

# The Bulletin

# **Quarterly Magazine of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon**

**Volume 66, Number 3** 

March, 2017

#### In this issue:

- ·Meyer's Gazetteer!
- •A German Translation
- ·William Henry Davison
- Kristen Kristensen/ Christen Christensen of Denmark
- •The Reorganized GFO Library
- •The Leonard Steever–Susannah Seal Bible
- Probate Records—
   Double your chances of finding them online
- •The Ever-popular Bulletin Index, 2016
- Book reviews, Extracts, and much, much more!



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

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Portland, Oregon 97202-1061
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#### **CALL FOR ARTICLES**

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

• memoirs and personal essays

\$1000

(May be paid in 3 annual payments of \$360.)

- research articles and source guides
- · how-to articles

Life-Joint

- problem-solving articles
- articles on family history travel

This Periodical has been submitted to Allen County

Public Library to be indexed in PERSI.

using technology

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

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

March issue: January 1 September issue: July 1
June issue: April 1 December issue: October 1

B March, 2017

# Genealogical Forum of Oregon SPRING SEMINAR

with John Philip Golletta

# Immigration and Naturalization

#### FULL-DAY SEMINAR SATURDAY

# Our Ancestors from Overseas: Getting to Know them One by One

- ◆ Passenger Arrival Records, Colonial Times to Mid-20th Century
- ♦ Naturalization Records, Colonial Times to Mid-20th Century
- ◆ Lesser-Used Federal Records: Sources of Rich Detail about Your Immigrant Ancestors' Lives
- Discovering the REAL Stories of Your Immigrant Ancestors

### Focus on Writing

#### HALF-DAY WORKSHOP SUNDAY

- Assembling & Writing a Narrative Family History, Part I: Creating a Reliable Record
- ◆ Assembling & Writing a Narrative Family History, Part II: Writing a Readable Story

Saturday & Sunday

APRIL 29

10 a.m. - 4:30

APRIL 30

- Two Sessions -Attend One or Both

SUNDAY WORKSHOP
SOLD OUT!
Sign up for waiting list by sending
message to seminar@gfo.org

**JOHN PHILIP COLLETTA, Ph.D** is one of America's most popular genealogical lecturers. Knowledgeable, experienced and entertaining, he lectures and teaches nationally. He is a faculty member of the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research and the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy, has taught for Boston University's Certificate in Family History program, and has created courses for three other genealogy institutes. For twenty years, he worked half-time at the Library of Congress and taught workshops at the National Archives.



A published author, Dr. Colletta's writings include numerous articles, both scholarly and popular, two manuals and two books. He appears frequently on podcasts and local and national radio and television. Dr. Colletta holds a Ph.D (French), and two M.A.'s (French and Medieval Studies). He is fluent in both French and Italian, and has traveled and researched extensively in both France and Italy.



Photo: USS Constellation, Historic Ships in Baltimore [www.historicships.org/constellation]

#### **SATURDAY SEMINAR DETAILS**

#### Location

Milwaukie Center 5440 SE Kellogg Creek Dr. Milwaukie, Oregon

#### **Time**

10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Break for lunch 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

#### **Seminar Features**

Books from Heritage Quest & from the GFO Raffle

Syllabus: electronic copy included

#### Lunch

Bring your own or order from GG's Deli. A lunch selection form will be sent with your confirmation. Sack lunch is \$10, and includes your choice of sandwich and salad. Add \$1 for gluten-free bread.

Coffee, tea and snacks provided throughout the day.

Questions? Email seminar@gfo.org.

