



The Bulletin

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My First Visit to the FamilySearch Library

by Kristy Musalo

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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:

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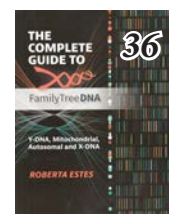
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Cover image—Standing in dinosaur tracks in Moab, Utah. Image courtesy Kristy Musalo.

Letter from an Editor

“I always read the footnotes first.”—Tom Jones

Tom Jones presented a class in Salt Lake City several years ago, and the quote above is one of the things that stuck in my mind. As an editor for the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*, Jones’s comment referred to whether he should take submissions seriously. *The Bulletin* is a magazine, and submissions need not have footnotes. However, I still find learning opportunities through the editorial process.

- I made a proof reading error in an obituary in the December *Bulletin*. John Charles Joyce was born in 1939. Thanks Lindell.
- When I viewed the emailed December *Bulletin* on my Mac laptop, five images did not appear! The drop shadows were there, but not the pictures. Not everyone had this problem. *The Bulletin* looked fine on my screen when I laid it out using *InDesign* and when exported as a PDF. This happened once while working on an article for this issue, suggesting the problem may not be my browser. After I saved the December *Bulletin*’s PDF to my computer, it opened through Adobe’s *Creative Cloud* with all the images. Surprisingly, everything also looked okay online when using Google Chrome instead of Safari.
- Another problem involved images of newspaper clippings for an article. It took me three times to clip an image of the correct size. Then, I could take a screenshot of it for his article. The clipped content arrived via email with a link that did not show everything without scrolling. I learned the trick is to *clip or take a picture showing more than you need*; you can crop it later.
- I needed reminding of how difficult it can be to keep everyone in the loop while running articles past colleagues, copy editors, and proofreaders. Some learning experiences can be worth the extra time.
- Again, it helped to put what I was working on off to the side for a few weeks. Ideas on how to make a chapter shorter or illustrate something came to mind while reading the [International German Genealogy Partnership letter](#), while reading *Berleburger Stadtrechte und Bürgerbuch* (reviewed in this *Bulletin*), and walking with my dog.



German soldier and civilian observing the fire in Kassel, Germany, 1944. [Library of Congress](#)

- I learned that we can subscribe to Archion for one month. I like that because it gives me a deadline, in this case it was 4 December 2024. I forgot that the sun sets nine hours earlier in Germany than on the west coast of America. My subscription ran out before our day was over.
- While looking for images of old church records, I found some registers from Kassel, Hesse, Germany, missing due to World War II bombings. The Society for Family Studies in Kurhessen and Waldeck helpfully searched old German newspapers to duplicate the missing baptism, marriage, and burial records. They published the data as a book in 1985, and the information is viewable online at UniKassel. I could add the web link here, but I want you to read the footnotes in my article.

—Mark Grafe

Letters to the Editor

I just finished your December 2024 edition of *The Bulletin*. Your staff and contributors have done a wonderful job of presenting some very interesting articles. Although I don't know if I have any Oregonians in my tree, the articles and book reviews "grabbed" me, which is a rarity in many of the newsletters that come to me.

Please share my congratulations on a job well done. As a new member I hope I can go back to read earlier issues.

Happy holidays!

Sue [North Carolina]

See <https://gfo.org/learn/our-publications/gfo-bulletin.html> for old issues of *The Bulletin*.

The article "GFO Library Is Just The Ticket for Trolley Project" in the *Bulletin* (December, 2024) piqued my interest!

The Multnomah County Deeds seemed just what I needed to look up my mother's house from the time she lived there. She lived in Portland during the 1920 census and the house was sold in 1934. It is now a power substation.

I used maps to determine the new address, since Portland did a big renumbering in 1933. But you should know that the 1933 Portland city directory lists both new and old house numbers for each residence.

In the end, I was not able to find the deed for that house, but I did find the house they purchased in 1943. I suspect my family was renting the earlier house.

Doris Cruikshank

Hello, I see a mistake on page 41 [December *Bulletin*]. Under the name it says he was born in 1929, but in the obit it says he was born in 1939. Oops!

Lindell Johnson

Hi Lindell,

Thanks for the email. I appreciate your attention to detail.

Mark Grafe

Hi Mark,

I always enjoy reading your "Letter from on Editor" and ditto for this issue.

Thanks so much.

Fran

Aw, Fran,

You made my day. You don't know, but I tried writing a Bulletin obit once. It was for the mother of a friend and I was sent me the wrong file. I'm very glad someone else can write obituaries.

And maybe eight-ten years ago, I had a class exercise to write my own obit. I had told my cousin about a relative whose obit said he fell off his horse, and my cousin said, "It's usually not the fall, but their foot stays in the stirrup and they get dragged around." So, I put that in my obit. I figured at least one person would laugh.

Mark Grafe

Ha ha! (but yikes I hope that never happens).

My 2nd ggf's obituary instructions say, 'He desired writ upon his Grave Stone "WELL OUT OF IT" -- but the family couldn't bring themselves to follow through. I think i'll put it in my own obituary, as I don't imagine having a stone.

Anyway I meant to add re: your *Bulletin* letters, that almost every time I read it I am inspired to follow up in some way, look for something, which comes to fruition. This time something truly amazing happened. I looked for and found an Xmas card he'd gotten from his CO (name unknown) in WWII while they were in Germany. And in a college paper re the war, I happened to see his CO's name. Within an hour I was communicating with his granddaughter and seeing news articles and photos of the guy and details of the camp they were in charge of outside Nuremberg. This is all because of you!

Gratefully,

Fran

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FEB. 15, 2025

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Open House schedule begins on page 43



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The St. Agnes Baby Home A Forgotten Institution

Vince Roman

Agnes Avenue is located next to the I-205 interchange at Park Place in Oregon City, Clackamas County, Oregon. This buckled road once bordered the St. Agnes Baby Home estate. The home was founded in 1902 and operated by the Catholic Sisters of Mercy for more than four decades before its decline alongside the private institutionalized orphanage system. During its existence, the St. Agnes Baby Home provided care for orphaned children, including my grandmother, who spent her first year of life there. Here, I will delve into the history of the St. Agnes Baby Home, examining the roles played by the Catholic Church and the Sisters of Mercy and how it endured and evolved amidst state and national efforts to reform child welfare systems.

From 1818 to 1846, the Oregon Territory was jointly occupied by both Great Britain and the United States. In the Willamette Valley, French-Canadian settlers requested Catholic priests, and, in response, the Holy See in Rome placed Joseph Provencher in charge of the valley's Catholic population in 1836. However, he could not accept the duty, and Francis Norbert Blanchet was appointed as vicar-general with jurisdiction over the territory.¹

Concurrently, in Ireland, a laywoman named Catherine McAuley saw the needs of the economically disadvantaged and opened the first House of Mercy in Dublin in 1827, which provided social work. However, the archbishop suggested starting a religious congregation, instead. In 1831, McCauley and two companions became the first Sisters of Mercy.²

Meanwhile, in the Oregon Territory, two priests arrived at Fort Vancouver in November 1838 to begin their missionary work among French-Canadians and Indigenous peoples. They established missions in several areas including Cowlitz (now Cowlitz County, Washington State), Oregon City, and Fort Nisqually (near present-day Puget Sound in Washington State).



Despite its shortcomings in terms of providing adequate care for infants and toddlers, the St. Agnes Baby Home exuded a quaint charm that added to the appeal of the surrounding countryside. The Sisters of Mercy, who were responsible for running the facility, struggled for over four decades and ultimately failed to properly care for the orphans in their charge. Photo circa early 1900s. Image courtesy of the author.

In December 1843, when the Oregon Territory became a Roman Catholic missionary destination, Blanchet was named priest. However, he did not find out he was named priest until November 1844 and had to travel to Montreal, Quebec, Canada, to be consecrated in July 1845. He then visited Rome and convinced the Holy See to make his jurisdiction into an ecclesiastical province. As a result, on 24 July 1846, the Archdiocese of Oregon City was established.³

Unbeknownst to Blanchet, McAuley was tirelessly expanding her congregation in Ireland. In the first ten years of her congregation, she had established fourteen separate foundations. In 1843, the first Sisters of Mercy arrived in the United States at the invitation of the Archbishop of Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania State. Their dedication to serving the sick and economically disadvantaged attracted many new members and, by 1854, they had spread to other areas of the country including the states of New York, Illinois, Minnesota, and California.⁴

1. Msgr. Patrick S. Brennan, STL, JCL, "The Early History of the Catholic Church in Oregon," *Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon*, available online at <https://archdpx.org/history> (accessed 1 August 2024).

2. Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, "Our History," *Sisters of Mercy*, available online at <https://sistersofmercy.org/about-us/our-history-mercy-heritage-center/> (accessed 1 August 2024).

3. Msgr. Patrick S. Brennan, STL, JCL, "The Early History of the Catholic Church in Oregon," *Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon*, available online at <https://archdpx.org/history> (accessed 1 August 2024).

4. Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, "Our History," *Sisters of Mercy*, available online at <https://sistersofmercy.org/about-us/our-history-mercy-heritage-center/> (accessed 1 August 2024).

In 1862, Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon, began to grow, and Catholic expansion was made through opening schools, and founding societies. St. Vincent's Hospital opened in 1875. In 1880, due to declining health, Blanchet resigned from his position after 64 years as a priest. He passed away three years later. In December 1880, Charles John Seghers became the head of the archdiocese but resigned after four years. During his short tenure, he embarked on numerous missionary journeys and helped establish a Benedictine abbey at Mount Angel (near present day Salem, Marion County, Oregon). William Gross became the Archbishop in February 1885.

In 1890, the Archdiocese under Gross acquired a parcel of land from pioneer Hiram Straight in the newly established hamlet of Park Place, one mile north of Oregon City proper, expanding its mission.⁵ Following the archdiocese's acquisition, the land was designated for the order of the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity, who commissioned a grand brick building on the premises. This structure, located east of the Clackamas County streetcar tracks, was an innovative institution for delinquent and wayward girls—possibly the first of its kind in Oregon. However, after a few years, management of the home was transferred to the Sisters of the Good Shepherd. Despite their charitable efforts extending beyond the facility, such as providing laundry services for Portland residents, it became clear that the Park Place location was not conducive for their operations.

The first Sisters of Mercy in Oregon arrived at Union Station in Portland in July 1896.

The identity of the Sisters who left Minnesota on a Pullman train for Oregon on July 20, 1896 is unclear. Although twelve Sisters are mentioned in the total from various sources, only eight were in the first contingent. All sources agree that Mother Agnes was along to take up permanent residence in Oregon . . . the train arrived at the Union Station in Portland on July 23, 1896 at precisely 11:57 a.m. The sisters were taken to the "Old Reed House" on Sixteenth and Couch.⁶

Archbishop Gross died on 4 November 1898, and three months later on 12 February 1899, Alexander Christie from Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Canada, was chosen as the fourth archbishop of Oregon City. Oregon experienced a revival of trade and immigration, to which Archbishop Christie responded by establishing more parishes, churches, and schools.

Archbishop Christie issued an order for a land exchange between the Sisters of the Good Shepherd and the Sisters of Mercy. In accordance with this order, the former relocated from their Park Place residence to a property belonging to the latter on East 20th Street and Irving Street in Portland in 1902. The Sisters of Mercy acquired the Park Place property as part of this transaction.⁷ Amidst the relocation process, Archbishop Christie imparted the task upon the Sisters of Mercy to oversee the care of infants and young children, a responsibility foreign to their previous focus on elderly individuals.



Archbishop Alexander Christie. Born on 28 May 1848, Alexander Christie was an esteemed member of the Roman Catholic Church. He held positions as Bishop of Vancouver Island from 1898 to 1899 and then Archbishop of Oregon City until his death in 1925. One of his notable achievements was founding the University of Portland in 1901. [Wikipedia](#).

5. Vera Martin Lynch, *Free Land for Free Men; A Story of Clackamas County* (Portland, Oregon: Artline Printing Inc., 1973), 145. For Park Place, see: Richard W. Helbock, Ph. D., *Oregon Post Offices 1847-1982* (Las Cruces, New Mexico: La Posta Publishing, 1982), 76.

6. Kathleen O'Brien, R.S.M., *Journeys: A Pre-Amalgamation History of the Sisters of Mercy Omaha Province* (Omaha Province, Sisters of Mercy, 1987), 537.

7. Sister Cecelia Mary Barry R.S.M., letter to Vera Lynch, 4 October 1970, Archdiocese of Portland Archives.

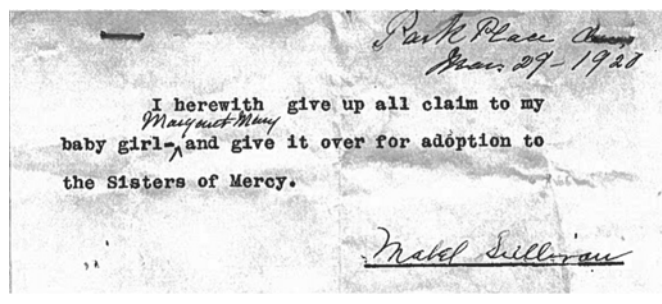
The Sisters of Mercy were the building's most enduring proprietors. They formally designated the structure as the St. Agnes Baby Home.⁸ The official name honored Mother Agnes.⁹

The St. Agnes Baby Home added a touch of allure to the countryside. It had been perched on a massive stone foundation, approximately one hundred yards south of the Clackamas River. Its four-story red brick walls, topped by the cupola of its rounded dome, were a well-known landmark in the area.

The lower level comprised the kitchen and dining area, while the second floor housed the parlors and chapel. The third story served as living quarters for the sisters, with the fourth floor designated for the orphaned infants and children. The building underwent multiple renovations to suit the needs of the sisters and children.¹⁰ At one juncture, the residence offered a treatment area complete with quartz lamp therapy and the capability to conduct small-scale surgeries.¹¹ The modern conveniences of a hot water heater and wood fuel were included in the home, with electricity introduced to illuminate the home by 1911.¹² The implementation of electricity was a great relief for Sister Mary Dominic Cody, as she had spent countless hours each day meticulously trimming the lamps in an endless cycle.¹³

The fifty-acre estate also included a farm, dairy, orchards, and vegetable gardens.¹⁴ The inhabitants of Park Place, along with the adult boarders of the home (sisters and staff), undertook the cultivation of the property.

On 14 May 1906, the Oregon State Health Association (OSHA) was created.¹⁵ At the onset, the board implemented farm inspections and water assessments. A directive from 1907 mandated that all farms (including those on private institutions) were to be regularly inspected for sanitation purposes. Despite this, in 1907, the St. Agnes Baby Home saw noted health epidemics, including an outbreak of measles in May.¹⁶ Regardless of OSHA's effort, little progress had been made just two years later. In 1909 the board noted: "Conditions in fruit, berry and hop yards during the picking season have been found to be on the whole unsanitary, scarcely any attention being given to water supply or disposal of body waste."¹⁷



Mabel Sullivan's note giving up child to the Sisters of Mercy. Courtesy of the author. The short note dated 29 March 1920, reveals Mabel Sullivan's decision to relinquish her daughter, Margaret Mary, into the custody of the Sisters of Mercy. This was the standard procedure mandated by the Child Welfare Commission. It marked the beginning of a six-month assessment period for potential adoptive families.

8. Lynch, *Free Land for Free Men*, 146.

9. Lynch, *Free Land for Free Men*, 146.

10. "St. Agnes Baby Home is Being Enlarged" *Morning Enterprise* (Oregon City, Oregon), 23 October 1912, p. 1.

11. Robert S. Farrell Jr., Secretary of State, *Oregon Blue Book 1943-1944* (Salem, Oregon: State Printing Department, 1944), 71.

12. *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Oregon City, Clackamas County, Oregon*, Sanborn Map Company, May 1900; *Library of Congress* (https://www.loc.gov/item/sanborn07432_005/; accessed 20 January 2025).

13. O'Brien, *Journeys*, 545. This care involved trimming the wick, which drew the oil up from the storage reservoir, so that the flame would be clean and bright.

14. Robert S. Farrell Jr., Secretary of State, *Oregon Blue Book 1943-1944* (Salem, Oregon: State Printing Department, 1944), 71. For acreage, see W.H. Slingerland, Ph. D., *Child Welfare Work in Oregon: A Study of Public and Private Agencies and Institutions for the Care of Dependent, Delinquent and Defective Children* (Salem, Oregon: State Printing Department, 1918), 39.

15. State Board of Health, *Second Biennial Report of the State Board of Health to the Governor of Oregon and the Twenty Fourth Legislative Assembly 1907* (Salem, Oregon: J.R. Whitney State Printer, 1906), 20.

16. *Find a Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/228376304/francis-c-brinson>; accessed 14 October 2022), memorial page for Francis C. Brinson (8 April 1906–28 May 1907), Find a Grave Memorial ID 228376304, citing Saint Agnes Baby Home Cemetery (Defunct), Oregon City, Clackamas County, Oregon, maintained by Brandy Walsh (contributor 47981120). The entry for Francis C. Brinson is one of ten death certificates linked to the St. Agnes Baby Home where measles is the cause of death.

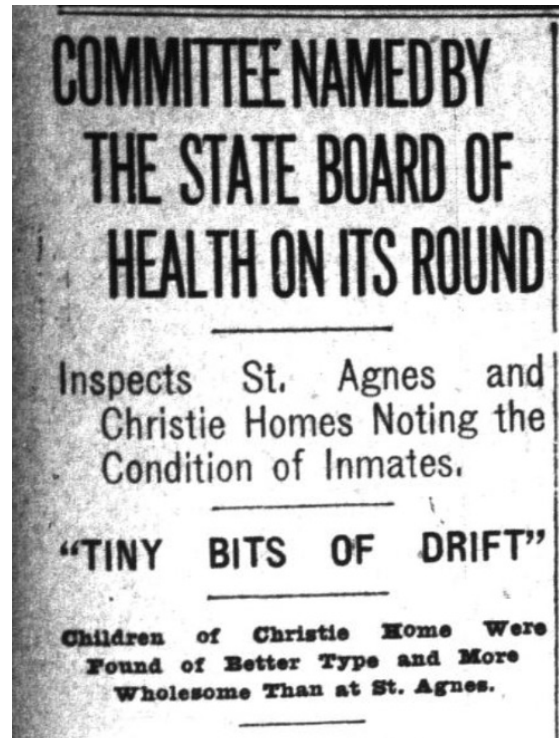
17. State Board of Health, *Third Biennial Report of the State Board of Health to the Governor of Oregon and the Twenty Fifth Legislative Assembly 1909* (Salem, Oregon: Willis S. Duniway State Printer, 1909), 10.

Typhoid fever spread rampant through unsanitary water and the bubonic plague threatened the Portland area in 1907.¹⁸ In May of that year, many cows on the St. Agnes Baby Home property died from a baffling intestinal disease.¹⁹ The consumption of milk from the sick cows was potentially fatal for humans. Prior to the death of the cows, ten-month-old Harold Arthur died from enteritis at the home, a condition that has been linked to consuming contaminated milk.²⁰

In 1909, President Theodore Roosevelt initiated the first ever national investigation into the well-being of children residing in institutions. The investigation concluded that foster care was a more beneficial option for children, as opposed to institutions. Despite this progressive concept, President Roosevelt's efforts were not widely accepted and over the next thirty-five years, the number of orphans in the United States increased.

In 1913, lawmakers in Oregon established a system of governance to allocate state funding towards private charitable institutions. Through legislative action, it was determined that all private institutions approved by OSHA would receive equal financial aid based on the number of individuals under the age of seventeen.²¹ According to the provisions of the law, an institution had the right to petition for financial support and, if deemed "worthy", be awarded funds for each child in their care. Once approved, the institution was obligated to submit a comprehensive financial and statistical report on an annual basis to the board. In return, they would receive a certificate granting them \$10.00 per month for each child under five years old, and \$8.00 per month for children between five and seventeen years old.²² In 1920 the allowances were raised to \$20.00 and \$16.00, respectively.²³

The Sisters of Mercy often held open houses, offering the opportunity for public interaction with the children. These visits were meant to encourage socialization and external stimulation. Teenage girls assisted with tucking the children into bed at night, while a group of men from nearby Gladstone regularly transported them to various destinations such as Portland's Washington Park, the Portland Zoo, and movie theaters. Acts of generosity were also common, as local women donated clothing, food, money, and even ice cream to support the home's efforts.²⁴



"Tiny Bits of Drift" headline. On 25 January 1917, The Oregon Daily Journal published a sensational article comparing the St. Agnes Home to the Christie Home. The piece exposed the appalling conditions at the St. Agnes Baby Home while praising the excellent conditions at the Christie Home. *Historic Oregon Newspapers*.

