.95 + shipping
Order From: Genealogical.com

Mills and Lennon have produced a small volume with wide appeal. Genealogists should find the material useful or at least amusing if they have ascended beyond the basics of genealogy. The purpose of the book is to instruct or remind us of the pitfalls inherent in genealogical research. It also charms us due to its little aphorisms from a world of people, not all of them genealogists. Comments range from how to frame a research question to what is the value of family—even of life itself. Lennon, who is Mills' granddaughter, typeset and designed the book. Each quotation has a different design and font so that it stands out from the group. It's very easy on the eyes.

Of course, Elizabeth Shown Mills is the dean of citations and thoroughness of research. Her earlier books (including *Evidence!*) have reinforced her high regard among genealogical professionals, and the same skills are reflected in the organization of this book. First, she is quoted on nearly every page. She is quite masterful at making direct little quips and zingers to enliven her presentations. The text of this book is nothing but pithy comments. That makes for deceptively easy reading. She does organize them alphabetically, starting with "Accuracy," and ending with "Writing." The meat of the book deals with every genealogical topic I can imagine. A list of the topics appears at the front of the book as a table of contents. Three appendices are listed: References, Index to Individuals Quoted, and Index to Keywords. That first appendix item is, in itself, a lesson on how to write citations whose sources run the gamut from the ancient



Roman (Plutarch) to France (Moliere) to "Anonymous." It's all handled superbly.

Elizabeth Shown Mills did not leave out one of her most famous lines.

To prove identity, origin, and parentage, study individuals in the context of their FAN Club: Friends & Family, Associates, and Neighbors.

I would imagine this book would make a nice gift for anyone interested in genealogy. It can be read and reread with pleasure. .

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GFO CALENDAR: JUNE–JULY 2018

JUNE

Sat June 2	10:00am	Virginia Group
	1:00pm	German Group
Sun June 3	9:00am	Library Work Party - Manuscripts
Mon June 4		Free to Non-members
Wed June 6		Open until 8 pm
	10:00am	Learn & Chat
	1:00pm	DNA Q&A
Fri June 8	11:30am	Mexican Ancestry Group
Sat June 9	9:30am	Great Lakes Region SIG
Sun June 10	9:00am	Library work party - Maps
Tue June 12	6:10pm	Board Meeting
Wed June 13		Open until 8 pm
	6-8 p.m.	Meetup - Start your family tree
Sat June 16	9:30am	Genealogy Problem Solvers
	12:00pm	Italian Interest Group
	2:00pm	Annual Meeting
	2:30pm	GenTalk - Family Photos
Sun June 17	9:00am	Library work party
	1:00pm	Family Tree Maker Users' Group
	3:30pm	French Canadian Group
Wed June 20		Open until 8 pm
	10:00am	Learn & Chat
	1:00pm	DNA Q&A
	6:00pm	Irish Group
Sat June 23	12:30pm	African American Ancestry Group

Sun June 24	9:00am	Library work party
Wed June 27		Open until 8 pm
Sat June 30	9:30am	Beginners' Boot Camp

JULY

Sun July 1	9:00am	Library Work Party - Manuscripts
Mon July 2		Free to Non-members
Wed July 4		LIBRARY CLOSED
Sat July 7		
Sun July 8	9:30am	Half-Day Seminar: German Research
Tue July 10	1:00pm	German Group
Wed July 11	9:00am	Library work party - Maps
Fri July 13	6:10pm	Board Meeting
Sun July 15		Open until 8 pm
	11:30am	Mexican Ancestry Group
	9:00am	Library work party
	1:00pm	Family Tree Maker for Beginners
	3:30pm	French Canadian Group
Wed July 18		Open until 8 pm
	1:00pm	DNA Q&A
Sat July 21	9:30am	Genealogy Problem Solvers
	2:00pm	GenTalk - Voting Records: Genealogy's Best-Kept Secret
Sun July 22	9:00am	Library work party
Wed July 25		Open until 8 pm
Sat July 28	9:00am	DNA Advance Group
	12:30pm	African American Ancestry Group