#### **SUNDAY WORKSHOP DETAILS**

#### Location

GFO Library 2505 SE 11th, Suite B-18 (Basement level) Portland, Oregon

#### Time

9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

- Limited to 50 Attendees -- Register Early! -

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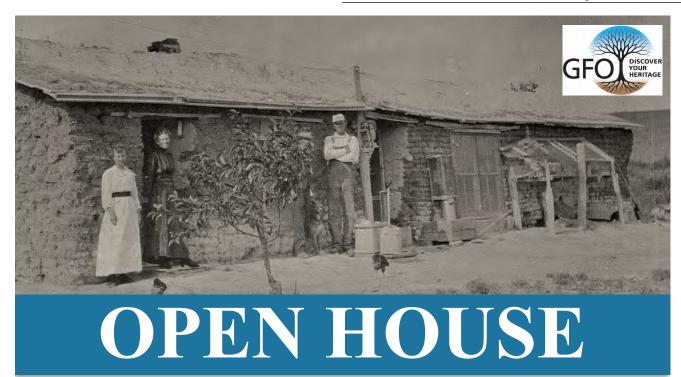
For cancellations received after April 22, 2017, refunds will be made in the amount of the registration fee less a \$10 cancellation fee. Lunch fees are non-refundable if canceled after April 25, 2017.

#### **REGISTRATION FORM**

You may sign up for Saturday, Sunday, or both sessions. Prices are reduced for early registration. One form per attendee. Circle price selected, enter amounts on the right, and total at the bottom.

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Add paper copy of Syllabus	\$3	\$3	\$3	\$3					
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D March, 2017



# **GENEALOGICAL FORUM OF OREGON**

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- DNA DAY 2: Convincing Family & Strangers to Test & Why; The Four Autosomal DNA Testing Companies; Examples of How Autosomal DNA Testing Solved Genealogical Problems; GEDmatch; DNA Q & A
- 20th Start with the Census; Immigration & Naturalization; History of Railroads in the US; Ports & Shipping
- 21st GFO Website & Catalog; Facebook 101; Facebook 102; Create a Blog

- 22nd Cemetery Research; FindaGrave.com; Intro to Photoshop Elements; Intro to Heritage Makers Books; GFO's Resources
- Mexican History for Genealogists; Intro to Mexican Records; Intro to Probate Records; Intro to Military Records
- 24th Genealogy Basics; Genealogy for Beginners & More; Using a Timeline; Organizing All That Stuff
- 25th French Prairie; The French-Canadian Collection at the GFO; Membership Meeting; British Events Leading to Migration
- 26th Ancestry.com; FindMyPast.com; One-Step Webpages of Stephen Morse; HistoryGeo.com; FamilySearch.org

#### CHECK OUT OUR ONLINE CALENDAR FOR CLASS TIMES & MORE INFO

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### 2015-2016 DONORS

Thank you Words cannot describe the feeling when a lost or unknown ancestor is discovered, a family mystery is solved, or the truth to a family story is uncovered. Such revelations are sometimes surprising and often profound, and they can deeply enrich one's identity and help build stronger family ties. Your support plays a vital role in making these discoveries possible through your generous gifts to GFO. On behalf of a very grateful GFO Board of Directors, we send a heart-felt THANK YOU to each and every one of our wonderful donors who gave during the 2015-2016 fiscal year. Thank you for making GFO an outstanding resource for family history discoveries.

#### In deep appreciation, Laurel Smith, President

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- 2. Endowment Fund
- 3. General Fund
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# **Table of Contents**

Marti Dell
Finding Kate, or how I found my husband's grandmother's Irish family Wendy Peterson Negley
Meyer's Gazetteer Now Online, Indexed and Fully Searchable!  Fritz Juengling Ph.D., AG
A German Translation Steve Turner
William Henry Davison  Marti Dell
First Families of Multnomah County: Kristen Kristensen/Christen Christensen of Denmark (1866 – 1956) Judith Leppert
Spotlight: The Reorganized GFO Library  Marti Dell
The Leonard Steever–Susannah Seal Bible Nanci Remington
Tools: Probate Records-Double your chances of finding them online Nanci Remington
Bulletin Index, 2016  Compiled by Shirley Wilkerson and Cathy Lauer 30
Book Reviews A History of the Grandparents I Never Had Reviewed by Harold E. Hinds, Jr
The Battle of Wyoming for Liberty and Life  Reviewed by Molly P. Kernan
The Brix Logging Story: In the Woods of Washington and Oregon Reviewed by Dale Deatherage
Early Gravestones in Southern Maine  Reviewed by Gerry Lenzen
White Slave Children of Colonial Maryland and Virginia  Reviewed by Joan Galles
Extracts: Biographical Index Hyland-Mackin Submitted by Loretta Welsh

**On the Cover:** Catherine Constance Collins (1888-1959) from Wendy Peterson Negley's story "Finding Kate, or how I found my husband's grandmother's Irish family," starting on page 3.