18. Kimberly Jensen, "Neither Head nor Tail to the Campaign: Esther Pohl Lovejoy and the Oregon Woman Suffrage Victory of 1912," *Oregon Historical Quarterly* 108:3 (Fall 2007): 354.

19. "Malady Fatal to Cows" *Oregon City Enterprise*, 3 May 1907, p. 2.

20. *Find a Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/246231704/harold-arthur> : accessed 11 May 2024), memorial page for Harold Arthur (2 Mar 1906–8 Jan 1907), Find a Grave Memorial ID 246231704, citing Saint Agnes Baby Home Cemetery, Oregon City, Clackamas County, Oregon, USA; Maintained by KerryRaeSmithMoser (contributor 48011981).

21. Sam A. Kozler, Secretary of State, *State of Oregon Blue Book and Official Directory 1923-1924* (Salem, Oregon: State Printing Department, 1923), 129.

22. Arlien Johnson, "The Care of Dependent Children in Oregon" (B.A. thesis, Reed College, 1917), 3.

23. Sam A. Kozler, Secretary of State, *State of Oregon Blue Book and Official Directory 1923-1924* (Salem, Oregon: State Printing Department, 1923), 129.

24. Kim Argraves Huey, "A Minute of Gladstone History," *Gladstone City Newsletter*, Gladstone, Oregon, February 2021, p. 4 (<https://www.ci.gladstone.or.us/media/15971> : accessed 26 January 2024).

The establishment of the Child Welfare Commission (CWC) on 17 January 1917, by OSHA, served to monitor and evaluate the conditions of orphanages and other similar institutions.²⁵ The duties encompassed by this mandate included the regulation of children's placement in families, investigation of all adoption cases, intervention to safeguard homeless or neglected children, supervision and licensing of private agencies and institutions caring for children, and investigation of any potential abuse within child-caring facilities.²⁶ The CWC collaborated with nearly twenty state institutions to ensure adherence and efficient monitoring.

During the first quarter of the 20th century, Oregon had reached its peak in terms of child welfare institutions, despite enjoying economic and social advantages over other states. In fact, during this time, the Pacific states of Oregon, Washington, and California boasted the highest per-capita wealth in the entire country. However, despite these financial advantages, the underfunded CWC relied heavily on recommendations from other states to manage their system.²⁷

In January 1917, unfavorable conditions at the St. Agnes Baby Home were exposed by the CWC in an article printed in the *Oregon Daily Journal*. The newspaper reported that many children exhibited physical abnormalities and disease while praising the conditions at the Christie Home, a contemporary institution, which had superior fundraising capabilities and was named for the archbishop.

In 1918, an exhaustive report was produced by W. H. Slingerland Ph.D., a special agent from the Russell Sage Foundation in the State of New York, commissioned by the CWC.²⁸ The report detailed statistics and conditions of all child institutions in Oregon. At that time, there were twenty-one institutions and agencies under the oversight of the CWC, with fifteen of them being privately run homes.²⁹ Among the private institutions, ten were under Catholic administration. Collectively, these institutions accommodated around 1,100 infants and children.³⁰

Besides the St. Agnes Baby Home, Oregon's private institutions included in Slingerland's report were: The Boys' and Girl's Aid Society (Portland), St. Mary's Home for Boys (Beaverton), Albertina Kerr Nursery Home (Portland), The Louise Home (Elwood Station/East Portland), The Baby Home (Portland, *later known as Waverly*), Levi Anderson Industrial School for Boys (Beaverton), The Children's Home (Portland), Odd Fellows Home (Portland), Florence Crittenton Refuge Home (Portland), Salvation Army Rescue Home (Portland), The White Shield Home (Portland), Elizabeth Cottage for the Feeble-Minded (Elwood Station/East Portland), The House of Good Shepherd (Portland), and The Christie Home (Oswego).

The placement of children was often due to a variety of factors such as irregular employment, insufficient wages, sickness, domestic abuse, and divorce. In some cases, the court system intervened to aid abused or neglected children who were not placed voluntarily by their parents. It is estimated that a quarter of all children who went through the court system were eventually admitted into institutional care.³¹ The goal of these institutions was to reunite the children with their families. Adoption was strictly reserved for those born out of wedlock or abandoned.



The Christie Home. Lake Oswego Review. In this picture from the early 1900s, nuns and orphans are posing with the esteemed Christie Home in rural Multnomah County. The institution was named after the well-known archbishop.

25. Marshall N. Dana, "Committee Named by the State Board of Health on its Round," *The Oregon Daily Journal*, 25 January 1917, p. 20.

26. Sam A. Kozler, Secretary of State, *State of Oregon Blue Book and Official Directory 1923-1924* (Salem, Oregon: State Printing Department, 1923), 100.

27. Johnson, "The Care of Dependent Children in Oregon", ii.

28. Bertha A. Roth, George Brock, Theodore Drahn, J. Bruce Hult, Janice Norbeck, Phyllis Donohue, Wayne Hinrichs, Ruth Nisly, Charles M. Smiley, and Dorothy Wittmeyer, "Christie School: The Evolution of a Social Institution," (1965) Dissertations and Theses, 144.

29. W. H. Slingerland, Ph. D., *Child Welfare Work in Oregon: A Study of Public and Private Agencies and Institutions for the Care of Dependent, Delinquent and Defective Children* (Salem, Oregon: State Printing Department, 1918), 6.

30. Slingerland, *Child Welfare Work in Oregon*, 35.

31. Johnson, "The Care of Dependent Children in Oregon", 11.

The women who were aided by these institutions came from a variety of backgrounds, including those in abusive relationships, facing homelessness, struggling with addiction, or working in prostitution. Some had fled their homes to conceal their pregnancies from family and friends. My great-grandmother, Mabel Sullivan, was one of these women.³² Unmarried, Mabel travelled to the St. Agnes Baby Home during the fall of 1919 from the State of Iowa.³³ Given that the home did not house adult boarders other than sisters and staff, Mabel was an exception. Her sister, Sister Mary Bernadette Sullivan, belonged to the Sisters of Mercy in Iowa and arranged for Mabel to stay as a boarder throughout the remainder of her pregnancy. As birthing facilities were not available at the home, Mabel gave birth to my grandmother at the Oregon City Hospital on 4 March 1920.

Four noted routine inspections occurred between January and March 1920, with an inspector from the CWC visiting the St. Agnes Baby Home. During the first three inspections, sixteen infants were found to be in poor health, with one child suffering from an infected ear and eye. The inspector addressed issues such as overcrowding, lack of ventilation, and inadequate care. According to the inspector's fourth report on 16 March 1920, the home's conditions had improved, and the infant ward had been recently filled with a new group of *thriving and vigorous babies*. It is likely that my grandmother was among these babies. Following my grandmother's birth, Mabel Sullivan signed a letter relinquishing her parental rights and turned my grandmother over to the Sisters of Mercy.³⁴ My grandmother was adopted from St. Agnes Baby Home at a year old.

By 1938, the Sisters of Mercy had become unable to sustain their efforts at the St. Agnes Baby Home. In response to this urgent situation, the Archbishop Edward D. Howard, approached a contemporary, the Sisters of Providence, for assistance.

A letter dated 16 November 1938 written by the Sisters of Providence, addressed to the Provincial Superior of Sacred Heart Province and the Superior of St. Vincent's Hospital in Portland stated:

It seems that the Sisters of Mercy conducting the St. Agnes Home at Park Place are not giving satisfaction. The Welfare agencies and the physician who visit there are up in arms, so something must be done soon. So many and frequent complaints have been registered that the poor Archbishop is obliged to turn somewhere for help.³⁵



St. Agnes Baby Home Orphans, 1902. Clackamas County Historical Society Collections.

32. 1920 U.S. census, St. Agnes Baby Home, Park Place Precinct, Clackamas County, Oregon, population schedule, enumeration district 481, sheet 4A, Mabel Sullivan [sic]; accessed via "United States Census, 1920," images, *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/6061/images/4384921_00903?src=pt&treeid=87204099&personid=48573965367&usePUB=true&usePUBJs=true&pid=99213130 : accessed 12 November 2020); NARA digital publication T625, roll 1491.

33. Mabel Frances Sullivan, birth certificate no. 224 (1187), Iowa Department of Public Health – Bureau of Vital Records, Des Moines, certified.

34. Sisters of Mercy, letter giving-up baby girl, 29 March 1920, Margaret Sullivan adoption file, Catholic Charities, 2740 S.E. Powell Boulevard, Portland, Oregon.

35. Griselda O'Brien, *Providence Child Center, Portland, Oregon: Photograph Collection Finding Aid*, 29 August 2016, p. 2 (<https://silotips/download/providence-child-center-portland-oregon> : accessed 18 October 2022)

In a letter dated 3 August 1944, the Provincial Superior reported to the Superior General concerning the deteriorating conditions at the home. The unprecedented spread of illness amongst the remaining infants caused great concern. In fact, the number of babies had significantly decreased to a mere fourteen. Consequently, during that same month, eight babies were relocated to a newly established pediatric ward at Providence Hospital in East Portland, effectively concluding the forty-two-year tenancy of St. Agnes Baby Home.³⁶

The remaining children were relocated to the Christie Home and St. Mary's Home for Boys.³⁷ In the latter part of 1944, the home was repurposed as a convalescent home for senior citizens, and its name was changed to Mt. St. Joseph Home for the Aged.³⁸ The property retained the farm and dairy. In 1950, a renovation was completed to convert the building into permanent housing for the elderly, which included the installation of an elevator and was renamed the St. Agnes Old People's Home. To supplement state expenses, the home received direct pensions from some of its inhabitants.³⁹

Following World War II, the United States experienced an economic recovery and a more progressive approach towards foster care. By the 1950s, foster care was government funded, causing a significant shift in societal values. The gradual shift to the modern-day foster care system increased Oregon's adoption numbers between 1935–1951.⁴⁰ In 1952, there were a mere six child welfare institutions left in Oregon: the Boys' and Girls' Aid Society, Waverly Baby Home (*formerly known as The Baby Home*), Catholic Charities, Albertina Kerr Homes, Jewish Family & Child Services, and the Children's Farm Home.⁴¹ The outdated concept of institutionalized homes dissipated as American society prioritized the mental and physical well-being of children. This marked the end of a notorious chapter in American history.

Shortly after being renamed the St. Agnes Old People's Home, it was deemed uninhabitable and was purchased by Doctor M. M. Martindale of Oregon City.⁴² Dismantling began, and in 1952, all that remained of the home was the 75-foot-tall elevator shaft tower. There were initial talks of repurposing the elevator shaft as a silo, but it ultimately met its fate when it was demolished to make way for the construction of the I-205 freeway.⁴³ The remaining grounds have been mostly covered by tons of earth and are now obscured beneath the freeway, forever entombing the property.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Vince has been a lifelong writer, having grown up in the quaint town of Astoria, Oregon. He resides in Portland, Oregon, with his partner and feline companion, but they often seek solace from the incessant rainfall by retreating to Palm Springs.



S. Agnes Avenue (underlined in red), Oregon City, Oregon. This is near the I-205 exit for OR-213.

36. O'Brien, *Providence Child Center, Portland, Oregon: Photograph Collection Finding Aid*, p. 3.

37. Lynch, *Free Land for Free Men*, 146.

38. "St. Agnes Baby Home Is No More; Service Changed" *Gladstone Newspaper* (Gladstone, Oregon), 1944.

39. 1950 U.S. census, St. Agnes Old People's Home, Clackamas County, population schedule, enumeration district 3-119, sheet 5: accessed via "United States Census, 1950", *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/25059201:62308?_phsrc=FNW1&_phstart=successSource&gsln=Pope&ml_rpos=4&queryId=2466103de7052b1d028e98a9ae2f3418 : accessed 24 April 2024) NARA digital publication. Notes section states: sample lines 18-23-28 are inmates or guests and have no income, the old age pensions are sent to the home directly.

40. Charles Bradley M.D., Don J. Campbell, Seymour L. Colbens, et. Al., *Oregon Adoption Laws and Procedures: A City Club Report* (Portland, Oregon, 1952), 352.

41. Bradley, Campbell, Colbens, et. Al., *Oregon Adoption Laws and Procedures*, 352–353.

42. Lynch, *Free Land for Free Men*, 147.

43. Lynch, *Free Land for Free Men*, 147.

My First Visit to the FamilySearch Library

Kristy Musalo

I recently visited the FamilySearch Library, formerly known as the Family History Library, for the first time ever. My husband and I traveled in our RV through the national parks of Utah. Among the gigantic red rocks, deep narrow canyons, and sky-reaching spires of Southern Utah, I formulated a plan to visit the library. On our trip home to Oregon, we stopped in Salt Lake City. I had only half a day to spend at the library but did my best to make the most of it. Much like the 150-million-year-old Jurassic era dinosaur tracks I walked in while in Moab, I marveled at the library. I felt like a kid in a candy shop.

I imagine a visit to the FamilySearch Library is on the bucket list of every genealogist, amateur or professional. I am no different. Unfortunately, I was little prepared for mine. Now, full disclosure, I am an Ancestry kind of gal. I do not regularly update the FamilySearch Family Tree, I do not regularly use the search engines the site provides, and I do not regularly explore what FamilySearch offers. I will change this and spend more time on the site.

To prepare for my visit, I made sure the FamilySearch Family Tree was updated and accurate for my close family's entries, the best I could while traveling with little cell phone service. I checked out the library website as well. I found the open hours for the day I would be visiting and parking information. I also searched the library catalog and found two books that interested me, so I wrote the call letters down on a slip of paper.



Standing in 150-million-year-old Jurassic era dinosaur tracks near Moab, Utah.



This photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-SA

FamilySearch Library, Salt Lake City, Utah.

My husband drove me to the library and deposited me on the yellow loading zone curb out front. Metered street parking exists in the area, or there is Convention Center parking a block away which the library will validate so you can park for free. I walked the short 20 or so steps to the building. Upon entering the library, a volunteer immediately greeted me. She told me her name, asked my name, and shook my hand. She inquired about my interests and showed me a directory near the elevators that outlined which floor to proceed to for whatever I was researching. She was the first of many very helpful volunteers I came across.

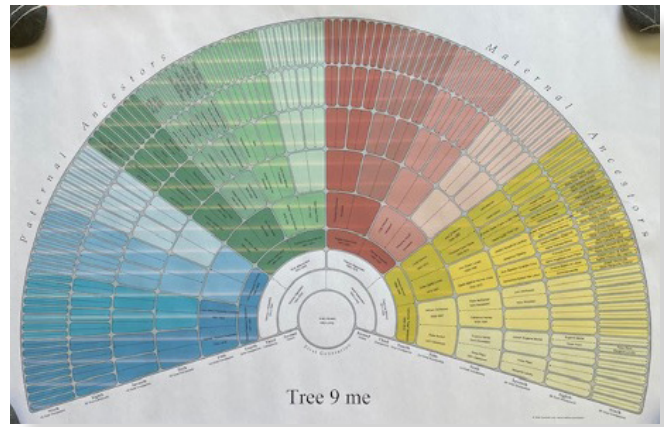
The library covers five lovely floors. The main floor provides large touchscreen monitors where you can access FamilySearch, computer terminals for doing the same, as well as some interactive areas for making a family coat of arms or transferring your memories (photos, etc.) to digital format. It also includes a Guest Breakroom with vending machines where folks eat and drink. As with the Genealogical Forum of Oregon, the library does not allow food or drink among the holdings. Closed-top water bottles are permitted (bring your Hydro Flask or Yeti, it can be hot in Salt Lake). Microfilm stations and books inhabit the second and third floors, while two basement floors store international records. There is also some medieval material (I could get lost in that) and the ability to request books from storage. The sheer amount of stuff overwhelmed and awed me. Luckily, many tables, chairs, and workstations exist to set up and camp in.

I spent some time on the main floor getting my bearings and then moved to the third floor to look for the two books I previously found in the catalog. The stacks are huge, but I quickly located the books. Holding one of the books, an original family history book which I already own a digital copy of, seemed special to me as I saw my ancestor's handwritten signature. I had never seen the second book, and it provided me with new information. I also wandered the stacks looking for the county where my ancestors lived during the Revolutionary era, and I was not disappointed. So many choices. The third floor gave access to book scanners, a copy machine, and USB thumb drives, all free. Plus, several volunteers, all ready to go the extra mile, offered help with anything. A bibliophile, like me, dreams of such a place.

With my library time running short, I moved down to the main floor and inquired about printing a pedigree chart. I previously read on the library website that this service is provided. A kind volunteer led me to one of the many computer terminals and asked me to log in to my FamilySearch account. Upon doing so, she magically accessed another program that "talked" to my FamilySearch account. We asked the program to print a 24-inch by 36-inch nine generation color pedigree chart. I waited about two minutes while the volunteer removed my chart from a printer. My pedigree chart cost nothing and beautifully displays nine generations of my ancestors and also shows where more work is needed. Another volunteer carefully rolled the chart and placed it in a cardboard tube. I was thrilled!



Coat of Arms designed at FamilySearch Library. "Cois gentil a tout moment" (Be kind at all times).



Nine generation, 24-inch by 36-inch, family pedigree chart from FamilySearch. My Ancestry tree and personal tree include many more ancestors, but this gives me a good visual for updating FamilySearch.

I explored the main floor a little more. I found a wall with several touchscreen monitors that interactively built a family coat of arms or crest. Curiosity got the better of me, so I touched the screen and began a coat of arms building session. The program asked a series of five or six questions and gave several answers to choose from, my replies building my crest. While answering the questions, I learned about family coat of arms/crests and found it interesting to learn that they represent an individual not a family. After making my crest, an explanation regarding each component was given, and I could then email it to myself.

I extremely enjoyed my visit to the FamilySearch Library. I was open to simply exploring rather than researching a particular ancestor or stubborn brick wall. However, the next time I visit, and there will be a next time, I will approach my visit a little differently. First of all, I will prepare better. I will make sure my part of the family tree is up to date, I will bring a list of any ancestors and brick walls I want to research, and I will carefully determine what sources I can use only at the library (versus online) to narrow my focus. Second, I will plan to spend more time there. A half day perfectly suited my purpose, but nitty gritty research takes more time. Last, I will bring my laptop computer, so I can record as I go thereby eliminating paper and pencil transcriptions. I left the library feeling happy, curious, and ready for more. I highly recommend a pilgrimage to Salt Lake!

Transcription

Wealthy Ann Cooper (Burton, Illinois) to James and Jane Wells (Harmony, Chautauqua County, New York), Letter, 11 March 1848

Mark Grafe

This three-page letter mentions five of the children of my fourth great-grandparents Edmund Henry Wells and Hepzibah Buell, namely Wealthy Ann, James, Edmund, Miriam, and Betsey. It also mentions my second great-grandmother Emeline Adelia (Wells) Ball, daughter of James and Jane (Hapgood) Wells. Punctuation has not been corrected.

Edmund Henry Wells Sr., supposedly baptized 1 April 1771 in Cambridge, Washington County, New York, died 2 April 1813 in Cambridge, New York. He married Hepzibah Buell circa 1791. Hepzibah, born about 1771 in Cambridge, New York, was buried 15 December 1819 in the Turnpike Cemetery. The children of Edmund and Hepzibah were:

- i. Edmund Henry Wells (1792–1882), married Jane Cooper.
- ii. Wealthy Ann Wells (1794–1865), married L. Sam Cooper.
- iii. James Wells (1797–1854), married Jane Hapgood.
- iv. Pamelia Wells (1800-1839), married Benjamin Dickinson.
- v. Elizabeth “Betsey” Wells (1804–1852), married Ransom Curtis.
- vi. Sidney Wells (ca.1808–ca.1849).
- vii. Harriet “Miriam” Wells (1810–1882), married William M. Slayton.
- viii. Solomon Wells (1812-1907).

This letter from Wealthy Ann to her brother (James) went to his daughter (Emeline), to his grandson (Ralph M. Ball), and then to his great-grandson (Wm. Clyde Ball). Clyde shared it with his cousin (my grandmother) in 1971. My grandfather (R. Heber Radcliffe) added the numbers in the upper right corner of the letters and underlined Wealthy Ann Cooper on the third page.

Mostly secondary sources linked my third great-grandfather (James Wells) to his parents until this letter was discovered. It was nice to see the following pages in my grandparents’ genealogy. Sources for the above data are in the *Family History of Heber Radcliffe*.