## **Letter from the Editor**

Here in the Portland, Oregon, area we have already had five major storms pass through, and it is only the middle of February. The third one dumped over a foot of snow on us that lasted more than a week, and the latest storms caused many inches of rain to fall, sometimes on ice and snow-covered streets. This has given all of us a lot of opportunity to practice patience and to get things done at home because we were not able to go out without danger to life and property.

Before I introduce the content of our first *Bulletin* issue of 2017, I want to thank everyone who gave us feedback on the last issue with all of the Bibles. Actually I want to thank everyone who ever sends us feedback. We appreciate hearing from our readers about what works and what might be improved.

This issue our first story, Finding Kate, illustrates how nicknames and not knowing relatives' surnames, can cause issues when tracing our ancestors. Steve Turner was asked to assist in the translation of a German document, and the story about it and the translation are an interesting read. Meyers Orts is a well know German research tool, and there is a new way to search it, about which Fritz Juengling has written a fine article. We also have another Bible; this one about the Leonard Steever-Susannah Seal family, and Nanci Remington has used this Bible to teach us more about probates in our Tools column. Our Spotlight column this issue is by me and is about the reorganized GFO Library. Recently we realized that the space in our library was not being used as well as it could be. Therefore, we decided to move some things. So next time you come to the library expect to see some differences. We think they are all very positive changes, and it does give us more room for additions to our collection in the months and years to come. Our First Families of Multnomah County is about the Christensen family who hailed from Denmark originally.



We have an update to a brick wall story from 2015 that is interesting, both as to the information found and the method used to find it. We also have some wonderful book reviews and I want to remind everyone that all of the books reviewed in the *Bulletin* are available at the GFO Library. I particularly want everyone to note our Spring Seminar with John Colletta, who will be speaking on immigration and naturalization records, and writing family history. If you haven't signed up yet, please do so soon, as the Sunday workshop is already sold out. The Saturday seminar still has room.

We also have a few housekeeping/informational things to tell you about. The index for all of the 2016 *Bulletin* issues is on pages 30-31 of this issue. There is also a (belated) annual report of donors for the fiscal year 2015-2016. Finally, as many of you may be aware, the parking situation has changed when visiting the GFO. Your board is working on possible alternative solutions, but in the meantime, parking in the lots at (and near) the GFO are pay to park. Please check our website and weekly e-blasts for more information. As always, we hope you enjoy this issue and we truly welcome your feedback.

Respectfully, Marti Dell

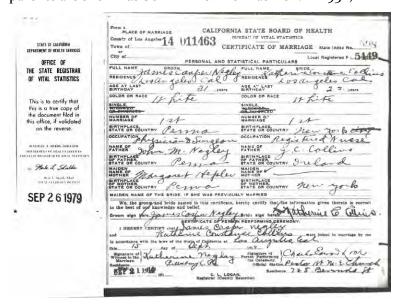
Catherine Constance Collins (1888-1959)

# Finding Kate, or how I found my husband's grandmother's Irish family

Wendy Peterson Negley

y husband Dennis's grandmother was born Catherine Collins,¹ but to her family she was Kate. She was Kate Collins at school,² Kate Collins in the 1901 Irish Census,³ Kate Collins on the 1902 passenger list to America,⁴ but on her marriage certificate she gave her name as Katharine Constance Collins, and after that, she was never Kate again.

Katherine Collins is listed in the 1910 U.S. Census, living in Winchester, Middlesex County, Massachusetts where she was employed as a servant, born in Ireland.<sup>5</sup> Sometime between 1910 and 1912, Catherine came to California. There is a record of her in a 1912 Los Angeles city directory, employed as a nurse at Crocker State Hospital.<sup>6</sup> The same directory shows a young doctor, Dennis's grandfather James Negley, worked in the same hospital.<sup>7</sup> They were married in 1914. Their marriage certificate indicates that Catherine was born in New York and her occupation was registered nurse; her father, J. C. Collins, born in Ireland; and an unnamed mother, born in New York.<sup>8,9</sup> In the 1920<sup>10</sup> and 1940<sup>11</sup> census the birthplace recorded for her is New York, and in the 1920 census her parents are shown as born in New York as well. In 1930,



Marriage certificate of James C. Negley and Catherine C. Collins



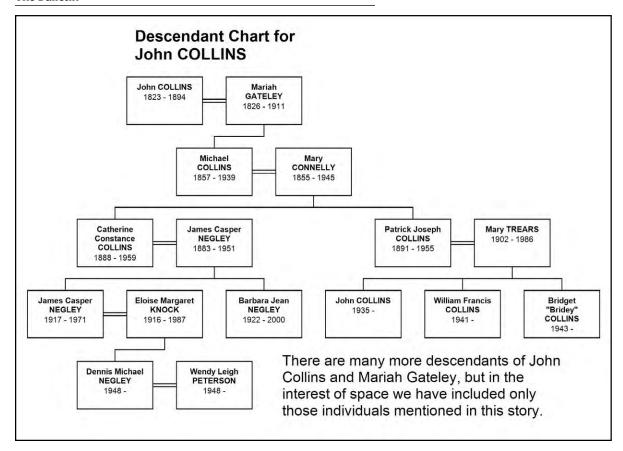
Catherine Collins

though, she said that she was born in Ireland, as were her parents. <sup>12</sup> Catherine died on April 11, 1959. According to the informant, her daughter Barbara, Catherine's death certificate states that she was born in New York, her father was Michael Collins, and her mother was Mary Connelly, both of Ireland. <sup>13</sup> These inconsistencies in her

parents' information and her place of birth troubled me, and searching for Catherine has occupied my time off and on for 40 years.

When I married Dennis in 1974 I had already done quite a bit of genealogical research on my family, so naturally I asked about his. His mother, Eloise, told me that her mother-in-law, Catherine, was born on November 8, 1891, in "Dublin, County Cork." Eloise recited this information as though learned by rote. The birth date was identical to the one on the death certificate. I searched for any record of Catherine in New York between 1891 and 1910 and found nothing that I could say was a match.

My life was soon busy with two children and a demanding job, so I shelved all the genealogy for over twenty years. One thing in 1986 did catch my attention when Eloise and Dennis's Aunt Barbara visited



Ireland. Eloise sent us a postcard from Williamstown, Galway, and on it she said that this is where Catherine was born. I talked to Eloise later, and she said that they had visited Catherine's family in Williamstown and that Barbara knew all about it. I wrote to Barbara who said that Dennis's sister Kasey had all the data. Kasey was newly married and had moved away, and I was busy so I never asked her about it. Barbara died in 2000, and Kasey died in 2007. I had blown my chance to find out what they knew. All of Kasey's family things came to me, and I went through them but found nothing about Catherine.

In 2009, my children having left home and my job having become a bit less demanding, I decided to resume genealogy. Now, of course, with the Internet it was a whole new world. I made many strides on my family and my husband's family except for Catherine's tree. In 2011, my husband was contacted by his cousin Mark, Barbara's son. I seized this opportunity to ask him if he had seen any of his mother's family papers. He replied that he had all her photos and other family data and that he had wanted to go through them. I flew to his home in Washington, and we reviewed everything together. Of course, I was hoping for a family tree or written family history, but there was no such luck. Mark did have the photos from the 1986 Ireland trip. Some of Barbara's

4

the photos), was a Collins.