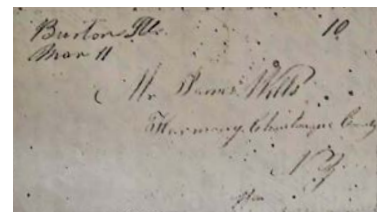
[Envelope]

Burton 10
March 11

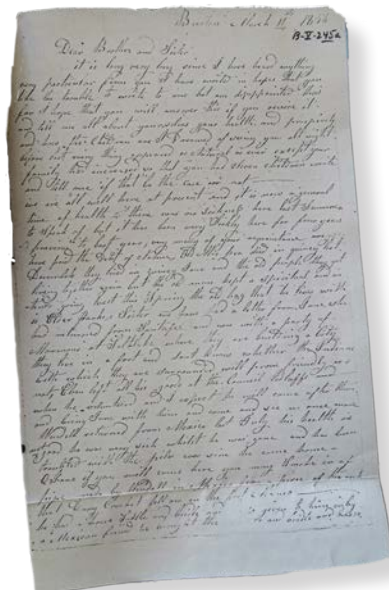
Mr. James Wells
Harmony Chautauqua
N.Y.



Turnpike Cemetery, Cambridge, New York.
Courtesy of the author.



Cooper to Wells envelope.
Courtesy of the author.



Cooper to Wells letter, page 1.
Courtesy of the author.

[Page 1]

Burton; March 11th 1848

B-V-245a

Dear Brother and Sister

it is long very long since I have heard anything very particular from you I have waited in hopes that you take the trouble to write to me but am disappointed thus for I hope that you will answer this if you receive it and tell me all about yourselves, your health, and prosperity, and how the children are. I dreamed of seeing you all night before last every thing appeared as Natural as ever except your family had increased so that you had Seven children. write and tell me if that be the case or not—

we are all well here at present and it is now a general time of health [illegible] there was no sickness here last Summer to Speak of but it has been very Sickly here for four years previous to last year, very many of your acquaintance [illegible] have paid the Debt of Nature, Old Mrs. Pea died in Quincy last December they lived in Quincy Jane and the old people they got living together again but the old men kept a spiritual and in -tends going west this Spring the old hag that he lives with is Elder Parks's Sister we have had a letter from Jane she had returned from Santa Fee and was with a party of Mormons at Saltlake where they are building a City they live in a fort and don't know whether the Indians with which they are surrounded will prove friendly or not, Eben left all his good at the Council Bluffs and when he volunteered and I expect he will come after them and bring Jane with him and come and see us once more. Wendell returned from Mexico last July his health is not good he was very sick whilst he was gone and has been troubled with the piles ever since he came home—

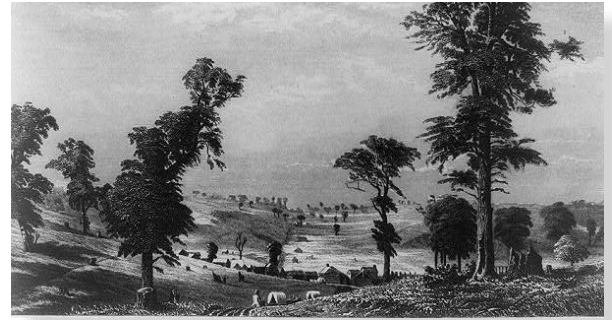
O Jane if you will come here you may Smoke in a [illegible] pipe made by Wendell in Mexico from a piece of the rock that Davy Crocket fell [illegible] in the fort Alamo— he had horse Saddle and brick and [illegible] given to him in by a Mexican friend he brought the [illegible] and bridle and lasso

[Page 2]

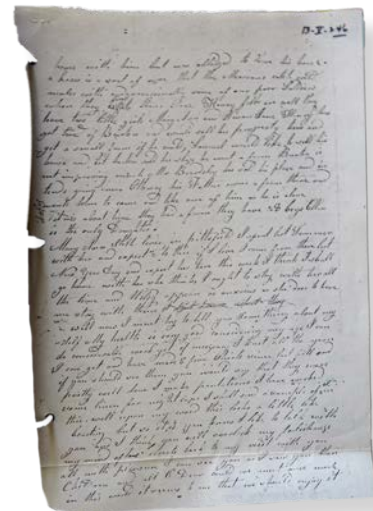
B-V-246

home with him but as obliged to leave his horse. a Lasso is sort of rope that the Mexicans catch wild mules with, and occasionally some of our poor Soldiers when they find them alone Henry folks are well they have two little girls Mary Ann and Susan Jane. Henry also got tired of Burton and would sell his property here and get a small farm if he could, Samuel would like to sell his house and lot he has sold his shops he want a farm Burton is not improving much Mr Beardsley has sold his place and in tends going near Ottoway his Father owns a farm there and wants him to come and take care of him as he is alone it is about time they had a farm they have 8 boys Ellen is the only Daughter.

Mary Ann still lives in Pittsfield I spent last Summer



Entrance to Kanesville or Council Bluffs, Iowa, circa 1847. *Library of Congress.*



Cooper to Wells letter, page 2. *Courtesy of the author.*



El Lazo/J.D. *Library of Congress.*

with her and expect to this if I live I came from there last New Year Day and expect her here this week I think I shall go home with her. she thinks I ought to stay with her all the time and Wiley appears as anxious as she does to have me stay with them. ["I don't know what they" was crossed out.] Well now I must try to tell you something about my -self. My health is very good considering my age I can do considerable work yet if necessary I knit all the yarn I can get and have made 5 fine shirts since last fall and if you should see them you would say that they were pretty well Jane I make panlatoons [pantaloons] I have worked some linen for night caps. I shall send a sample of it in this well upon my word this looks a little like boasting but so it is, you know I like to talk with you and I think you will overlook my foolishness my mind oftens reverts back to my visit with you all with pleasure I can see you as I saw you when Children and all O Dear could we meet once more in this world it seems to me that we should enjoy it



Dar am de lost pantaloons, 1890.
Library of Congress.

[Page 3]

much but if it is otherwise determined by an [illegible]

B-V-247

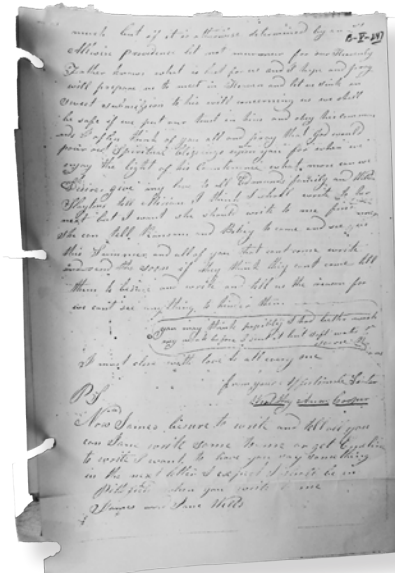
Allwise providence let not murmur for our Heavenly Father know what is best for us and I hope and pray will prepare us to meet in Heaven and let us sink in sweet submission to his will concerning us we shall be safe if we put our trust in him and obey his common and I often think of you all and pray that God would pour out Spiritual blessings upon you for when we enjoy the light of his countenance what more can we desire give my love to all Edmunds family and William Slayton's tell Miriam I think I shall write to her next but I want she should write to me first She can tell Ransom and Betsey to come and see us this Summer and all of you that can't come write and sent the soon if they think they can't come tell them to be sure and write and tell us the reason for we can't see anything to hinder them—

You may think possibly I had better wash any work before I sent it but soft water is scarce I must close with love to all every one

from you affectionate Sister
Wealthy Ann Cooper

PS

Now James be sure to write and tell all you can Jane write some to me or get Emeline to write I want to have you say something in the next letter I expect I shall be in Pittsfield when you write to me
James and Jane Wells



Cooper to Wells letter, page 3.
Courtesy of the author.



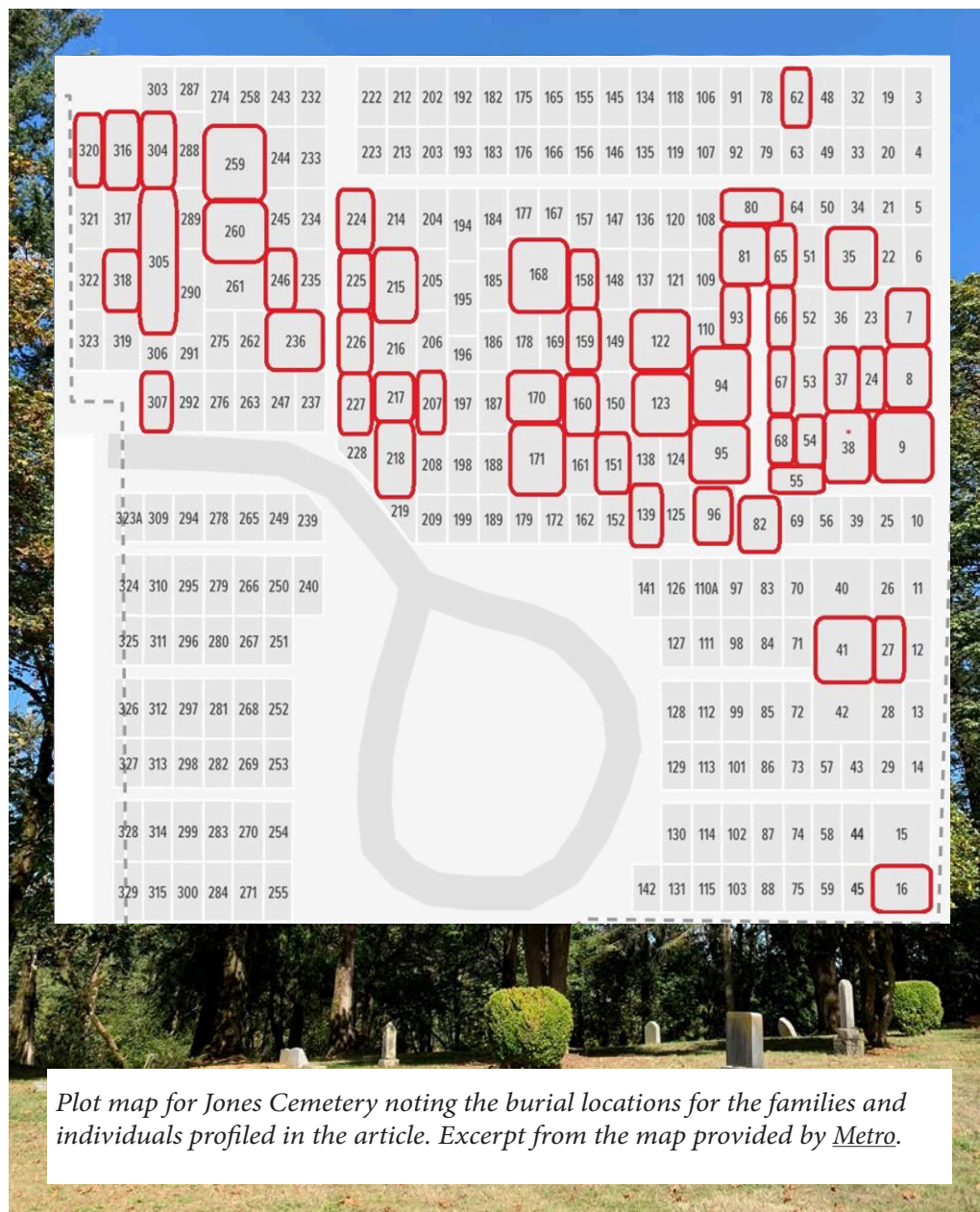
Emeline Adelia (Wells) Ball, 1855.
Courtesy of the Stutz family.

Nathan B. Jones (1819–1894) and Jones Pioneer Cemetery Part 2

Nanci Remington



Part two continues the stories of early settlers who are buried in Jones Cemetery. The research sources and copies of documents are attached to the profiles on the FamilySearch Shared Tree. The ID numbers for the individuals are on the table at the end of part one in the December 2024 issue of *The Bulletin*.

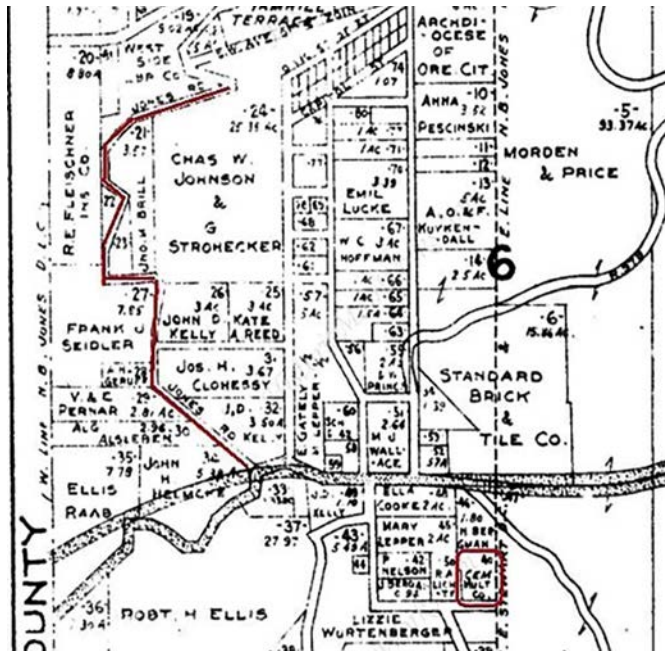


Plot map for Jones Cemetery noting the burial locations for the families and individuals profiled in the article. Excerpt from the map provided by Metro.

7	Engberg, Dodson
8	Hunter, Price
9	Patterson, Richardson, Wambold, Hutchings
16	Smith (possibly Warfel)
24	Harris, Walsh
35	Gerulf
37	Munger
38	Jones
41	Wirth
54	Haggard
55	Ayers
62	Rowell
65	Laus
66	Fuhrer
67	Prince
68	Collins
80	Hoereth, Burns
81	Pelletan
82	Hoffman
93	Orrin
94	Nelson, Harris, Frye
95	Helmcke
96	Hoffman, Corless
122	Nelson
123	Fay, Chapin, Wood
139	Nelson
151	Jenne
158	Miller
159	Amacher
160	Neff (Helmcke)
170	Helmcke, Mathieson
171	Cooper, Goracke, Miller
198	Morriss, Morris
207	Laverty
215	Moore
217	Druhot
218	Schiller (Jenne), Miller
224	Peterson (Nelson), Swanson
225	Akin, Pelletan
226	Stockdale
227	Garrick
236	Hansen
246	Sauvain
259	Buckbee, Kitchen, Spencer
260	Walling, Campbell, Ellis, Love, Melvin
304	Humphrey, North
305	Humphrey, Gove, Denlinger, Orchard
307	Briscoe
316	Humphrey
318	Gove
320	Gove

Spencer

James Spencer was living on Jones Road in 1930, as was his sister Loretta Yokum. Other families that lived along that road included the Hoffmans, Fays, Kellys, Helmckes, and Kitchens. A 1927 Metzger map shows Jones Road approximately where SW 61st Avenue is today (just west of Skyline Boulevard where it crosses Canyon Court). The road runs more or less north to south through the hills that were once part of the Nathan B. Jones land claim. Nearby was a brickyard where several of the settlers worked at different times, including James.



Excerpt from 1927 Metzger Atlas of Multnomah County, Oregon, page 20. *Historic Map Works*.

James was born in England in 1862. His family emigrated about 1871 and settled in Nebraska. By 1900, James was living in Sylvan and working as a farm laborer. He was later employed at the brickyard.¹ He never married. James died in 1934 and is the only one of his family known to be buried at the Jones Cemetery.



Ad from the Oregon Journal, 23 November 1922.

1. A clay pit began operating near Sylvan in 1893 and soon added brick manufacturing. The factory had many names over the years. It was still operating in 1947 when it produced 7,000,000 bricks. Today the acreage is home to several commercial buildings and parking lots that serve as overflow parking for the nearby Oregon Zoo. The zoo sits on land that was home to the Multnomah County Poor Farm from 1868 to 1911 when the farm moved to Troutdale.

Walling

John Edwin Walling arrived in the Sylvan neighborhood in 1906 by way of Indiana, Colorado, Montana, and Utah, where he managed companies that manufactured bricks. He continued in that field in Oregon where he bought an interest in the Standard Brick and Tile company. John and his wife Dora (DeMoss) lived in the Sylvan precinct in 1910 but were later found at different addresses in what is now Northwest Portland. Dora was active in the Neighbors of Woodcraft and was noted in the social columns as a member of the Royal Circle. John and Dora celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1933.



In 1938, John was interviewed for a column in the *Oregon Journal* that provided information about his early life and extended family. In 1943, the couple celebrated their 60th anniversary. John died in October of 1946 and Dora died a few weeks later. Their daughter Lillie and her husband Burl Campbell were also buried in Jones Cemetery.

Kitchen

James and Matilda (Elson) Kitchen lived near James Spencer. Both men worked odd jobs. Matilda did day work for a private family. The Kitchens were born in England where they married and had two children. They emigrated

about 1889 and settled in Philadelphia, where they were living in 1900 when their daughter made headlines after leaving her family to join a dance troupe. *The Philadelphia Inquirer* sent reporters to rescue her, after which the story, along with first-person accounts and illustrations, was featured in the newspaper on February 8–9.

**FAIR PHILADELPHIA GIRL
RESCUED BY THE INQUIRER
FROM A LIFE OF HORRORS**

No Longer a Dancing Girl in a Moorish Troupe, Pretty Clara Kitchen Is on Her Way Back From Washington to Her Home in This City

Clara Kitchen Thanks The Inquirer and Sounds a Note of Warning to Other Girls

I saw what the Inquirer has taken me from that house and those people and driven me back to my mother. And I thank the Inquirer with all my heart. I tried to get away myself, but never could get any chance to wear orange the same as danced in. Oh, I hope my experience will be a warning to other girls who think of joining any night club company. If they have the good heart like they would have to lead they would never want to think of it. I would not go back to that life more for anything. I got so tired of it. I always had to wear those horrid clothes day and night and never felt like I need to feel as home. Please don't know what it is to be an actual dancer. The Inquirer said that the Inquirer has brought me back to my mother. I will never leave her again to take a dance company. (Clara)

CLARA KITCHEN.

From a first description. WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 8.—Slavery was supposed to have given its last grip when the emancipation proclamation was announced, or at least, upon the firing of the last gun of the great conflict. While slavery and most atrocities of all, the bondage of a white woman, is a phenomenon that at the dawn of this enlightened twentieth century may well appear an impossible one, yet for one month a girl, slender, shapely, unpretentious, has lived a life of slavery. In Chicago, in London, in Baltimore and finally in Washington, Queen City of the Nation, she has lived with her master and her master's wife. Kept under constant surveillance, her children hidden, forced to wear the odious garb of her world.

The story describes Clara's mother as "a simple English woman, born in Coventry and practically a peasant of Lord Leigh..." and reported "The father, an honest Englishman, did indeed object to the career his daughter wished to pursue. But fathers are wax in the hands of self-willed daughters." Clara married in 1901 and moved to New Orleans. Her parents eventually moved to Oregon. Matilda died in 1938 and James in 1942.

Hoffman

The Hoffmans may not have known any of the early settlers who lived near Jones Cemetery. They emigrated from Germany in 1882 and in 1883 settled in what is now Northwest Portland. Robert Hoffman was a bricklayer.² His wife Minnie was a nurse. On the 1900 census, sons Reinhold, William, and Otto were gardeners, and 19-year-old Jennie was a stenographer. Youngest son Freddie was the only child born in the United States. Henry died in 1901 and was buried at "Sylvan Cemetery at Zion Town." On the next three census records, Minnie is living with different children. The sons were nurserymen or florists so they may have had ties to the Swedish immigrants who had nurseries near Barnes Road. Minnie died in 1936. Both Robert and Minnie are buried at Jones Cemetery, as is their daughter Jennie Corless who died in 1915. Jennie is one of three children who died of self-inflicted gunshot wounds, the others being Reinhold and Otto. Otto's wife

Ellen is buried at Jones. Otto's body was donated to a medical school.

Nelson/Fay/Peterson/Hansen

Nels Nelson was a common name circa 1900. It appears in newspaper articles from Tillamook to The Dalles. And that's just Oregon.

According to his grave marker, the Nels Nelson buried in Jones Cemetery was born in 1837 and died in 1900. His funeral notice stated that he lived on Barnes Road and left a wife and seven children.

NELSON—Near Portland, Sept. 25, 1900, Nels Nelson, aged 63 years, 5 months, 22 days; leaving a wife and seven children. The funeral will be held at his late residence, on Barnes' road, Thursday, 1 P. M. Interment at Sylvan, Or. Friends invited.

From *The Morning Oregonian*, 27 September 1900.

The family is well documented with records in Sweden and the United States. Nels married Hannah Persdotter/Pearson in 1862 in Träne, Sweden, and their oldest children were born there. They immigrated in 1878 and settled first in Minnesota, where two more children were born. They arrived in Oregon in 1884 and established a farm on Barnes Road in an area called Swedeville.³ The June 1900 census recorded the family living in Sylvan Precinct where Nels was a farmer. The record showed that Hannah had 10 children with seven living. Of the 10, eight can be identified and one of those died in Portland before 1900—Carrie Nelson died in 1898 after being burned while lighting a fire with kerosene.

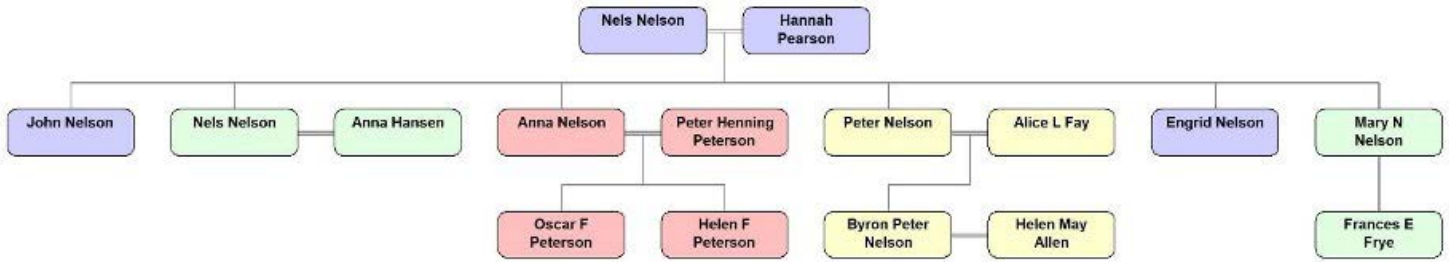
Many members of the family are buried at Jones Cemetery. They include Nels, his wife Hannah, and daughter Engrid. Daughter Mary Frye is buried there, along with her daughter Frances Frye. Sons John, Nels, and Peter are there along with some of their extended family.

Peter Nelson's wife was Alice Laura Fay, daughter of Reuben and Laura (Chapin) Fay, who married in 1875 in Nebraska and had four children there. The family moved to Oregon about 1890 and settled near the Nelsons. Reuben Fay, his wife Laura, and four of their six children are buried at Jones Cemetery along with some of their families. This includes Alice (Fay) and Peter Nelson, their son Byron Nelson and Byron's wife Helen May (Allen); Ethel Fay; Bessie (Fay) Kelly; and Cubert Fay and his wife Eva Ruth (Proebstel).

2. Robert's given name on the passenger list and German records was Traugott.

3. For more about Swedeville and the Nelson family, see "Swede Hill – a story of family, community, and land," *Cedar Mill News*, July 2018 (<https://cedarmillnews.com/legacy/718/swedehill.html> : accessed 2 August 2024).

SELECTED DESCENDANTS OF NELS NELSON AND HANNAH PEARSON

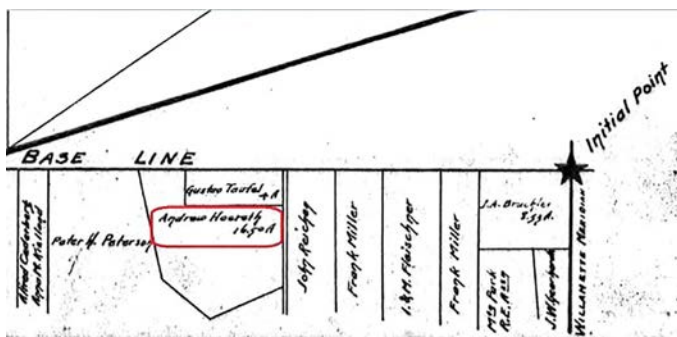


Nels Nelson (Jr.) married Anna Hansen in 1898. Anna came from a large family. Her parents were Morten and Louisa (Thompson) Hansen who married in Nebraska in 1875. Their first two children were born there, but Anna was born in Oregon in 1880. The family lived in the Sylvan neighborhood where Morten was a laborer. Anna’s father Morten, her sister Ida Hansen and brother Ole Hansen are buried at Jones Cemetery.

Back to Nels (Sr.) and Hannah. They also had a daughter named Anna who married Peter “Henning” Peterson. The Petersons bought land near the Nelsons and ran a dairy farm. Two of their children went into the nursery business. Anna and Henning are both buried at Jones Cemetery, as are two of their children who died young: Helen as an infant, and Oscar, who died at age three. Also, a grandson, John Arthur Swanson.

Hoereth

Andrew Hoereth was a neighbor of Peter Henning Peterson in Swedeville, as shown on a 1909 land ownership map. Andrew emigrated from Germany about 1880. He married Josephine Rasp in 1887, and they had five children. Josephine died of tuberculosis in 1896, soon after the birth of their youngest son. She is buried in Mt. Calvary Cemetery. Andrew married Lena Foster in 1897. They were together on the 1900 census, but they agreed to separate (but not divorce) soon after. Much of this information is found in Andrew’s 1909 probate file, which is full of twists and turns regarding his estate.



Excerpt from Atlas of Washington County Oregon, 1909, Vol 3, page 352. Wilkes Bro’s Abstract Co., 1909. *Historic Map Works.*

After his death, the children dispersed around the state. Andrew’s daughter Rose was a boarder/housekeeper with the Charles Stockdale family on the 1910 census (oldest son of John and Sarah Stockdale). She married in 1918 and died of tuberculosis in 1923. By 1917, Andrew’s son Andrew was a streetcar engineer in Seattle; William was a farmer in Toledo, Lincoln County, Oregon; Walter was a cook in Portland who soon joined the Army and died on 1 October 1918 in France; and Francis was an electrician in Stayton, Marion County, Oregon. Andrew and his wife Josephine are buried in Jones Cemetery.

Stockdale

The obituary for John William Stockdale states that he was a Civil War veteran from Maryland. The records tell a slightly different story. John probably was a Civil War veteran but not from Maryland. Born in Ohio in 1842, at least one of his parents was from Maryland. John married Sarah Jane Williams, the daughter of immigrants from England and Germany, on 31 March 1864 in Polk County, Iowa, where they soon had four children. The family moved to Nebraska where they had six more children. By 1900, the family was living in Sylvan where John was first a farmer and then a scavenger. At least one of his sons was living nearby. John died in 1915. In 1920, Sarah Jane was living with her son Harmon’s family on the east side of Portland. She died in 1921. Both were buried at Jones Cemetery.

Sauvain

Samuel and May (Varley) Sauvain probably met in Marion County, Oregon, where both of their families had moved from the Midwest—the Sauvains from Ohio and the Varleys from Wisconsin by way of the Dakota Territory. Both came from large families who appeared in the social columns visiting or having visitors from around the state.

The Varley-Sauvain Wedding.

Married, Wednesday, December 27, at 11:30 a. m., Miss Mary E. Varley to Samuel Sauvain, both of Salem. The ceremony was performed at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Sauvain, Capital Home addition, Rev. W. E. Copeland officiating. Miss Varley is well known to a large circle of friends and admirers in this city and the groom is the well known conductor of the Salem Consolidated street railway, whose host of friends wish him well in his new relation. Mr. and Mrs. Sauvain received the hearty congratulations of their friends and the JOURNAL force, and numerous beautiful presents. A splendid wedding dinner was prepared by Mrs. Sauvain and after a short trip to Portland, they will set up house-keeping in this city.

From the Capital Journal (Salem, OR), 27 December 1893.

Samuel was mentioned occasionally as a well-liked bartender or motorman. Samuel and May married on 27 December 1893 and moved from Marion County to Polk County and then to Sylvan in Multnomah County. On the 1900 census they were living in Dallas, Polk County, with their oldest children, Chester (5) and Irma (4), and May's sister Alice. A daughter, Sudie, was born there. Then the family returned to Marion County where a son, Chester, was born. Their youngest children, twins Clarence and Clara, were born in Multnomah County on 14 November 1909. Their mother died the next day. Samuel and the children were together on the 1910 census, but the three youngest children were soon adopted out. Sam died in 1913. Samuel and May were buried at Jones Cemetery.

Jenne

The family of Christian and Maria (Lay) Jenne are well documented on the FamilySearch shared tree. More so the family of Christian's sister Anna Maria, whose descendants have posted photos, memoirs, and even an oral history.

Anna Maria (Jenne) Schiller came to America with her first husband Ernst Mueller, settling in Ohio, then California, then Dallas, Texas, where Ernst died in 1885.

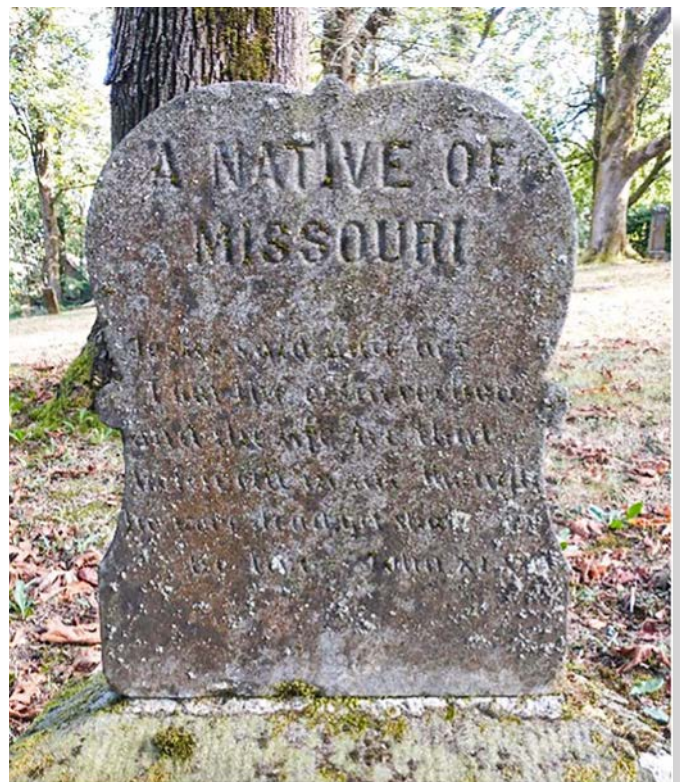
Anna Maria moved to Oregon and sent money to her brother Christian so that he could come to America. He arrived in Oregon in 1893, and his family soon followed. They settled on Barnes Road in Washington County then moved a few miles west where they owned a farm.

As is typical of workers of the day, Christian would hire out to do labor for others. Unfortunately, in 1897, one contract led to the death of his oldest son, Christian, while blasting trees to clear the land of Donald Macleay. A few years later, in 1911, Christian and Anna's youngest son, Robert, died after an accident with runaway horses. The boys and their parents are buried in Jones Cemetery.

Christian's sister Anna Marie is buried there, along with her second husband, Eugene Schiller, and their son Eugene. Anna Marie's son by her first marriage, Perry Miller, is also buried in Jones Cemetery.

Morriss

There is little doubt that Sophia Adline (Bates) Morriss was born in Missouri—it is emblazoned on her tombstone. By 1868 she was living in Marion County, Oregon, where her brother-in-law (?) C. R. Downey gave consent for her to marry Douglas Morriss in 1868. Douglas Morriss was the son of Philemon Morriss, who arrived in Marion County in 1852 and filed a Donation Land Claim.



Back of grave marker for Sophia Morriss.

Douglas and Sophia moved around Oregon for a while, eventually settling in the Sylvan neighborhood. On the 1900 census, their neighbors were the Morten Hansen family. Next door was the household of their oldest daughter Olive and her husband Frank Miller, along with their first five children. One of these children, Raymond Oliver Miller, was killed in November of that year by a rolling log. He is buried at Jones Cemetery, along with his grandparents.

KILLED UNDER A LOG.

Strange Accident to a Boy While
Playing on a Farm.

Excerpt from The Morning Oregonian, 8 November 1900

Other Morrisses are in the family plot, including Douglas and Sophia's daughter Inez. The Metro burial list has names of three more people in the same plot, but there are no birth or death dates, and the given names were not found in the immediate family.

Helmcke

When Henry Helmcke died in 1906, he left his estate to his wife Magdalena and two adopted daughters—Mrs. Hannah Helmcke and Alma Helmcke.

The will of Henry Helmcke, who died in this city October 10 last, was admitted to probate yesterday. He left a \$4000 estate, consisting of real and personal property, all of which was devised to his wife, Magdalena Helmcke, with the exception of \$100 each to Mrs. Hannah Helmcke, of Sylvan, Or., and Alma Helmcke, of this city, both adopted daughters. His wife was also named as executrix to serve without bonds.

Excerpt from "Court Notes," The Sunday Oregonian, 4 November 1906

Both Henry and Magdalena were born in Prussia. In 1880 they were living in the Bearverdam (now Beaverton) precinct of Washington County with three-year-old Matilda who was born in Illinois. Matilda died in 1892. By 1900 the family had moved to East Portland where Henry was a grocer. Alma was living with her parents and Hannah, whose birth surname was Mathiesen, was married to John Henry Helmcke (no known relation). John and Hannah were living in Sylvan.⁴

BRAVE SPIRIT IS CALLED

Miss Alma Helmcke Passes Away
After Long Illness.

The funeral of Miss Alma M. Helmcke, the 29-year-old foster daughter of Mrs. M. Helmcke, living at 421 Skidmore street, who died Saturday, was held yesterday from the Highland Congregational



The Late Miss Alma M. Helmcke.

From The Morning Oregonian, 17 August 1909.

Henry died in 1906, Alma in 1909. In 1911, Magdalena married Isaac G. Gordon. She died in 1926. Those buried in Jones Cemetery are Henry, Magdalena, Matilda, and Alma; Hannah (Mathiesen) and her husband John Helmcke; their son Wilfred and his wife Violet (Holden) Helmcke; their infant daughter Sandra Lee, their daughter Madeline (Helmcke) Neff and her brother-in-law Vernan Neff. Also buried in the family plot is Frederick Mathiesen, who died in 1896 at the age of 17. It is not known how he is related to the family.

4. John was a witness at the murder trial of Nathan B. Jones, so must have frequented the neighborhood where Nathan lived. Also, John and Hannah's son Claire married Clara Fuhrer, daughter of Andreas Fuhrer mentioned above.

Warfel

William and Rachel Louise Warfel lived in and around the Sylvan neighborhood where William was a farmer. William was born in Pennsylvania and Louise in Wisconsin. Their one son was born in Colorado in 1878. They are first found in a Portland city directory in 1896. In 1900 Louise's mother Jane Smith was living with them. Jane died in 1902, William in 1937, and Louise in 1938. Death certificates and funeral notices state all three are buried at Jones Cemetery, but only Jane has a grave marker.

Gerulf

Anders Hanson Gerulf was not afraid to defend his property. In May of 1887 he was acquitted of assaulting Joe Miller with a pitchfork after a dispute over a load of hay. Miller was fined \$25 for assaulting Gerulf with a club.⁵

Anders was born in 1837 in Denmark and was naturalized in 1863 in California. In 1876 he married Mary Ann Jones, whose family came to Oregon in 1851. Their donation land claim was in Washington County just to the northwest of that of Nathan B. Jones. In addition, Anders and Mary Ann bought property that was part of Nathan B. Jones land claim. They had six children. The youngest, named after his father, was born just two months before his father's death in May 1892. Three years later, Mary Ann died at the "Asylum" in Salem, Oregon. In 1900, the children were living in different households around the state. In 1909, daughter Orpha died of suicide while living in Seattle. Anders, Mary Ann, and Orpha are buried at Jones Cemetery.



From the Salt Lake Tribune, 27 October 1909.

Collins

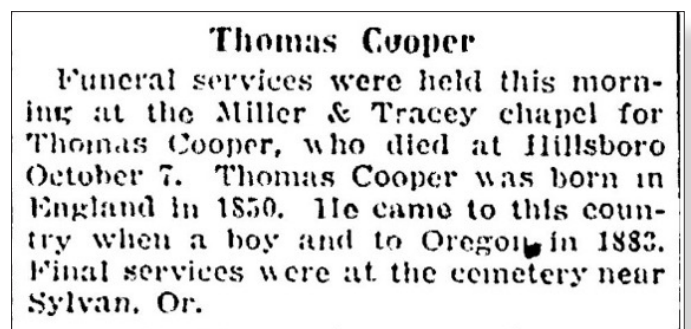
Micajah Collins, his wife Susan, and daughter Irma arrived in Oregon about 1884. He was in the 1885 city directory as a carpenter and in 1886 as a milkman. The family lived in what is now the Goose Hollow neighborhood at the foot of Canyon Road. Micajah was born in Indiana, Susan and Irma in Iowa. They lived in California for many years before moving to Oregon. Micajah died in 1886 and Susan in 1907. Both were buried in Jones Cemetery. Irma married James Austin Cox in 1886. She was buried elsewhere.

Cooper

Someone, for some reason, amended the death certificate of Thomas Cooper in red ink. The additional information corrected the spelling and added a surname for his wife Jessie Main and corrected his birthdate to 3 February 1851. The changes also specified the location where Thomas was born (Hambleton, City of Winchester, Hampshire, England) and added the names and birthplaces of his parents.

Thomas' 1919 obituary states that he was a resident of Hillsdale for 35 years, which would have him settling in the area about 1884.⁶ On the 1900 census, Thomas was living in Mount Zion with his wife of 18 years, Mary Agnes. Thomas was 49 and Mary Agness was 42, and they had no children. It was recorded that Thomas arrived in the U.S. in 1872 and was naturalized. He was a farmer who owned his land free from a mortgage. By 1910, Mary had died, and Thomas was still living in Mount Zion. In 1912, he married Jessie Main who had recently arrived from Scotland.

Thomas died in 1919. Jessie was still in Mount Zion in 1920, but by 1930 she had moved to Portland. She stayed out of the news until after her 1954 death when it was reported that her estate was worth \$5,000.



Oregon Daily Journal, 13 October 1919.

5. "Assault and Battery Case," *Oregonian*, 28 May 1887.

6. Hillsdale is currently a neighborhood in Southwest Portland that does not quite extend to the community of Mount Zion.

Laus

According to the 1900 census, brothers John and Joseph Laus emigrated from Germany in the 1870s. A younger half-brother Anton emigrated about 1885 and settled in Springfield, Illinois, where he married and worked as a coal miner.

John never married, but Joseph's wife Mary Ann was also born in Germany and immigrated in 1875. John died in 1900, and his brother Joseph administered the estate. The 1910 census states that Joseph and Mary had been married for 38 years and had no children. Their residence was in Washington County on Barnes Road. Mary died in 1920 and Joseph in 1925.

LAUS—At the residence, on Barnes road, Jan. 19, Joseph Laus, aged 82 years, survived by six nieces, Mrs. Josephine R. Ellis and children, Evelyn and Elma Ellis. Funeral will be held Wednesday, Jan. 21, at 2 P. M., at the residential chapel of Miller & Tracey. Interment, Sylvan cemetery. Services under the auspices of the I. O. O. F. BR 2691.

From The Morning Oregonian, 20 January 1925.

Laverty

There is one grave marker in the Jones Cemetery for the Laverty family.



Courtesy Suzanne Davis St. Onge.

It shows the names James, Baby Alta, and Eva. James Franklin "Frank" Laverty was born in Michigan; Eva Frances Olds was born in Minnesota. They married in Whitman County, Washington, in 1891. It was Eva's second marriage. According to the 1900 census, the couple had one child born in Washington, one in Oregon, then twins in Michigan in 1899. The family returned to Oregon where Eva died in 1908. Because they share a grave marker, it can be presumed that baby Alta was born and died in Oregon. After his wife died, Frank moved around the state. According to his death certificate and obituary, he died in Coos County on 21 August 1917. The death date on the grave marker is off by one year.



From The World (Coos Bay, OR), 22 August 1917.

Hewitt

Lulu (Olds) Hewitt and her daughter Millie do not appear on any of the burial lists for Jones Cemetery. But both of their death certificates and one funeral notice say they were buried there. Lulu died in 1901 and Millie in 1907. On the 1900 census, they were living in the Sylvan neighborhood where Morris Hewitt was a farmer. He and Lulu married in the Dakota Territory 1881 and Millie was born there in 1886.

There is no connection between these Hewitts and the Hewett shown as a landowner on the 1889 Multnomah County map who was likely the namesake of Hewett Boulevard.