Another year or two went by with no progress, and I worked on other family lines. In January 2013, I thought I'd try Catherine's line again. I reviewed my file and all my notes, and when I did so, I noticed that the address for Mary Collins was Leatra, Williamstown, Ireland. What was Leatra? I had thought it was a street except there was no number. I did what seemed logical when you work online in genealogy and I Googled "Leatra, Williamstown, Ireland." At first not much came up, a dog grooming place, weather report . . . but then I saw this: "Collins of Leatra." What?! Here was a notice of a family reunion for the Collins family of Leatra. It was part of a larger site called "The Gathering," which was a promotion being done in Ireland to encourage families and towns to hold reunions that would bring the family back to Ireland. I couldn't tell if this Collins family was related to us or not. There was a picture of a family; however, no one matched any of the photos I had. You could leave a comment about the reunion, but there was no way to contact the event host.

Not to be discouraged, my next step was to email the Gathering site contact. I explained that this might be my family and that I needed to reach the reunion organizer. Kevin was his name, and he contacted Ray Collins who was organizing the reunion.

Irish cousins had even visited her in Glendale a year later. In Barbara's address book, we discovered the names and addresses "Aunt Marv" Collins and the cousins who had visited; also noted was the death of Aunt Mary.14 I wasn't certain who Aunt Mary was, thought but she might be the wife of one of Catherine's brothers, as her son John (also in

THE SALMON WER BRIDGE, RIVER CORRIB, GALWAY
CITY: This historic and fascinating city, the gateway to all the beauty of Connemara; is famous also
for the sight to be seen in season, from the Salmon
Weir bridge, of hundreds of salmon preparing to
move up the river Corrib to their spawning grounds.

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Postcard from Eloise, June 1986

Ray Collins emailed me. I told him who I was and sent him copies of the photos of Aunt Mary and her son John Collins. His reply is still one of the highlights of my genealogical career. He said, "Mary is my grandmother, and Johnny is my uncle." I yelled and screamed and jumped up and down! Joy!

Unfortunately, my husband refused to go to Ireland

for the reunion. Sigh.

Happily, though, Ray put me in touch with the cousin who was working on the family line. We have been working on it together ever since.

I was now able to find Catherine in the 1910 U.S. Census, on a passenger list, on the 1901 census in Ireland, and in school and parish records. Her birth date turned out to be completely different: 20 October 1888.<sup>15</sup> We have discovered three more generations on the tree, and if I ever get to Ireland there are cousins there to meet!

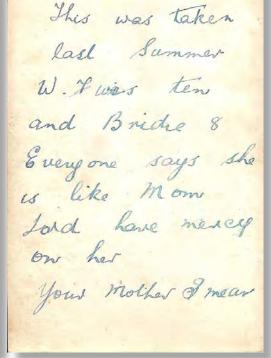
The puzzle surrounding the entirely different birthdates and father's names continues today. I've been asked, "How do you know that your Catherine is the same person as the Kate of Leatra?

My certainty is based partly on Eloise and Barbara's trip to Ireland. On that trip they indicated they were in the location of Catherine's birth. The visit to this particular place must have been based on direct information Barbara had, but it doesn't answer the question of why Barbara indicated her mother's birthplace as New York when she provided information for Catherine's death certificate. Did Barbara discover information after her mother's death? Did she just make an honest human mistake in a time of grief? I'll never know, because the answers to these questions died with Barbara.

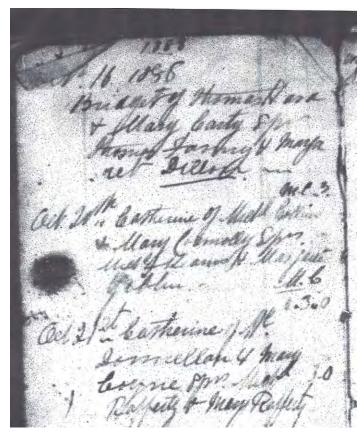
Some of the cousins I discovered have shared information passed on from their

parents and grandparents. Cousin Johnny shared that his grandfather, Patrick Joseph Collins, had stated that he had a sister named Kate who had gone to America, had married a doctor, and had lived in California. <sup>16</sup> Patrick, it turns out, was married to the Aunt Mary who was pictured with their son John, in the photograph taken by Barbara on her trip to Ireland.