Hunter

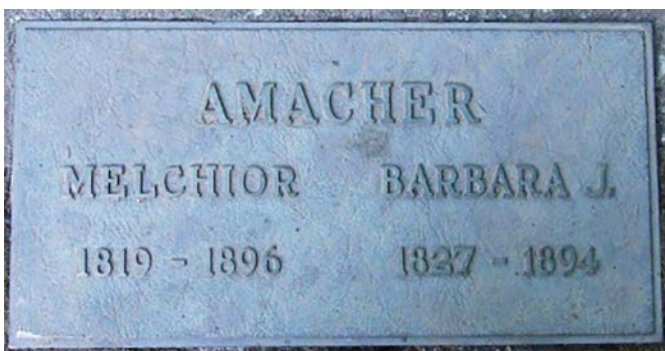
Alonzo and Elva (Johnson) Hunter married in Iowa in 1873. Soon after, they moved to Oregon along with Alonzo's parents and other extended family. All eight of their children were born in Oregon. Two died when they were living near Sylvan in Washington County. Oscar (1875–1875) and Alva (1878–1879) Hunter were buried in Jones Cemetery. The family then moved to Clackamas County where they were living in 1900. That census reported that Elva had eight children, three living. Nellie, who died in 1892, was buried at Sunnyside Pioneer Cemetery, as were her parents and other family members. There are no records of where the other two children, Elmer (1885–1885) and Birdie (1891–1892), were buried.

Hilleary

Levi and Lucy (Oulds) Hilleary found each other in Klickitat County, Washington, where they married in 1893. Levi had a homestead in the county, but it's hard to imagine how Lucy ended up there. She was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, had her first child in California, then two children in St. Louis, Missouri, where she was living with her second husband in 1880. After her marriage to Levi, the family moved to Oregon and by 1900, the family was living in Washington County, Oregon, where Levi was a farmer. They then moved to Skyline Boulevard in the Sylvan neighborhood near one of the Hoffman nurseries. Lucy stayed there for a while after Levi died in 1919, but then moved into Portland where she married Hans Oscar Sandeen, an immigrant from Sweden, in 1922. On later records, Lucy used the Hilleary surname on some records (at the Multnomah County Poor Farm in 1930 and on her grave marker at Jones Cemetery) and the Sandeen surname on others (city directories, death certificate, and obituary).

Amacher

Melchior Amacher (1819–1896) and Barbara J. Amacher (1827–1894) share a grave marker at Jones Cemetery. I found no records for either of them. There are records for a younger Melchior (Michael) Amacher and his sister Margaret that record their parents as Melchoir and Magdalena (Thoeni) Amacher. The siblings were born in Switzerland and were living in Portland before 1900. There was a Melchior Amacher in city directories before 1900, but it is not clear which Melchior those refer to.



Courtesy Suzanne Davis St. Onge.

Moore

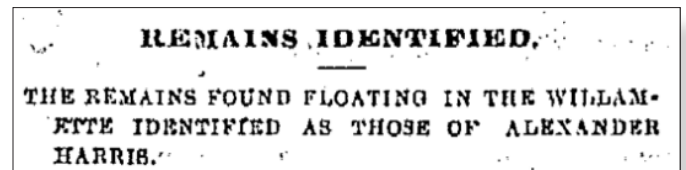
In the early 1900s, Camden Jackson Moore and his wife Lizzie (Arnold) Moore came to Oregon from Holt County, Missouri, where their four children were born. Camden was a farmer in Missouri, but once in Oregon the family lived in the city and, according to census records, Camden worked as a carpenter and a stock buyer. The family moved to Clackamas County where Camden died in 1935. Lizzie died in 1936. Camden and Lizzie were

buried at Sylvan Cemetery (Jones) as was their son-in-law Felix Eugene Druhot.

A Few More Names

Minnie (Riese) Garrick (1873–1905) arrived in Oregon shortly after her marriage to James Garrick. She died of pneumonia less than two years later.

Alex Harris (1856–1879) died under suspicious circumstances following a night out with friends. His body was found in the river two months after his disappearance. The news report stated the family lived in Goose Hollow at the head of Canyon Road.



The Oregonian, 14 July 1879.

Edwin T. Harris (1820–1899). Edwin was buried in the Nelson family plot, though there is no evidence of any relationship. Edwin was born in Auburn, New York, resided in Michigan for many years where he married and raised a family. Daughter Delilah came to Oregon in 1884 and perhaps Edwin followed. Though I found nothing about his time in Oregon, his funeral was “well attended.”

Martha Bryan North (1839–1887). The death register gives her race as “India” and her nativity as “India.” She was probably born in Singapore or India where her parents (both New Englanders) were missionaries. Martha is buried in the same plot as some of the Humphrey family.

Sena Tomson (1818–1880) has a marker that appears to be much more recent than the 1880 death date, indicating that someone cared enough to mark her grave decades after her death. No further information was found for her.



*Grave marker for Sena Tomson.
Courtesy Suzanne Davis St. Onge.*

Anna (Price) Reeves (1851–1905) does not appear on the burial lists for Jones Cemetery and does not have a marker. Her death certificate states she was born in England and died in Portland. Both the death certificate and funeral notice state she was buried at Sylvan. Her husband James died 25 years later and was cremated. They had a daughter and three sons.

August Engberg (1855–1885) died when he was 30 years old leaving a wife and nine-month-old daughter. Born in Sweden, August married in Minnesota, then moved to Oregon, where his daughter was born. He is the only member of his family buried at Jones Cemetery.

Children

A few children are buried at Jones Cemetery whose parents are not known or are buried elsewhere.

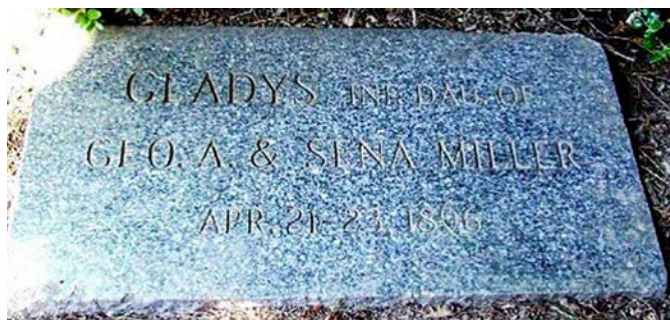
Ethyl V. Ayres (1891–1892). Her family is buried in Ridgefield, Clark County, Washington.

Della Burns (1896–1896)

Jessie E. Dodson. There are no dates or marker—burial records give an age of 10 months, 10 days.

Orrin (1890–1890)

Gladys Miller. Gladys' grave marker states she was born 21 April 1896 and died on 23 April 1896. Her parents George and Sena (Johnson) Miller were living in Multnomah County in 1900 but moved to Morrow County by 1910. Both are buried there. Though there are other Millers buried in the Jones Cemetery, none were found to be related to Gladys.



Grave marker for Gladys Miller.
Courtesy Suzanne Davis St. Onge.

Harry Monroe Rowell (1902–1908). Harry's father was an Irish immigrant who came to Oregon about 1888. He soon married and started a family. Not long after Harry's death, the family moved east and settled in Morrow County, where the parents are buried.

Baby Sallinger (1904–1904). Records state the baby (sex not listed) died of tuberculosis at age four months at the Baby Home and was buried at Mt. Zion Cemetery.

HOSPITALS AND ASYLUMS.

Baby Home—Ellsworth, bet E 36th and E 37th. Office, Washington Bldg. Mrs. Charles E. Sitton, Pres; Mrs. E. F. Riley, Vice-Pres; F. S. Akin, Sec; Mrs. David Robertson, Cor Sec; A. L. Keenan, Treas; Mrs. Jennie Blackhall, Matron.

The 1904 Portland City Directory shows a listing for Baby Home, likely the location of Baby Sallinger's death.

Hattie Walsh (1882–1883). A photo shows a marker with birth and death dates that agree with the Metro list. Men with the surname Walsh are in period city directories and the 1880 census, but only John E. Walsh was married. He and his wife Bridget had seven children on the 1880 census, the youngest born in 1876. Two more children were born after 1880. Hattie could be their daughter.

Earnest Walter Wirth (1918–1918). His parents came from Germany in 1904, moved from California to Marion County, Oregon, to Sylvan, and finally to Washington County, where they are buried.

PHOTO CREDITS

Unless otherwise noted, photos are by the author, taken in 2024. In some cases, there are clearer images on cemetery websites, including [Find a Grave](#). The photos by Suzanne Davis St. Onge were taken in 2009.

RESOURCES

- [Genealogical Forum of Oregon \(GFO\)](#)

I am most grateful to the volunteers at the Genealogical Forum of Oregon (GFO). Current volunteers did lookups in newspapers and reference books at the GFO. Earlier volunteers created indexes that make it possible to search records from throughout the state of Oregon. Several websites link back to these indexes, including Ancestry.com and the Multnomah County Digital Archive. For this article, I accessed the following indexes:

- * Biographical Records
- * Donation Land Claims
- * Multnomah County Marriages
- * Multnomah County Poor Farm
- * Portland Death Certificates
- * Register of Veterans at the National Home for Volunteer Soldiers in Roseburg
- * Spencer Leonard Collection

*The GFO library has a large selection of books focusing on local history. The GFO publication *Cemeteries of Multnomah County: Brainard, Douglass, Havurah, Jones* was most useful.

- [HistoryGeo](#) is an online database available to members. It provided maps of original landowners.
- [Multnomah County Library](#) –provides remote access to the Oregonian and Oregon Journal archives.
- [Historic Oregon Newspapers](#) –provides remote access to newspapers throughout Oregon.
- [PastPortland](#) - matches current Portland addresses to those recorded before the renumbering that occurred in 1931.
- [Ancestry.com](#) – especially Oregon death records, probate records, and city directories; also, Ancestry trees – often helpful, sometimes misleading, but always interesting.

- [FamilySearch](#) – census and vital records; [FamilySearch Shared Tree](#) for documenting the individuals included in this article.
- [Find a Grave](#) volunteers – for sharing photos, responding to edits.
- [The Oregon Historical Society](#) research librarian for tracking down the photo “Man in Derby Hat Pauses in Buggy On His Way Down Canyon Road Into Portland” from my image of “The Great Plank Road.”
- [Metro](#) – for map and burial list of Jones Cemetery.
- [Google](#) – for helping me find Swedeville.



I Thought He Was Dead! Finding the Father of John Marshall Cookson (1848–1936) of Maine and Arkansas.

Wendy Negley

My great-great-grandfather, John Marshall Cookson, was a colorful figure and a celebrity to his granddaughters (my grandmother and her three sisters). My grandmother, Elizabeth “Bessie” Hudson Peterson, named my father, John Marshall Peterson, after him. John Marshall Cookson died in 1936.¹ So, he knew his great-grandson. John Marshall Cookson gave my dad his Civil War sword, his pocket watch, and a Spanish American War flag. He received the flag from veterans of that war, whom Cookson knew as part of a war veterans group. He was the only Civil War veteran in the group by about 1920. I still have the pocket watch, but my father gave the sword and flag to the Burke Museum at the University of Washington in 1962.

Since I grew up hearing stories about John Marshall Cookson, he was one of the first ancestors I sought when I started researching my family tree. The written information I had from my family was that he was born in Bangor, Maine, in 1846. So, I went straight to the 1850 U.S. census. I have since learned that one should start with the most recent census and work back. At the time, the 1900 U.S. census was the most recent available census. I should have started there. But I did not do that; I started with 1850.



*John Marshall Cookson's pocket watch.
Courtesy of the author.*



John Marshall Cookson and his wife, Elizabeth Hannah Buck, about 1900, Fayetteville, Arkansas. Courtesy of the author.

The year was 1976 when I started and there were no personal computers or internet. I learned about censuses and went to what is now the Family History Center in Oakland, California, which had the 1850 census. They also had an index (called a Soundex index, specially made for the census) without which I would not have found him. I looked John up in the index and found him in Brewer, Maine, right across the river from Bangor.² I went to the census on microfilm and there they were: John was two years old and living with Gardiner Cookson. I later found out that Gardiner was his uncle. Gardiner, his wife and children, John's mother Mary, brother Calvin W., and John lived together. I found his sister, Georgiana, living with another family one or two houses away, she was listed as a “pauper” and the house was a “Poor House.” John's father was not listed. This fits the family story.

1. “Arkansas Death Index, 1914–1950,” *Ancestry*; citing Division of Vital Records, Arkansas Department of Health, Arkansas Genealogical Society.
2. 1850 U.S. census, Penobscot County, Maine, Brewer, page 194A, John in the family of Gardiner Cookson; *Ancestry*.

The family story was that one day John's father, Calvin Gray Cookson, went hunting and never returned. Mary, Calvin's wife, became ill and died, and John, his brother, and his sister, were placed in an Orphan's Home. At the age of ten John was sent to live with a farmer, but he let the farmer's favorite horse get loose and was sent back to the orphanage. Sometime later he worked as a canal boy on the Erie Canal, where the orphanage had apparently sent him. Eventually, he ran away and joined the Union Army, lying about his age to do so. So, it appeared that his father had died on that hunting trip and left John an orphan. You would think that, wouldn't you?

Family data said that John had married Elizabeth Hannah Buck in Eden, Elgin County, Ontario, Canada. I ordered several microfilms from the Family History Center for that area. Going through one of them, the 1861 Canada census, looking for Elizabeth's family, I made a shocking discovery. In the town of Vienna, right next to Eden, I found Calvin Gray Cookson, a wife, and four children, three of them born in Maine!³ When I went through the vital records film from that area, I found John's marriage in 1867, recorded with his father, C. G. Cookson, as the witness.⁴ I also found a marriage record in 1868 for his brother, Calvin W.,⁵ and a deed for 1876 to his sister's husband, George Crockett, "an innkeeper" in Vienna.⁶ They were all there together!

As I continued to research this family, I looked at earlier records. I went back to the earlier years. I have never found any record of Mary Cookson's death. I have looked at the vital records of Brewer, Bangor, and the state of Maine, as well as searched many cemeteries in the area that are posted online. I feel that there must be a probate record that consigns the children to the orphanage, but I have not found one. It is on my "to-do" list! I did find a marriage record for Calvin Gray Cookson and Sarah F. Rich (Calvin's second wife) in Bangor for 20 November 1851.⁷ That puts Mary's death between 15 August 1850, when the census was taken, and 30 November 1851. To add interest, Calvin and Sarah's oldest child, Isabella, was born on 8 February



John Marshall Cookson ca 1932 in Bentonville, Arkansas, he was about 84. Courtesy of the author.

1852, according to her death certificate. Therefore, Calvin and Sarah must have gotten together by May 1851.

I can imagine Calvin returning in the spring of 1851 to find that his wife had died, and his children were lent out by an orphanage. Perhaps the institution lost the records as to where they were sent. Meanwhile, he met Sarah, got her pregnant, married her, and life continued from there. But this is all conjecture, as the story was never told or written down.

3. *Library and Archives Canada*; Ottawa, Ontario, Canada; census returns for 1861; roll C-1019, p. 14, 28-33.

4. "Ontario Marriage Index, 1858-1869," online database, *Genealogical Research Library* (Brampton, Ontario, Canada); citing "Marriage Registers 1801-1944," County Elgin; Family History Library (FHL) microfilm 1,030,056.

5. *Ibid.*

6. "Elgin County [Ontario], Vienna Deeds 'B,'" p. 638, no. 868, registered 26 April 1876; FHL microfilm 160,617.

7. "Maine Marriages, 1771-1907," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:F4X4-7V7> : accessed 4 December 2014), Calvin G. Cookson and Sarah F. Rich, 20 November 1851; citing Civil, Bangor, Penobscot, Maine; FHL microfilm 10,584.

26

UNITED STATES VETERANS BUREAU
Form 104-26-27, Form 1922

Summary of Record of Active Service Copied from Discharge Certificate for Use ONLY with Claims Submitted to the U. S. Veterans Bureau

Name John M. Cookson Serial No. _____
 Rank and organization Pvt. Co I. 13th N.Y. Cal.
 Date of birth Feb 2 1844 Place of birth Linneus
 Occupation given at enlistment Farmer
 Color of eyes Blue Hair light Complexion light
 Height 5 feet 6 inches Married or single single Citizenship _____
 Date of enlistment Aug 29 1863 Place of enlistment New York City
 Prior service none

Rank or rating at enlistment none
 Promotions, reductions, or ratings during enlistment Pvt.
 Battles, engagements, skirmishes, expeditions Unrecorded
 Occupation given at discharge Farmer
 Wounds received in service Verdun, France

Character of discharge Honorable Date Aug 21 1916 Reason expiration
 Physical condition when discharged Verdun, France
 Recommendation for reenlistment _____
 Remarks _____
 Signature of soldier John M. Cookson
 Name and rank of officer signing discharge Capt. G. C. 3 Penn Regt N.Y. Cavalry

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true, literal, and exact copy of information taken from the certificate of discharge of John M. Cookson from the U.S. Army service of the United States.
 Signed W. G. [illegible] New York 6-6-32

John Marshall Cookson, Summary of Record of Active Service. Courtesy of the author.

Even now, I have never found Calvin Gray Cookson in the 1850 census or discovered what happened to him on that hunting trip. I thought he might have gone to Canada but could not find him on the 1851 Canada census either. He may have been in Canada when the 1850 U.S. census was taken in August, and back in the U.S. by the time the 1851 census was taken in Canada. Or he could well have gone to the wilderness areas in Maine and been missed in the census. I am hopeful that something may turn up someday!

Back in 1976, I did not know about Sarah, thus I went to the 1860 U.S. census, as I had not found John on it previously. I discovered John and his brother living with Thomas Adams, a farmer, and family in Linneus, Aroostook County, Maine.⁸ His sister, Georgiana, was living in Winterport, Waldo County, Maine, as a domestic.⁹ This seems to corroborate the story that he was sent from the orphanage to live with a farmer until he let his favorite horse get loose. I have not been able to verify the story of him working on the Erie Canal after that except for the fact that he joined the Union Army in New York City in August 1863,¹⁰ while his brother enlisted in Houlton (near Linneus), Maine, in 1861.¹¹ His brother, Calvin W., re-enlisted at Buffalo, New York, in October 1863.¹² If John worked on the Erie Canal, it would have been easy for him to get to New York City to enlist while his brother enlisted near Linneus where he had been living with the farmer.

Since John told his granddaughters that he ran away from the Erie Canal work, lied about his age, and joined the Union Army, I sent for his military and pension file from the National Archives. To the best of my knowledge, John was born on 2 February 1848. I have not found a birth record for him, and in his pension papers, he says that there was only the family Bible. According to him, his stepmother took that to Seattle. I am still looking for it! I believe that the year is 1848 because in the 1850 census, he is recorded as two years old. That census was based on a date in August 1850. John must have turned two in February of that year, so, he was born in 1848. This would have made him 15 years old in August 1863 when he joined the Army. His enlistment records him as 19! In reading the various muster sheets in his file I noticed that in the first ones, he is noted as 5' 2", a year later he is 5' 6" tall—a growing boy! By the time he left the army, he was 5' 11! This seems to me to corroborate his story.

8. 1860 U.S. census, Aroostook County, Maine, Linneus, page 48, John, in the household of Thomas Adams.

9. 1860 U.S. census, Waldo County, Maine, Winterport, page 29, Georgiana Cookston.

10. "U.S. Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles Online publication," *Ancestry*; compiled by Historical Data Systems of Kingston, MA.

11. *Ibid.*

12. "New York, Civil War Muster Roll Abstracts, 1861–1900," *Ancestry*; "Civil War Muster Roll Abstracts of New York State Volunteers, United States Sharpshooters, and United States Colored Troops," Albany, New York.

My research indicates that the apparent story of Calvin's early death must have been wrong. I went back to the family account and found a later paragraph, after the Civil War stories. It said, "After the war he re-located his brother; lived in Canada near Niagara Falls." He had found his brother and his sister and gotten them to go to Canada with him to reunite with their father. I had not read far enough or put it together to realize that it had never been stated that his father had died. Obviously, there was more to the story than was written.

Let us look at that. The Civil War ended in 1865. John was mustered out from the Army in Virginia.¹³ His brother, Calvin W., also fought in the Civil War, but in another regiment, and he mustered out in Georgia.¹⁴ Their sister, Georgianna, lived with her husband in Winterport, Maine.¹⁵ One must assume that John corresponded with his sister and perhaps his brother. Had one of them found out that their father was now living in Canada? However it happened, his family reunited over many miles and two countries!

John must have been a man of persuasion and charisma. I agree, we do not know for sure who initiated the siblings' move to Canada, but the family story suggests that John did so. Later, when John moved his wife and children to Arenac, Michigan, in 1870,¹⁶ the entire family followed except his brother, Calvin W., who lived the rest of his life in Canada. His father, stepmother, sister, and her husband, and all four half-siblings with their spouses, all moved to that area of Michigan and are found in the 1880 census,¹⁷ except his father who died in 1878 in Michigan.¹⁸ We know that they followed John because he is in the 1870 U.S. census in Michigan and they are all in the 1871 Canada census.¹⁹ By the 1880 census, though, they are all in Michigan.

I have often tried to imagine what the father-children reunion was like. Did he just show up at his father's doorstep with his brother and sister and say "Hello, Father, we're here!"? Was it a shock to Calvin or had they been corresponding? I will never know. If I had not thoroughly researched the records, I would not have found the truth about Calvin and his second family. And I would not have known what a remarkable man John Marshall Cookson really was!

PLACE OF DEATH		CERTIFICATE OF DEATH				State Office No.
County	Bay	MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICE OF VITAL AND HEALTH STATISTICS				1-58
Township						Registered No. 252
Village	Augres					
City						
FULL NAME Calvin G. Cookson (If death occurred in a hospital or institution, give its NAME instead of street and number.)						
SEX	Male	COLOR OR RACE	W	MARITAL STATUS	Married	AGE: YEARS MONTHS DAYS
						54
BIRTHPLACE	Unknown					
OCCUPATION OF DECEASED	Farmer					
NAME OF FATHER	Unknown					
RESIDENCE OF FATHER	Unknown					
NAME OF MOTHER	Unknown					
RESIDENCE OF MOTHER	Unknown					
DATE OF DEATH						June 9, 1878
CAUSE OF DEATH						Consumption
FILED						June 14th 1879s W. M. Kelley Registrar
I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct transcript of the record of death on file in the Michigan Department of Public Health.						
<i>George Van Amburg</i> State Registrar				<i>W. M. Kelley</i> Registrar		
8176 679		Lansing, Michigan		19		

Calvin Gray Cookson's death certificate.
Courtesy of the author.

13. "New York Civil War Muster Roll Abstracts, 1861-1900," New York State Archives, Cultural Education Center, Albany, New York; Archive Collection 13775-83, box 869, roll 525.

14. "Civil War Muster Roll Abstracts of New York State Volunteers, United States Sharpshooters, and United States Colored Troops, ca. 1861-1900," *Ancestry*; Albany, New York.

15. 1860 U.S. census, Waldo County, Maine, Winterport, page 29, Georgiana.

16. 1870 U.S. census, Saginaw County, Michigan, East Saginaw, Ward 1, page: 120B; FHL microfilm 552,200.

17. 1880 U.S. census, Bay County, Michigan, Au Gres, Enumeration District 13, page 272; FHL microfilm 1,254,571.

18. "Michigan Deaths and Burials, 1800-1995," index, *Ancestry*; citing FamilySearch.

19. 1871 Canada census, Vienna, Elgin East, Ontario, page 13, family 44; roll: C-9900.

Johann Jonas Jeckel (1729–1800) and Martha Elisabetha Schmol (1733–1791) of Kassel and Berleburg, Germany: Resolving Conflicting Information on Parentage

Mark Grafe

Online family trees show conflicting information about the parentage of my fifth great-grandfather, Johann Jonas Jeckel. They place him in two different families. Documents and data from Archion and the Society for Family Studies in Kurhessen and Waldeck helped resolve the discrepancies. Johann Jonas and Martha Elisabetha Schmol are the parents of my fourth great-grandmother, Elisabetha Christiana Jeckel. I believe these ancestors were known by their middle names: Jonas, Elisabetha, and Christiana.

Johann Jonas Jeckel, son of Andreas Jöckel and Susanna Catharina Schwartzbächer, baptized 20 November 1729 in Berleburg, Siegen-Wittgenstein, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany,¹ died circa 16 December 1800 in Berleburg.² Jonas married around 29 June–6 July 1759 in *Martinskirche* (St. Martin's Church), Kassel, Hesse, Germany.³



Public Domain, Wikipedia

Martinskirche, 1820, painting by Ludwig Grimm.

Martha Elisabetha Schmol, daughter of Johann Valentin Schmol and Anna Catharina Escherich, baptized on 23 September 1733 in *Martinskirche*, *Freiheimer Gemeinde* (freedom community) Kassel, Hesse, Germany,⁴ died circa 31 January 1791 in Berleburg, Germany.⁵

Websites were accessed in November 2024.

1. "Taufen 1729-1751, Konfirmation 1729-1753, Taufen 1752-1753, Trauungen 1729-1753, Beerdigungen 1729-1753" *Archion* ([Archion.de](https://archion.de)), digital image 7 of 265; citing North Rhine Westphalia, State Church Archive of the Evangelical church of Westphalia, Church district of Wittgenstein, Berleburg, baptism, Johannes Jonas, son of Andreas Jöckel and Susanna Catharina, baptized 20 November 1729.

2. "Taufen 1785-1825, Trauungen 1787-1822, Beerdigungen 1787-1824" *Archion* ([Archion.de](https://archion.de)), image 72 of 97; citing Nordrhein-Westfalen, Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evangelischen Kirche von Westfalen, Kirchenkreis Wittgenstein, Berleburg, funeral, Jonas Jekel, 16 December 1800.

3. Helmut Thiele, *Einwohner und Familien der Stadt Kassel, Marriages, Born, Deceased 1731–1839* (Kassel, Society for Family Studies in Kurhessen and Waldeck, 1986), page 244; *Universitat Kassel*, database (https://orka.bibliothek.uni-kassel.de/viewer/image/1430384797155_004/254/#topDocAnchor), marriages, women's register, L-Z, image 254 of 424, 1759, Martha Elisabeth Schmul and Johann Jonas Jäckel. The Society for Family Studies in Kurhessen and Waldeck evaluated weekly newspapers from 18th and 19th century Kassel, Germany, to reconstruct church records destroyed during WWII.

4. "Kassel (Freiheimer Gemeinde), Kirchenbuch 1704-1740," *Archion* ([Archion.de](https://archion.de)), image 428 of 692; citing Hessen, Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evangelischen Kirche von Kurhessen-Waldeck, Kirchenkreis Kassel (Stadt), baptism, Martha Elisabet, daughter of "Mster Valentin Schmol, Metzger" (butcher), 22 September 1733.

5. "Taufen 1780-1792, Konfirmationen 1780-1798, Taufen 1782-1793, Trauungen 1780-1797, Taufen 1794-1795, Beerdigungen 1780-1804" *Archion* ([Archion.de](https://archion.de)), image 337 of 389; citing Nordrhein-Westfalen, Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evangelischen Kirche von Westfalen, Kirchenkreis Wittgenstein, Berleburg, burial, "Maria" Elisabetha (Schmul) Jeckel, 31 January 1791.

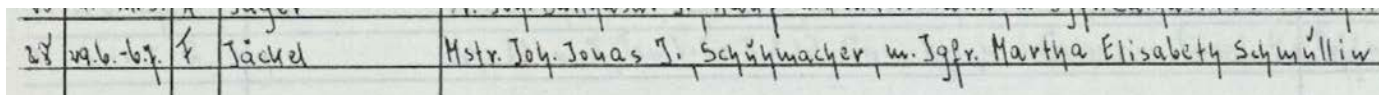
The known children of Jonas and Elisabetha are:⁶

- i. Carl Joseph Jäckels was born circa 8-15 June 1760 in Kassel, Hesse, Germany.⁷
- ii. Johann Leonhard Jäckels was born circa 8–15 January 1762 in Kassel, Hesse, Germany.⁸
- iii. Amelia Jäckels was born circa 3–10 April 1766 in Kassel, Hesse, Germany.⁹
- iv. Johann Georg Jäckels was born circa 17–24 June 1769 in Kassel, Hess, Germany.¹⁰
- v. Elisabetha Christiana Jeckel, born 3 September 1772, baptized 6 September 1772 in Berleburg,¹¹ died 29 December 1826 in Berleburg.¹² Christiana married Friedrich Wilhelm Kemper on 9 December 1804 in Berleburg.¹³

ELISABETHA CHRISTIANA

The baptismal record for Elisabetha Christiana Jeckel also gives her death date, and the funeral record for Elisabeth Christiana Kemper has her birth date. Sometimes, identifying godparents helps identify other relationships. No other information for Christiana's godparents, Herr Johann Christian Gersling and Anna Elisabetha Wuller, wife of Johannes Wuller, was found.¹⁴ Christiana's parents are named on her baptismal record as Jonas Jeckel, *Hof-Schumacher* (Court shoemaker) and Martha Elisabeth

(no last name), and her 1804 marriage record declares that her father, Jonas Jekel, was a deceased shoemaker. Both parents died before she was married; they were not baptismal sponsors for grandchildren. One Jeckel=Schmull grandchild, Florentine Christiana Kemper, had sponsors from her paternal side. The relationships of the sponsors for the other grandchild, Ludwig Philip Joseph Kemper, are unknown. Both were the children of Friedrich Wilhelm and Elisabeth Christiana Kemper and no relationship clues to the Jeckel family were found.



Entry from *Einwohner und Familien der Stadt Kassel*, for the 1759 Jäckel=Schmull marriage. Column headings were Newspaper number - 28; Week - 29.6.-6.7. (29 June–6 July); F is for *Freiheiter*, the area by St. Martin's Church in Kassel; Family Name - Jäckel, and Entry- Mstr. Joh. Jonas J. Schuhmacher (shoemaker), m. (married) Jgfr. (young lady) Martha Elisabeth Schmull(in).

6. Johann Jonas Jeckel and Martha Elisabeth Schmull were not recorded in Berleburg baptismal records as having children before or after Elisabetha Christiana Jeckel's birth in 1772. They did not have any children in Kassel after 1769.

7. Thiele, *Einwohner und Familien der Stadt Kassel, Marriages, Born, Deceased 1731–1839*, v. 6, births H-L, page 204; *Universitat Kassel*, database (https://orka.bibliothek.uni-kassel.de/viewer/image/1430384797155_006/214/), image 214 of 476, 1760, "8.-15.6, F, Jäckels, Carl Joseph, d. *Schuhmacher* Mstrs. Joh. Jonas J. SI."

8. *Ibid.*, page 205; *Universitat Kassel*, database, (https://orka.bibliothek.uni-kassel.de/viewer/image/1430384797155_006/215/), image 215 of 476, 1762, "8.-15.1, F, Jäckels, Joh. Leonhard, d. *Schuhmacher* Mstrs. Joh. Jonas J. SI."

9. *Ibid.*, page 206; *Universitat Kassel*, database (https://orka.bibliothek.uni-kassel.de/viewer/image/1430384797155_006/216/#topDocAnchor), image 216 of 476, 1766, "3.-10.4, F, Jäckels, Amelia, d. Mstrs. Joh. Jonas J., *Schumacher*, SI."

10. *Ibid.*, page 207; *Universitat Kassel*, database (https://orka.bibliothek.uni-kassel.de/viewer/image/1430384797155_006/217/), image 217 of 476, 1769, "17.-24.6, F, Jäckels, Johann Georg, d. Mstrs. Jonas J., *Schuhmacher*, SI."

11. "Baptisms 1754-1780, confirmations 1754-1779, weddings 1754-1779, funerals 1754-1780" *Archion* (Archion.de), image 184; citing North Rhine Westphalia, State Church Archive of the Evangelical Church of Westphalia, Church district of Wittgenstein, Berleburg, baptism, page 319, Elisabetha Christiana Jeckel, born 3 September 1772, baptized 6 September 1772.

12. "Germany, Lutheran Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1500-1971," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/61229/images/0923183-00265?pid=5306542>), digital image 216 of 469; citing Preussen, North Rhine-Westphalia, Berleburg, death, Elizabeth Christiana Kemper, died 29 December 1826, buried 30 December 1826.

13. "Konfirmation 1795-1805 (die Prinzen betreffend), Taufen 1795-1807, Konfirmationen 1798-1804, Trauungen 1798-1807" *Archion* (Archion.de); citing North Rhine Westphalia, State Church Archive of the Evangelical Church of Westphalia, Church district of Wittgenstein, Berleburg, marriage, Friedrich Wilhelm Kemper and Elisabeth Jeckel, daughter of Jonas Jeckel, *Schuhmacherverstorb* (shoemaker deceased), 25 November, 9 December 1804.

14. Gersling and Wuller were not found in *Ancestry* indexes for "Germany, Lutheran Baptisms, Marriage, and Burials, 1500-1971," the *Ancestry* index for "Germany, Select Marriages, 1558-1929," *Ancestry* Family Trees, *Ancestry*, "All Hesse, Hesse-Kassel ..." "Germany Births and Baptisms 1558-1898" at *FamilySearch*, or the *FamilySearch* Family Tree.

MARTHA ELISABETHA

The 1733 baptismal record for Martha Elisabetha shows her father was Valentin Schmol, *Metzger* (butcher). Her 1791 death record shows “Maria” Elisabetha Jeckel, born *Schmulin von Cassel* (Schmul’s daughter from Kassel), was the wife of Johann Jonas Jeckel, shoemaker. Her burial age of 57 years and four months matches her baptismal record. “Maria” Elisabetha Jeckel, baptized as Martha Elisabet Schmol, married as Martha Elisabeth Schmull. Church records for the Jeckel=Schmull marriage were destroyed in World War II but reconstructed from newspapers that show she did marry Johann Jonas Jäckel, shoemaker, in Kassel.

JONAS

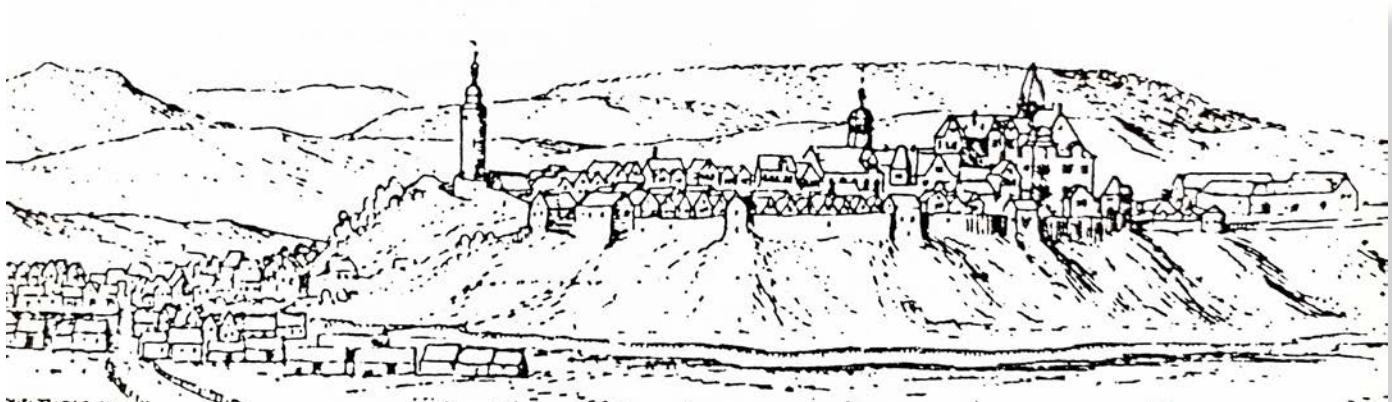
The 1729 baptismal record for Johann Jonas shows his father was Andreas Jöckel, *Schuster* (cobbler), and his mother was Susanna. The only godparent was Johann Jonas Schwartzenbächer, Susanna’s father. The newspaper marriage transcription does not identify the father of Joh. Jonas Jäckel, *Schuhmacher* (shoemaker). In 1800, Jeckel *starb allhier* (died here—Berleburg) as “Jonas Jekel.” Unfortunately, his age at death is not given, but he is identified as a *Schumacher* (shoemaker).

CONFLICTING DATA

Research is challenging when there are multiple spellings of names. The conflicting data relates to Jonas; several online trees placed Jonas Jeckel with the family of Georg Philip Jeckel, a *Kuhhirt* (cowherd) from Wemlighausen,¹⁵ with Jonas’ birth about 1750.¹⁶ There are no source citations for Jonas being the son of Georg Philip Jeckel.

Georg Philip Jeckel and Maria Elisabeth Kohl married 14 September 1748.¹⁷ Their first child was born on 26 December 1748,¹⁸ and their second 30 months later in June 1751.¹⁹ Their first child has the same given name as Georg Philip’s mother and their second child was named Georg Philip. Although there was time, no record was found for the birth of Jonas between December 1748 and June 1751 from Georg Philip and Maria Elisabeth. No other Jonas was found in this family. No other death of a Jonas Jeckel was found in Archion before Elisabetha Christiana’s marriage in 1804.

I believe Jonas, a shoemaker, was more likely the son of a cobbler than a cowherder.



Wilhelm Dilich drew the first image of Berleburg, published in *Hessische Chronica*, and printed in Kassel in 1605. The small town built on the *Schloßberg* had expanded in 1547 to include a sub-town called “*auf der Struth*.”

15. “Taufen 1754-1780, Konfirmation 1754-1779, Trauungen 1754-1759, Beerdigungen 1754-1760” *Archion* (Archion.de), image 90 of 452; citing North Rhine Westphalia, State Church Archive of the Evangelical Church of Westphalia, Church district of Wittgenstein, Berleburg, baptism, Maria Magdel[ene], daughter of Georg Philip Jeckel, Kuhhirt (cowherd), from Wemlighausen, 24 July 1763. Wemlighausen is in the northern part of the town of Bad Berleburg.

16. Public member trees, *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/1030/?name=Jonas_Jeckel&death=1800_bad+berleburg-siegen+wittgenstein-north+rhine+westphalia-germany_186901&count=50&name_x=1).

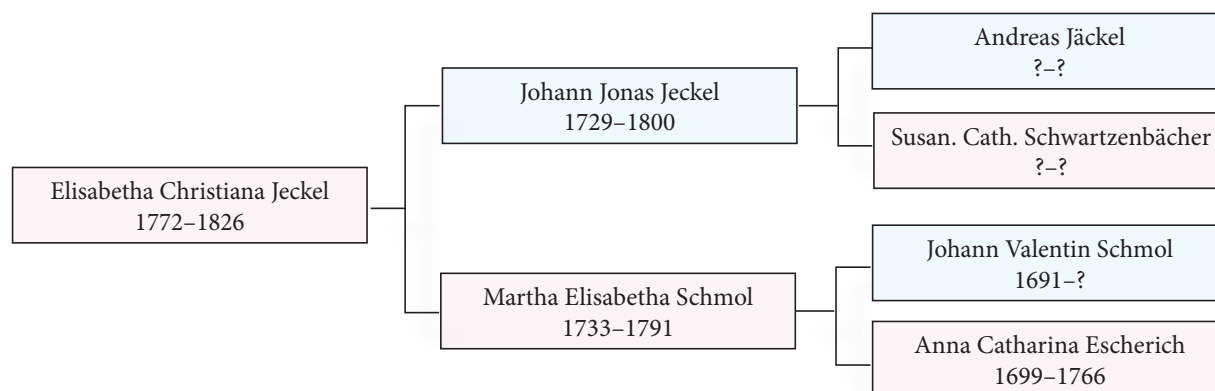
17. “Taufen 1729-1751, Konfirmation 1729-1753, Taufen 1752-1753, Trauungen 1729-1753, Beerdigungen 1729-1753” *Archion* (Archion.de), image 200; citing North Rhine Westphalia, State Church Archive of the Evangelical church of Westphalia, Church district of Wittgenstein, Berleburg, marriage, Gorg Philip, son of Johann Wilhelm Jeckel and Maria Elisabeth Kohlin, 14 September 1748.

18. “Taufen 1729-1751, Konfirmation 1729-1753, Taufen 1752-1753, Trauungen 1729-1753, Beerdigungen 1729-1753” *Archion* (Archion.de), image 115; citing North Rhine Westphalia, State Church Archive of the Evangelical church of Westphalia, Church district of Wittgenstein, Berleburg, baptism, Anna Elizabeth Jeckel, daughter of Gorg Philip Jeckel and Maria, 26 December 1748.

19. “Baptisms 1754-1780, confirmations 1754-1779, weddings 1754-1779, funerals 1754-1780” *Archion* (Archion.de : accessed 22 March 2024), image 385; citing North Rhine Westphalia, State Church Archive of the Evangelical church of Westphalia, Church district of Wittgenstein, Berleburg, funeral, Georg Philip Jeckel, of Wemlighausen, aged 7.5 years, 9 December 1758.