Irish nephew and niece with doll



Catherine Collins's birth record

Among Barbara's family papers was a photo of a boy and a girl. On the back it reads, "This was taken last summer W.F. was ten and Bridie 8." Patrick Collins had a son, William Francis, born in 1941 and a daughter, Bridget "Bridey," born 1943. I don't know how this came into Barbara's possession, but it's likely that it was mailed to Catherine and Barbara found it among her mother's papers after Catherine's death.

So, if you accept that the Leatra family is the correct family, that Patrick and Catherine are siblings, and that Michael Collins was their father, then the family names that Barbara provided for the death certificate are correct. It does not explain why Catherine would give her father's name as J. C. Collins when she married.

And if this is the correct family, then the parish record speaks for itself. Catherine was born on October 20, 1888.<sup>17</sup> The Civil Registration Birth Index lists her in the 1888 October through December quarter, but the actual civil birth record gives her birth date as November 1, 1888. I believe that Catherine simply chose the November 8, 1891 birth date that she used in the U.S. Or she may have thought the month and day were correct

and perhaps those were the ones that she remembered and celebrated in the family when she was small.

Oh, I could also add the fact that Uncle John Collins's nose is just like my husband's brother's nose! And when I mentioned that, I was told that this is a family characteristic—but this isn't very reliable proof!

Catherine, I believe, wanted to have a much different life than she had known as Kate in Ireland. She successfully reinvented herself as Catherine and had that life. But she didn't completely cut her ties to her family, and so I was able to find them and to know Kate as well as Catherine. It would have been much simpler for me if I had made the effort to visit Barbara and Kasey while they were still alive. I hope that you will be smarter than I was and that you will contact your relatives while you can. But if you can't then there is still Google! I wish you the same good luck that I had!



Mary Collins and Eloise 1986

#### **ENDNOTES**

- Catholic Church, Parish of Templetogher, Galway, Dublin, National Library of Ireland, 1973, filmed by Genealogical Society of Utah 1984, FHL 1279259 Item 11 Baptisms 1888.
- 2. Rowan, Martin, ed. Leatra Lessons: the Magazine of the Leatra School Reunion, Kingdom Printers Ltd, 1997. "The First Five Hundred" 'Girls Register Entries Leatra Girls N. S. 1888-1890' p. 57 "Kate Collins."
- 3. 1901 Irish National Census, Galway, Island, Leatra, House 10, census. http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/reels/naiooo819915/number 4 on the page is Kate Collins, age 11
- 4. National Archives and Records Administration (NARA); Washington, D.C.; Crew Lists of Vessels Arriving at Boston, Massachusetts, 1917-1943; Microfilm Serial: T938; Microfilm Roll: 96; p. 12, fifteenth person, Collins, Kate.
- 5. Ancestry.com. 1910 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2006. Original data–Thirteenth Census of the United States, 1910 (NARA microfilm publication T624, 1,178 rolls). Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29. National Archives, Year: 1910; Census Place: Winchester, Middlesex, Massachusetts; Roll: T624\_606; Page: 23A; Enumeration District: 1066; FHL microfilm: 1374619, Line 10 "Katherine Collins Servant."
- Ancestry.com. U.S. City Directories, 1822–1995 [database on–line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011. Los Angeles, California, City Directory, 1912, Collins Kate: filmstrip image 204, p.394; <a href="http://interactive.ancestry.com/2469/3351349">http://interactive.ancestry.com/2469/3351349</a> accessed January 17, 2016.
- Ancestry.com. U.S. City Directories, 1822–1995 [database on–line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011. Los Angeles, California, City Directory, 1912, Negley Jas C: filmstrip image 588, p.1131; <a href="http://interactive.ancestry.com/2469/3351349#?imageld=3350965">http://interactive.ancestry.com/2469/3351349#?imageld=3350965</a> accessed January 17, 2016.
- 8. California State Board of Health, Certificate of Marriage 14 011463, 15 September 1914, copy in author's possession.
- 9. J. C. were her new husband's initials; why Catherine should not have given her father's and mother's correct names is certainly mysterious, but perhaps either miscommunication, just giving something off the top of her head, or an error by the recording clerk is to blame. Or maybe she was in the ladies' room, and J. C. was providing the answers?