TIMELINE		
	Jonas Jeckel/Jekel (from Ancestry trees)	Johann Jonas Jäckel/Jäckels/Jeckel/Jekel/Jöckel (from images of original records)
1729 Berleburg		Birth of Johann Jonas, son of Andreas Jöckel, <i>Schuster</i> (cobbler)
1733 Kassel		Birth of Martha Elisabet Schmol
ca. 1750 Berleburg	No baptism found for a second Jonas Jeckel	
1759 Kassel		Johann Jonas Jäckel, <i>Schuhmacher</i> (shoemaker) married Martha Elisabeth Schmull
1760 Kassel		Birth of Carl Joseph, son of <i>Schuhmacher</i> Joh. Jonas Jäckels
1762 Kassel		Birth of Johann Leonhard, son of <i>Schuhmacher</i> Joh. Jonas Jäckels
1766 Kassel		Birth of Amelia, daughter of Joh. Jonas Jäckels, <i>Schumacher</i>
1769 Kassel		Birth of Joh. Georg, son of Jonas Jäckels, <i>Schuhmacher</i>
1772 Berleburg	Birth of Elisabeth Christiana, daughter of Jonas Jeckel	Birth of Elisabetha Christiana, daughter of Jonas Jeckel, a <i>Hof-schumacher</i> (Court shoemaker, a specific type of shoe)
1791 Berleburg		Death of wife, Johann Jonas Jeckel was a <i>Bürger und Schuhmacher</i> (citizen and shoemaker)
1800 Berleburg	Death of Jonas Jekel	Death of <i>Schumacher und Bürger</i> (shoemaker and citizen) Jonas Jekel
1804 Berleburg	Marriage record for daughter identifies Jonas Jeckel as her father	Marriage record for Elisabetha Christiana shows Jonas Jeckel <i>Schuhmacherverstorbt</i> (shoemaker deceased)
See text for citations.		

SELECTED ANCESTORS OF ELISABETH CHRISTIANA JECKEL



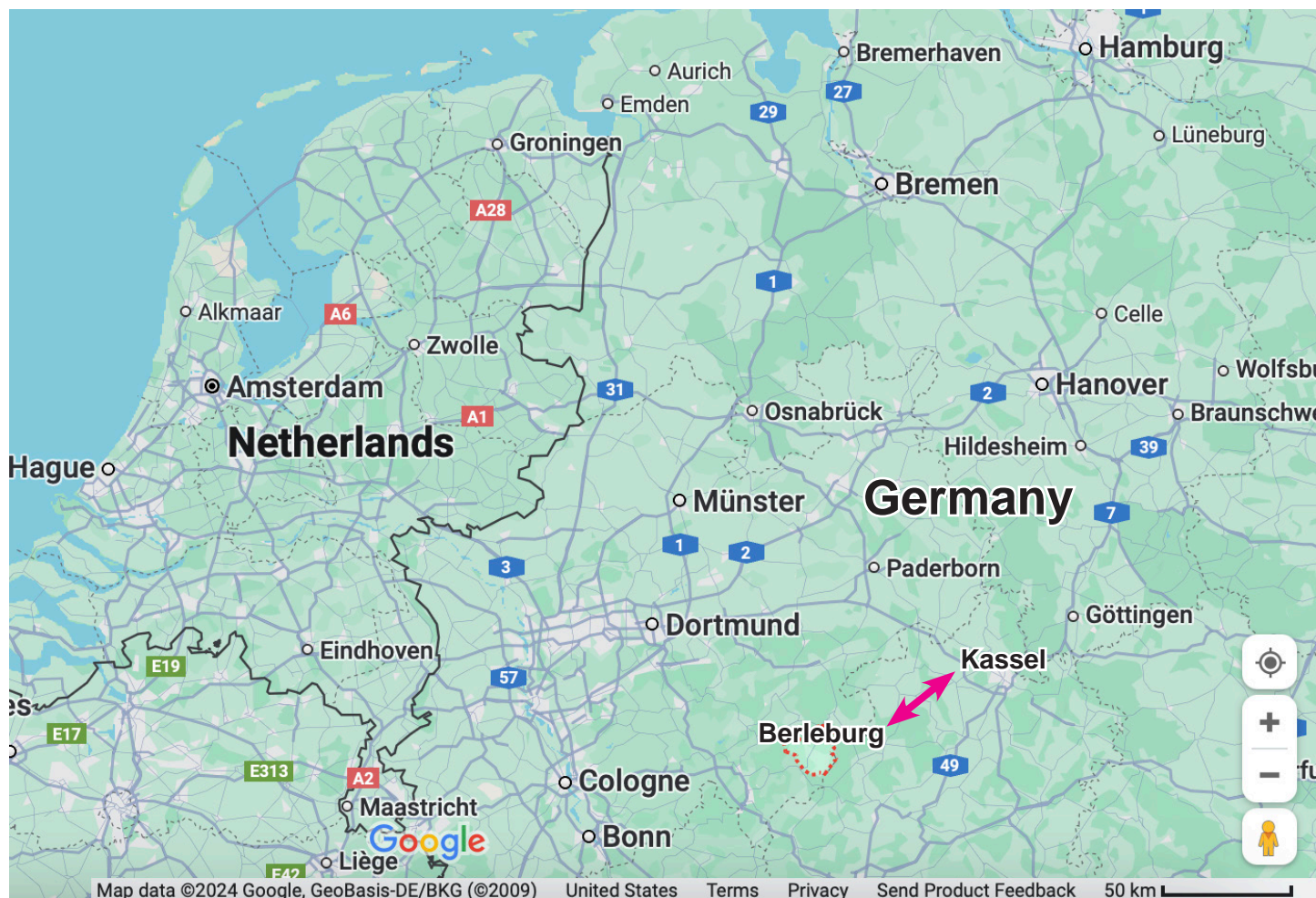
Sources: See text. Also, "Kassel (Freiheiten Gemeinde), Kirchenbuch 1661-1703," *Archion* (<https://www.archion.de/>), image 69 of 275; citing Hessen, Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evangelischen Kirche von Kurhessen-Waldeck, Kirchenkreis Kassel (Stadt), baptism, Johan Valentin, son of Urban Schmol, Metzger (butcher), 29 May 1691. Also, "Hessen, Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evangelischen Kirche von Kurhessen-Waldeck, Kirchenkreis Kassel (Stadt), Kassel (Altstädter Gemeinde), Kirchenbuch 1679-1717," *Archion* (<https://www.archion.de/>), image 1490 of 1635; citing Kassel, Altstädter Gemeinde, baptism, page 162, entry 65, Anna Catharina, daughter of Matthias Escherichß, 21 November 1699. Also, Thiele, *Einwohner und Familien der Stadt Kassel, Marriages, Born, Deceased 1731-1839*, v. 13, deaths Sch, p. 57; *Universität Kassel*, database, (https://orka.bibliothek.uni-kassel.de/viewer/image/1430384797155_013/60/), image 67 of 456, 1777, 7-13 February, Freiheit District, Anna Catharine Schmull, spouse Valentine Schmull, age 82.

CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:

- It was common for names to be spelled differently.
- If Jonas was born in 1729 and died in 1800, his age at death, 71, is not unusual. During the same time, Friedrich Wilhelm Kemper's parents lived to be 71 and 66 years old in Berleburg.
- In 1772, Johann Jonas Jeckel (1729–1800) and Martha Elisabetha Schmol (1733–1791) would have been (1772-1729=) 43 and (1772-1733=) 39. They were not too old to have a child.
- A reasonably exhaustive search was made for original or transcribed records for a baptism between 1748 and 1752 for a Jonas Jeckel in online indexes and at Archion in Protestant records from Berleburg. St. Marien Berleburg Catholic Church records begin too late (in 1837 at Matricula) to be searched for a second Jonas Jeckel.

- Complete and accurate source citations helped confirm Johann Jonas Jeckel's data.
- A thorough analysis and correlation of names, occupations, and dates is shown.
- Kassel is about 70 miles from Berleburg, not too far apart for travel in the mid 1700s. The Seven Years War from 1756 to 1763 affected travel in this area.

Johann Jonas Jöckel (born in 1729), Johann Jonas Jäckel (the spouse of Martha Elisabeth Schmull), Joh. Jonas Jäckels (who had children in Kassel from 1760–1769), Jonas Jeckel (who had a child in 1772 in Berleburg), and Jonas Jekel (who died in 1800) are the same person. The strongest evidence: similar names, a consistent occupation, an occupation like his father's, his age at marriage and death, the documented family group, close cities, and the lack of conflicting data support this conclusion.²⁰



Kassel is about 70 miles from Berleburg, Germany (red arrow added). Google Maps.

20. Genealogical Proof Standard,” BCG Board for Certification of Genealogists (<https://bcgcertification.org/ethics-standards#genealogical-proof-standard-gps>).

Book Review

German Church Books: Beyond the Basics

Reviewed by Mark Grafe

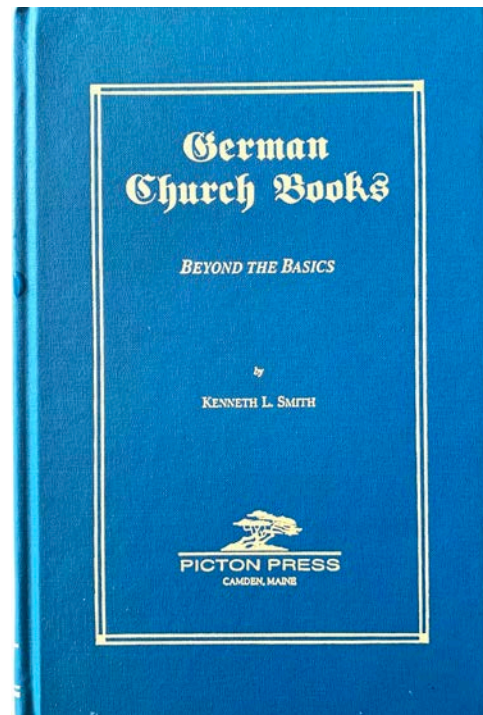
Author: Kenneth L. Smith
 Publisher: Picton Press
 Publication Date: Revised 1993
 Pages: 223
 Price: \$50-\$100 (Used)
 GFO Call No. 943. Church Smit

The intended audience for this book is those who have identified German ancestors, can read some German script, and have advanced research questions. The author focuses on German script found in Protestant church books, not civil or Catholic records. There is discussion on how religiously mixed marriages (Catholic/Protestant or Lutheran/Reformed) can lead to missing records.

Kenneth Lee Smith (1947–2014) authored several other books besides *German Church Books: Beyond the Basics*, including *A Practical Guide to Dating Systems for Genealogists* (1983), *Confirming a Place of Origin* (1985), *Genealogical Dates: A User-Friendly Guide* (1991), and *Estate Inventories: How to Use Them* (2000). Smith graduated from Ohio State University and spoke often for Midwest genealogical societies.¹

Smith effectively organized *German Church Books: Beyond the Basics* in the following manner. He discusses general problems, names, marriage records, baptismal records, death records, confirmation records, miscellaneous records, and handwriting with many images from 17th and 18th century German church registers. The first appendix outlines his approach to research activities which can help limit errors made with similar names. Smith is thorough in what to record in each family group and suggests what to look for to solve problems. Appendix II, a short glossary, is followed by a bibliography, and throughout *German Church Books*, Smith recommends many books for further research. There is a “Subject Index” and an “Index of Examples.”

Smith begins with “Overall Problems” in German research. He examines the organization of each record type, showing where to look for specifics, like occupations or towns. Smith helps researchers find unknown

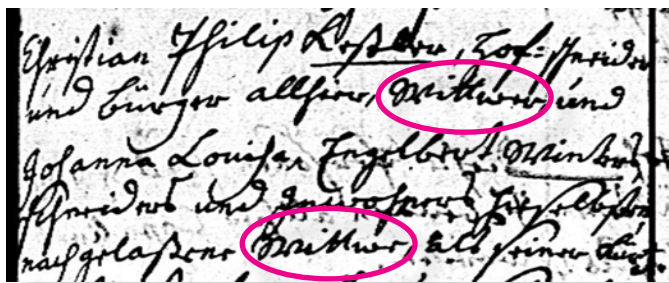


German words in current dictionaries with 17 “common misspelling rules,” such as “f” and “v,” which are often interchangeable (Grafe=Grave). He cites five books for help with abbreviations not in the three-page list in *German Church Books*. Abbreviations frequently encountered in my research included 9br and 10br for November and December and “Gev” for Gevatter (sponsor). Challenging cursive letters such as “d” and capital “H” appear in a chart titled “Symbols and Scriptural Conventions.”

The chapter on names references several old German maps, including *Meyers Orts. Meyers Gazetteer* (<https://www.meyersgaz.org>) went online in 2006. Names are often spelled differently in German church registers. However, Smith suggests that “the problem is somewhat simpler than the one encountered with immigrants.... Learn how German is pronounced and remember one rule: if it sounds the same, it is the same.” The section on grammatical endings reminds us, “if you were told that someone was ‘John Smith’s son,’ you would certainly realize the surname was ‘Smith’ and not ‘Smith’s.’” Meaning that surnames for females may end with an “in” and the “in” should be disregarded. After several examples, a chart summarizes 12 possible case endings that Smith found in German church registers. He names regions in Germany where farm names and patronymics were common.

1. “Kenneth Lee Smith,” obituary *Columbus Dispatch* (Ohio), 15 October 2014; *Legacy* (<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/dispatch/name/kenneth-smith-obituary?id=21255983> : accessed 6 October 2024).

Due to the amount of information, Smith describes marriage registers as the most significant record. I did find a marriage record that showed a father had died. Smith notes that German records do not always mention if someone was widowed.



Kessler=Winter marriage, Berleburg, Germany, 1760; courtesy *Archion*. The word Wittwer, circled, shows that my 5th great-grandparents were both widowed and had previous marriages.

Smith gives several reasons for missing information. For instance, duplicate entries may not have all the information from the original record. Other reasons are gaps in records, the organization of the church book, misplaced records, records on a different page, records that began too late, or were of another faith, or were married elsewhere. Understanding all the words can help find children born before or soon after a marriage. Smith mentions several times, “It was common to have more than one person in a village with the same name.”

Baptismal records are dissimilar, depending on the pastor who wrote them. We almost always find the father’s name, but early records may not name the child or mother. Smith notes that when considering if a man remarried, his first wife’s death may be recorded in baptisms, and men sometimes remarried to a woman with the same name as the first wife.

Some unusual information in baptismal records of illegitimate births is discussed. He notes that because some children were baptized by one faith and raised in another, we may have to look in the closest church of another faith to find their records. During wars, people move to safe locations, and you might find a missing record in locations given for baptismal sponsors.

Death records may contain occupation or social status. In early times, you may find a female only listed as “the wife of” with her husband’s name. A date of death or burial, or both, may be given. Look at the church book’s heading to see if deaths or burials are specified. Smith’s discussion on determining birth dates from someone’s age is logically explained and includes comments on the length of February, different calendars, different methods

of calculating, and challenges. Lutheran and Reformed burials did not require a pastor, and missing death dates are not usually on German cemetery markers. This chapter has excellent examples and transcriptions. Page 141 notes that “If the wife died first, the word *Wittwer* [widower] may be found in her husband’s death record.”

Confirmation records are less likely to be found than baptismal, marriage, and death records. They appear as a batch of entries, usually on specific church dates such as Palm Sunday. They can appear more than once a year in large congregations. Entries for those confirmed often contain the father’s name and location. Confirmation ages usually ranged from 11 to 14 but vary more in small congregations. Churches did not confirm those from other faiths. Missing confirmation records may indicate the early death of a child.

Miscellaneous records include family registers, described in two ways: snapshots of households, like U.S. census records, and lists that cover several generations. Other miscellaneous church records include lists of communicants that can prove people were living at a specific time and Church Council records that show living people and religious status, with some including religious problems within the community. Smith shares a rare example of adoption; he stated that most adoptions are challenging to prove given name changes.

Chapter 8, “Examples of Handwriting,” helped me understand the old German text that I came across in records from Niedersachsen and North Rhine-Westphalia. However, the images of handwriting are small. Smith states that his list showing the capital “G” 74 times is only a sample and not comprehensive. Note that one writer may use a form another writer used for a different letter. Smith explains how many writers omit the “c” in “sch” and throughout the book, there are other examples of writing “errors.” One photocopied example shows abbreviations, symbols, Latin, a double “ii” construction, a dialect word, four different ways of writing capital “F,” three different way of writing capital “C,” etc. Smith’s transliterations and translations all appear in a legible font. *German Church Books* explained many notations that I came across.

When I told Harold Hinds I was researching family in Germany, this was one of the books he pulled off the shelf at the Genealogical Forum of Oregon’s library. I highly recommend *German Church Books: Beyond the Basics* and Ernest Thode’s thorough *German-English Genealogical Dictionary*. Understanding what problems could arise helped me prepare for researching my German ancestral lines.

Book Review

Berleburger Stadtrechte und Bürgerbuch

Reviewed by Mark Grafe

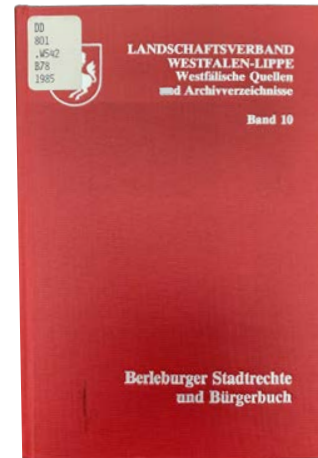
Editor: Alfred Burns
 Publisher: Westphalia Archives Office
 Publication date: 1985
 Pages: 328
 Price: Not found
 Order from: University of Oregon Library Eugene
 GFO Call No.: Not in GFO Library

The *Berleburger Stadtrechte und Bürgerbuch* (*Berleburg City Rights and Citizens' Book*), edited by Alfred Bruns and published in Munster, Germany, by the Westphalia-Lippe Regional Association of the Westphalia Archives Office will be of interest to people researching ancestors in Germany before existing church records. The citizens of Berleburg, a town, in the district of Siegen-Wittgenstein, in North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany, kept records beginning in 1562. While not every city has records that survived fire and war, this book is an accumulation of what survived in the place now called Bad Berleburg.

The author's purpose was to transcribe old documents. There are many images of city records, and the helpful index, with hundreds of names, makes it easy to find ancestors amongst the various spellings of similar names. Most documents have a literal transcription with notes translating oddly spelled names that allow us to recognize families. The target audience is researchers in Germany, and English speakers will struggle to find the hidden stories.

Alfred Bruns was the *Landesarchivdirektor* (Director at the State Archives). Other works by *Landesarchivassessor* Dr. Alfred Bruns include:

- *Die Juden im Altkreis Meschede: Dokumentation 1814-1874* (*The Jews in the Old District of Meschede: Documentation 1814-1874*)
- *Amtsbücher als archivische Quelle* (*Official Books as an Archival Source*)
- *Das Rühthener Stadtrecht* (*The Rühren City Law*)
- *Die Lübecker Stadtschreiber von 1350-1500* (*The Lübeck City Clerks from 1350-1500*)
- *Werner Stadtrechte und Bürgerbuch, 1380-1849* (*Werner City Rights and Civil Register, 1380-1849*)



The book begins with an introduction to citizen books, Berleburg legal records, and a discussion about the city and citizenship. Berleburg city books include a register of citizens, inventories beginning in 1621, customs, and more. Legal records include city statutes from 1567, trademark regulations from 1562, the servant's oath, court rules, instructions for the commonmen in 1656, and citizens' complaints from 1718. Berleburg citizen lists began in 1656. There is a list of residents from 1777 and mayors from 1644-1842.

The fifth entry from the city regulations on page 82 is a good example. The entry states that Weygandt Balthe of Wemelckhausen (Wemlighausen) became a citizen on 20 July 1637. The author's note shows this is Wiegand Bald, my 9th great-grandfather and the 66th entry in the Citizens Book that began in 1656.

An entry on page 85 says my 9th great-grandfather Bartholl Stremell (Bartel Stremmel) and his wife Magdalehn, daughter of Hans Franckens (Frank) became citizens. Many entries do not name spouses but show social class by how much they were taxed.

Like the old church records, many entries name occupations. For a number of years, the jobs of the city's councilors (meat inspector, beer appraiser, fire chief, field supervisor, builder, an occasional rifleman, and city sergeant) were named.

This book is not easy to read, but I did find it engaging. It is well organized and works well as another source for some of my oldest known ancestors. Some of the transcribed text can be compared to images and is beyond accurate.

This book is available through interlibrary loan! One of the sources cited is not. You have to go to a German library to find the *Berleburg Chronicles of Georg Cornelius, Antonius Crawelius and Johann Daniel Scheffer*, published by Wilhelm Hartnack with the collaboration of Eberhard Bauer and Werner Wied (*Wittgenstein, Leaves of the Wittgensteiner Heimatverein e.V. Supplement 2*) Laasphe, 1964.

Book Review

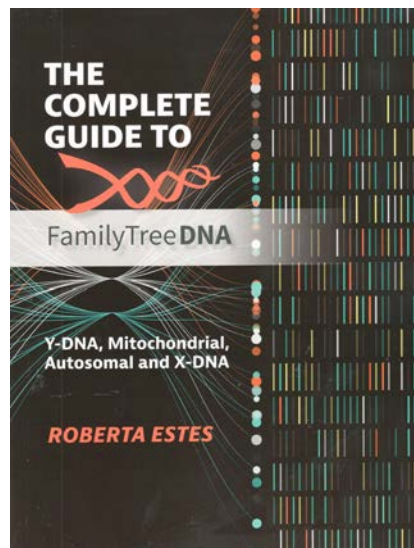
The Complete Guide to FamilyTreeDNA: Y-DNA, Mitochondrial, Autosomal and X-DNA

Reviewed by Anne Sharp

Author: Roberta Estes
Publisher: Genealogical Publishing Company
Publication Date: 2024
Pages: 247
Price: \$24.95 eBook
\$37.50 Paperback
\$60.00 Color Paperback
Order from: Genealogical.com
GFO call number: 616 Este 2024 FTDNA

The FamilyTreeDNA genetic testing company offers comprehensive DNA testing plus the databases and tools to help researchers discover genealogical connections. It provides many tools, different tests at different prices, dizzying variations of tests, and settings for viewing results. Author Roberta Estes walks the reader through the science of DNA, the various tests and applications, and methods for getting the most information from the testing. She offers a detailed explanation of how DNA inheritance works, describes different markers, clarifies terminology, and explains the importance of mutations, back mutations, and recognizing patterns. Annotated screenshots illustrate the instructions. Plentiful footnotes to articles on her blog (www.DNAexplain.com) and the FamilyTreeDNA website offer more support. Tables, charts, and maps help organize the information. A glossary provides quick definitions.

The author shows how to set up a FamilyTreeDNA account and illustrates the steps with screenshots. Accounts are free and one can upload an autosomal test from other DNA testing companies. Many features are free and more are available for a small fee. Autosomal, Y-DNA, X-DNA, and mitochondrial tests through FamilyTreeDNA provide specific kinds of information and advanced tools. Beyond the standard cousin matching, there are features such as a notable connections section which lists “both famous and infamous” (p. 71) people who share the same haplogroups. Other features offer genetic timelines and proposed migration patterns. Members who purchase the Big-Y chromosome test have some exciting additional features. They can see if they match with one of



the thousands of ancient DNA samples from around the world. The Globetrekker tool is an animated map that shows the migration patterns and mutations of one’s Y chromosome haplogroups. “Terrain, elevation, sea level, currents, and even glaciation are taken into consideration” (p.74) to map these developments.

For more advanced researchers, Ms. Estes explains how to benefit from joining group projects, combining test criteria, and using advanced tools such as the Chromosome Painter and Ancient Origins tool. In addition, she encourages researchers to learn the benefits of testing with other companies, introduces third party programs such as *Genetic Affairs* or *DNAPainter*, and recommends a path for combining and organizing all the various inputs. She closes by suggesting how to create an individual “roadmap” for genetic genealogical research.

Genetic genealogy is a complicated subject and FamilyTreeDNA offers a wide range of tools to take advantage of all one can learn. Roberta Estes explains both thoroughly. Remarkably, she reassures a beginner that one can grow into the knowledge while offering a challenge for advanced users to explore even further. This is a good resource to accompany any level of researcher as they continue their genetic genealogy research.

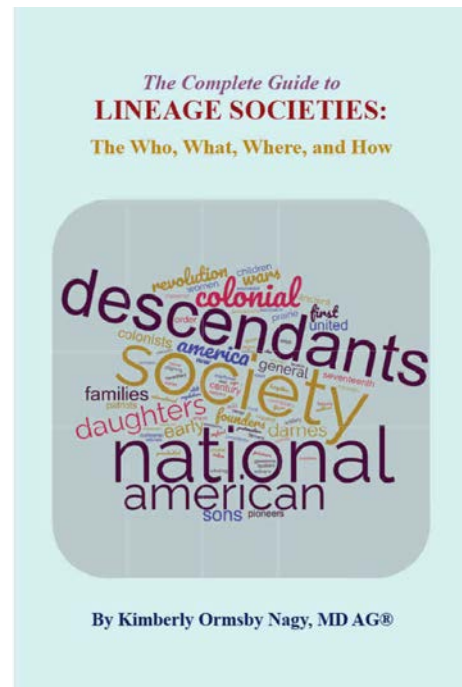
Ms. Estes is a pioneer in the field of genetic genealogy with decades of experience as the discipline has grown. She is a computer scientist with specialized knowledge in Geographical Information Systems. Her company, DNAeXplain, provides genetic research, analysis, and consulting services. She writes a blog on Native American genealogy (www.nativeheritageproject.com) as well as the one on genetic genealogy that is referenced above. She has contributed books and articles on genetic genealogy including *DNA for Native American Genealogy* which is available in the Genealogical Forum of Oregon’s library.

Book Review

The Complete Guide to Lineage Societies: The Who, What, Where, and How

Reviewed by Sheridan Lucas

Author: Kimberly Ormsby Nagy
 Publisher: Genealogical Publishing Company
 Publication Date: 2024
 Pages: 80
 Price: \$19.95 paperback,
 \$39.95 color paperback plus shipping
 Order from: Genalogical.com
 GFO Call No. 369.10 How-To Nagy 2024



The value of joining a society like Daughters of the American Revolution or Mayflower Lineage is that their historians and registrars will guide one to successful outcomes. Their knowledge and experience are invaluable. It's also wonderful to be in a peer group of "cousins".¹ A book is a good beginning, but nothing beats a human connection. *The Complete Guide to Lineage Societies* takes the reader step by step through the process.

Author Kimberly Ormsby Nagy admits to joining over 80 societies, so I would say that her advice is current for everyone. She states that there are more than 300 societies in the United States. In each group, the comprising individuals descend from a specific group of ancestors. She gives examples of those particular things each group has in common, whether it be by colony, state, towns, military service in various wars, public and civil service, servitude, religion, and even a group for descendants of Early American witches.

The 300 lineage societies in the U.S. alone start with this prime requisite. The author explains their missions, how to locate a society online, and how to determine your eligibility. The next chapter tells how to begin the application process. After that chapter, the next is a lesson in documenting your lineage through many, many various sources. She lists some sources to pursue like military, patriotic, and civil service; first settlers; occupations; religion; and more.

Then comes completing an application, with examples and how-to instructions which is excellent information for a beginner. Lastly, she explains how to prepare an application, wait for a response, and take the next step after approval.

The appendix has a few selected society listings where one can investigate other options that might not have occurred to you. Fifty-six of them feature many kinds of interests. There is still more for a person to discover and explore. Lastly, a small bibliography of books that teach research techniques and other sources that might give one some idea of where to begin a search of their own relatives.

It is a small but mighty book, perfect to give to a budding genealogist, that will light a path for them to take that first step.

1. Sheridan Lucas, "Persistence Rewarded with Mayflower Society Membership," *The Forum Insider: Newsletter of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon*, volume 32, number 6, February 2021; *The Forum Insider* (https://gfo.org/file_download/inline/d36f69ca-9d76-4463-a01a-852496e16630 : accessed 2 December 2024).

Book Review

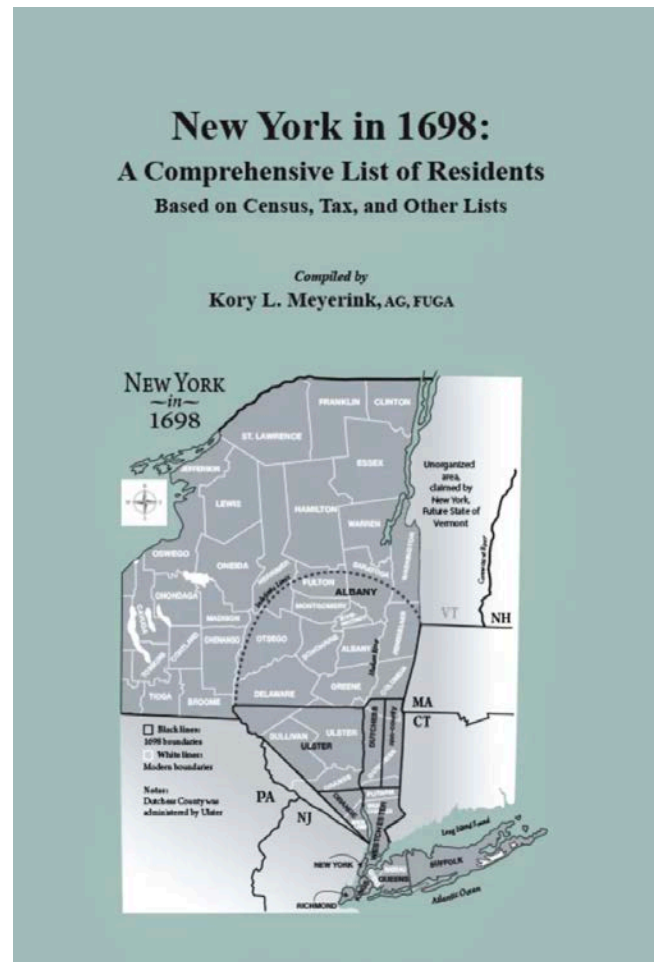
New York in 1698: A Comprehensive List of Residents Based on Census, Tax, and Other Lists

Reviewed by Wendy Negley

Author: Kory L. Meyernik, AG, FUGA
Publisher: Genealogical Publishing Company
Publication Date: 2024
Pages: 414
Price: eBook \$40.00, Paperback \$59.95
Order from: Genealogical.com
GFO Call No.: 974.70 .Hist-Yr 1698 Meye

N*ew York in 1698: A Comprehensive List of Residents Based on Census, Tax and Other Lists* is a reconstruction of the 1698 census of New York. Although the summaries of the census exist, the original sheets for many areas are no longer extant. Kory Meyernik used tax lists and other lists from the period to reconstruct it. Comparing the reconstructed lists to the summaries, he estimates that he was able to identify 90 percent of the men, 50 percent of the women, and 40 percent of the children who resided there at that time. This is an amazing achievement when you consider that the census was taken over 327 years ago. The data varies. The census returns list the head of household and everyone in the house by name, including the fact that “negroes” are listed by name. Tax returns usually only name the head of household, but may specify residence (i.e. “house”) or age.

The book includes an index that is invaluable to the researcher. There is an introduction to each list that includes further references. Again, this is very useful to the person who wishes to do more searching. Using the index, I actually found a number of my own ancestors who I knew were in this area at this time. I even found a person who might be an ancestor whom I have been looking for. Thus, I can recommend *New York in 1698* to anyone with ancestors in New York at the end of the seventeenth century (or early eighteenth for that matter).



In Memoriam

Beverly Inez (Neumann) Hemsworth Christman (1944–2024)

Beverly Christman died at age 80 on 1 September 2024 in Happy Valley, Clackamas County, Oregon. She was a 29-year member of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon starting in 1995, converting to life member in 1996 until her death.

Beverly was born to Clarence and Margaret (Nave) Neumann on 23 January 1944 in Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon. She grew up in nearby Milwaukie, Clackamas County, where she attended Clackamas High School and took part in Girls Glee and the school choir.

Between 1965–1967 Beverly was married to U.S. Marine Corpsman Gayle W. Hemsworth. She was then working as a nurse's aide, a vocation which continued until she married second husband Richard Christman in 1972. They had one son, Rick.

Beverly was a member of several organizations in her lifetime including the Salvation Army. Her brief obituary on the "Ever Loved" website states:

"Beverly was a wonderful friend to everybody and was a wonderful mother to son Rick. She will be missed."



In Memoriam

Marcia Antionette “Toni” (Folsom) Dyer (1938–2024)

Toni Dyer passed away on 8 October 2024 at the age of 86. She was a member of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon for a total of 38 years, joining as an individual member in 1986, and as a life member in 2004 until her death.

Toni was born on 20 August 1938 to Max and Margaret Folsom in Great Falls, Cascade County, Montana. Her father was an electrician and her mother a laboratory technician. By 1950 Toni and her family had moved to Kodiak, Kodiak Island Borough, Alaska. In 1955 the family was in Beaverton, Washington County, Oregon, where she attended Beaverton High School. Her activities there included the ski and pep clubs.

At age 19 in 1958 she was married to Norman Dyer of Yamhill County, Oregon, and they remained together for 66 years until her death. Shortly after, Norman and family gifted GFO a donation in her name.

During the past several decades Toni researched her family history and created a tree, which she then passed on to extended family members of the younger generation. They remember her fondly and are continuing her work.

Survivors include spouse Norman, son Ben, and many extended family members.



In Memoriam

Russell “Russ” Dean Francis (1954–2024)

Russ Francis passed away at the age of 70 on 20 November 2024, while a resident of Battleground, Clark County, Washington. He was a member of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon from 2015 until his death. He had been deeply involved in genealogical research and other related organizations since 2014.

Russ was born on 11 August 1954 in Broken Bow, Custer County, Nebraska, to Doyle Dean Francis and Alice “JoAnn” (Iburg) Francis. He graduated from California State University at Fullerton and initially worked as a stockbroker. He moved to the Portland Metro area of Oregon in 1995 and set up a financial planning business in Clackamas, Clackamas County, Oregon, in 1996. In 2002 he became a Certified Public Accountant and that year was divorced from his spouse Diane. In 2007 he co-founded a financial management company based in Beaverton, Washington County, Oregon.

In 2015 Russell completed the Boston University Genealogical Research Certification. He also became a member of the New England Historical Genealogical Society, the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, and the Mayflower Society, the latter after confirming five direct Mayflower ancestors.

On his Wiki Tree page of 2017 (updated 2023), Russell described his status as retired but active as a family historian, website designer, and home automation hobbyist with a wife and six grandchildren.

Russ served as a volunteer with GFO on various projects during his decade of membership, most recently with the New Home and Endowment Committees. He compiled a report on tax-advantaged donation opportunities for the New Home Committee just last year. He will be greatly missed.



In Memoriam

Yvonne Phillips Hadja

(1930–2024)

Yvonne Hadja, anthropologist, died peacefully in her home at the age of 94 on 5 October 2024. She was a 35-year member and donor to the Genealogical Forum of Oregon from 1988 until early 2024.

Yvonne was born on 4 August 1930 in Chicago, Cook County, Illinois, to Sidney and Hazel Phillips, and grew up initially in Iowa Falls, Hardin County, Iowa. The family then moved permanently to Vancouver, Clark County, in Washington State, where Yvonne completed high school before graduating from Reed College in nearby Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon.

In 1956 Yvonne met and married Jan Hadja, a graduate student at the University of Chicago. He was a Czech refugee who returned with her to Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon, where he taught sociology at Portland State University. It was here that Yvonne earned her master's degree, and then a Ph.D. at the University of Washington, both in anthropology.



For over thirty years, Yvonne carried out ethnohistorical and ethnographic research on the native peoples of the Northwest, especially those of the Columbia River, the Willamette Valley, and the Warm Springs reservation. She authored and co-authored numerous articles and reports, including on the varied and interconnected languages of the region. In retirement she served as a consultant on Northwest archaeological finds. These included the 1985 settlement discovered at Blue Lake, Oregon, and later

the 13th century native ceramics found in Clark County, Washington, as described in the *Oregonian* article “Digging Up a Mystery,” published 25 March 1993, in which she is quoted.

Yvonne and Jan enjoyed their mutual interests and activities in academics, the environment, and politics.

She was preceded in death by her spouse, Jan, in 2018 and by her sister, Gwyneth Phillips Feuz. Survivors include many nieces and nephews.





Plunge into Genealogy!

2025 GFO OPEN HOUSE

Join us March 23-29, 2025 • All events are FREE. Come see what we offer!

EVERY DAY

- ◆ The GFO library is open for research from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. with no day-use fee!
 - ◆ Library tours occur each day. Check the online schedule for times.
 - ◆ Beginning research help—Free sessions available every day for individualized help from our research assistants in the library. Sign up at the reception desk or request a session at info@gfo.org.
 - ◆ Most presentations are online via Zoom. All are free during Open House. Pre-registration is required. Get the presentation times and register at gfo.org/openhouse.
-

Sunday, March 23

Introducing the GFO

Laurel Smith, Library Director

Learn about the Genealogical Forum of Oregon and the largest library devoted to genealogy in the Pacific Northwest. Spoiler: *We're not just about Oregon!*

Using Family Tree Maker

Johnna Waldon, SIG Leader

The Family Tree Maker Special Interest Group (SIG) is an online support group for using the FTM software. We will look at how to start building a tree, the People Tab, Places Tab, and the Web Search Tab.

Jewish Genealogy:

How is This Research Different?

Janice Sellers

This class provides an overview of the unique aspects of Jewish culture and history that affect family history research. Topics include history, geography, naming patterns, languages and alphabets, rabbinical genealogies, kehillah records, Yizkor books, cemeteries, and other resources.

Genealogy Quick Start

Geoff Smith

For those interested in family research but who haven't quite started. This class

shows you how to take the very first steps, including starting with free online searches.

Monday, March 24

Koffee Klatch

April Ober

Open-ended discussion to start your week! Ask for advice on your next step or just share your discoveries with a few experienced researchers.

Find a Grave: Fabulous or Frustrating?

Laurel Smith

Learn about this under-appreciated resource and join us for a live demonstration of Find a Grave. Submit your questions to findagrave@gfo.org by Wed., March 19, 2025, and Laurel will include answers in the presentation and her handout.

Tuesday, March 25

Gresham Historical Society

Silvie Andrews, Museum Director

Learn what resources may be available at your nearby historical society, and in particular about Gresham Historical Society's focus on its library.

Genealogical Gold in the GFO Catalog

Laurel Smith, Library Director

Get tips for searching the online catalog and learn what's available to you, wherever you live.

Finding Enslaved Individuals in Historic Public Records

Chris Knutson

Learn about records that may be useful to identify enslaved individuals through genealogical research. The presentation will focus on historic records that are available online and in public archives, and touch on the 10 Million Names Project to which the presenter made a modest contribution.

Wednesday, March 26

Amazing Resources

Laurel Smith, Library Director

The GFO website is filled with content that is available to everyone. Learn about the gems and how the GFO supports researchers both locally and from afar.

The Portland City Archives

Devin Busby, Outreach Archivist

Learn about the Portland City Archives and its extensive collection dating from Portland's founding.

Writing Stories Your Relatives Will Read

Pam Vestal, Generations Genealogy LLC

With good research, thoughtful planning, and a dash of ingenuity, we can create engaging stories designed to entice even the most reluctant readers. Turn fish eggs into caviar; the way you tell the story makes all the difference!

Thursday, March 27

RootsMagic, the Swiss Army Knife of Personal Genealogy Software

Barry Wolff, SIG Leader

Learn about RootsMagic and its online features, integration with all four major online sites, and other capabilities. Includes a live software demonstration and open Q&A.

Scanning Workshop

Geoff Smith, Technology Committee

ONSITE

Learn how to use the three major types of

scanners, all available at the library, and how to choose the best one for your project. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own materials to scan. Sign-up will be available for scanning later in the day or week.

Friday, March 28

GFO's MemberSpace

Laurel Smith, Library Director

Get a glimpse behind the curtain to learn what the GFO offers its members through MemberSpace, the members-only portion of the website.

Resources for Oregon Genealogy

Janet Weber, Genealogical Society of Washington County

There are many resources in Oregon that are overlooked in genealogical research. Learn about some surprising places to enhance your research.

Finding Patients:

Using Archival Research to Identify the Oregon Hospital for the Insane Burial Ground

C. Knutson, A. Donovan-Boyd, J. Olander

In 2022, three archaeologists located the long-forgotten burial grounds for the OHI at the Lone Fir Cemetery. Hear this story and a discussion of the records and methods they used to uncover a slice of 19th-century history.

Happy Hour

April Ober

Wind down from the week's presentations! Round-table discussion.

Saturday, March 29

Researching Your Virginia Roots

Judi Scott, SIG Leader

The Virginia Special Interest Group focuses on sharing tips for research on families from Virginia.

Volunteering at Home

Laurel Smith

The GFO could never offer so much if we didn't have volunteers helping us in the library and at home. Learn how you can get involved! This is also an opportunity to find out if there's a project that inspires you to lend a hand.

GENEALOGICAL FORUM OF OREGON INC
Offices & Library
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GFO MARCH 2025 EVENTS

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

Saturday, March 1

10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	Virginia Roots & Vines
1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.	German Group

Monday, March 3

10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	Roots Magic
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Wednesday, March 5

10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	Learn and Chat
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Tuesday, March 11

6:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m.	Board Meeting
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Thursday, March 13

6:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.	Q Review
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Saturday, March 15

12:00 p.m.–2:00 p.m.	African American Ancestry
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Sunday, March 16

2:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m.	The Writers' Room
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Wednesday, March 19

1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.	DNA Q&A
4:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.	New Home Committee

Sunday, March 23–Saturday March 29

Open House

Sunday, March 30

9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.	GFO Work Party
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