**Editor's note:** The last possibility is not too far fetched as all of the form appears to be completed by the same person, except for the signature of Catherine which is distinctly different.

- 10. Online publication-Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2010. Images reproduced by FamilySearch. Original data-Fourteenth Census of the United States, 1920; (NARA microfilm publication T625, 2076 rolls). Records of the Bureau of the Census, Year: 1920; Census Place: Venice, Los Angeles, California; Roll: T625\_120; Page: 1B; Enumeration District: 627, line 77.
- Online publication-Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012. Original data-United States of America, Bureau of the Census. Sixteenth Census of the United States, 1940; Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1940. T627 Year: 1940; Census Place: Glendale, Los Angeles, California; Roll: T627\_232; Page: 61B; Enumeration District: 19-858, line 63.
- 12. Online publication–Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2002. Original data–United States of America, Bureau of the Census. Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930; Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1930. T626, Year: 1930; Census Place: La Crescenta, Los Angeles, California; Roll: 131; Page: 5A; Enumeration District: 1043; Image: 665.0, line 2.
- 13. State of California Certification of Vital Record, County of Los Angeles Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk, Certificate of Death 5820, 11 April 1959, copy in author's possession.
- Barbara McGuire address book, in possession of Mark McGuire, Des Moines, Washington.
- 15. Catholic Church, Parish of Templetogher, Galway, Dublin, National Library of Ireland, 1973, filmed by Genealogical Society of Utah 1984, FHL 1279259 Item 11 Baptisms 1888.
- 16. Catherine (number 6) and Patrick (number 7) were two of ten children of Michael Collins.
- Catholic Church, Parish of Templetogher, Galway, Dublin, National Library of Ireland, 1973, filmed by Genealogical Society of Utah 1984, FHL 1279259 Item 11 Baptisms 1888.

**Editor's Note:** All photos are courtesy of the author.

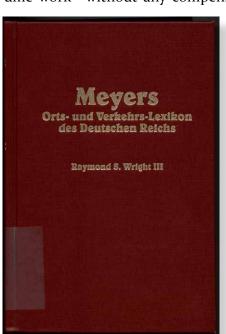
# Meyer's Gazetteer Now Online, Indexed and Fully Searchable!

Fritz Juengling Ph.D., AG

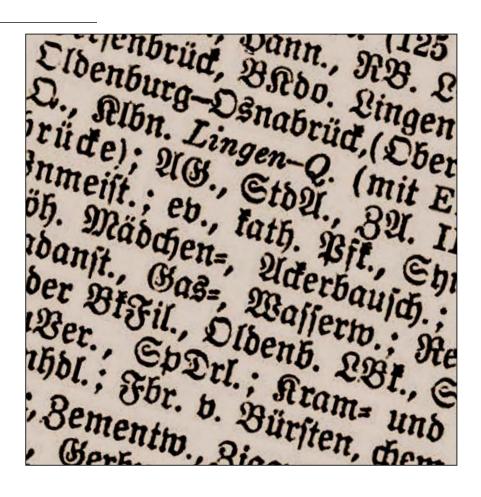
n extremely exciting development in German genealogical research has recently occurred. Meyers Orts- und Verkehrs-Lexikon des Deutschen Reichs (Meyer's) has now been indexed, put online, and coupled with the Karte des Deutschen Reiches. Although versions of Meyer's have been online in various places for some time, this version has many features that set it apart from all others and make it an invaluable tool for German research.

#### **HISTORY OF THE PROJECT**

As early as 1994 Marion Rainey felt inspired to index Meyer's. So, she set herself to the task and for the next 20+ years spent countless hours indexing the multi-volume work—without any compensation or indexing



help. After some time, Brad Coleman, a computer programmer, volunteered to help with the technical and computer aspects of the project. The result of their work is a powerful tool for German research. Their desire is to have this new tool online and free for all researchers forever.



#### Meyers Orts- und Verkehrs-lexikon des deutschen Reichs

This is the most important of all German gazetteers. The goal was to list every place name in the German Empire (1871-1918). It gives the location, *i.e.* the state and other jurisdictions, where the civil registry office was, and parishes if that town had them. It also gives lots of other information about each place. The only drawback to Meyer's is that if a town did not have a parish, it does not tell where the parish was, making reference to other works necessary.

#### **TO ACCESS MEYER'S:**

Type 'meyersgaz.org' into the URL box. Once you have done that, you will come to the Meyersgaz.org homepage where you will see a search box. Type the name of your place in the search box. You can use a wildcard \* (an asterisk) in your search. For example, '\*gheim' will return 'Balgheim, Bergheim, Bietigheim, Billigheim' and anything else that contains 'gheim.' Also, you can type only the beginning of a name and it will return all places that begin with those letters. For example, 'Neu' will return 'Neu Abbau, Neu Abschwangen, Neuacker, Neuafrika' and many others. You do not need to include umlauts, as 'Munchen' will return 'München.' You can

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type umlauts if you wish, but you should not expand umlauts, e.g. 'ü' as 'ue', as that will return no hits. Your search will produce a list of places with that name—all those places of the same name, but with other jurisdictions which will help you identify your town. Choose the town for which you want more information.

Once you are on the town page, you will see the name of your town and a menu that includes the following items: Entry, Map, Ecclesiastical, Related, E-mail, and Feedback.

#### **ENTRY**

You are on the 'entry' page. You will see the entry as it appears in Meyer's, the extraction of the entry, the explanation of the extraction, and a map. The extractions include and are primarily limited to jurisdictions and parish information. The explanations are helpful for those who do not speak German or are not familiar with the old jurisdictions. For example, you will learn what *Kreis, Bezirkskommando*, and *Landgericht* mean. By clicking on 'View entry on PDF of the original page,' you

can see the entire page on which the entry appears. Click on 'Show previous and next entry' to see the previous and following entries. If there was a correction in the Meyer's addendum, this will also be indicated.

#### MAP

After you have read the information on this page, click on 'Map'

in the menu or on the map itself. You will now see your town on the old Karte des deutschen Reiches. This set of maps was produced during the time of the German Empire and so corresponds chronologically to Meyer's. You can zoom in and out. If you click on the words 'Toggle Historical Map' in the upper right-hand corner, you can switch to Google Maps. This is especially helpful if you are searching in Poland or other areas of the former German Empire that are now in other countries. This is because you can get the current, i.e. non-German, name of the town. If you hover

on 'Toggle Historical Map,' you will see a menu. If you click on the menu items, you will see pins appear on the map that correspond to what you have chosen, either Jurisdiction (all places where other jurisdictions are given, such as *Kreis, Bezirkskommando*, and *Landgericht* that are included in the entry), Catholic parishes, Protestant parishes, or Jewish synagogues. This will help you determine the location of the nearest parishes, etc., within a 20-mile radius, should you need to do an area search. You can also click on the pins and the names of corresponding towns will appear.

#### **ECCLESIASTICAL**

When you click on 'Ecclesiastical,' you will get a list of nearby towns that have parishes or synagogues and the distance from your town. This will also help you determine the nearest parishes, etc., within a 20-mile radius, if you need to do an area search. This is the same information that you saw under "Map,' but in a different format.



#### Detail

Type St. - Quakenbrück is a Stadt (City).

Lvl I Pr. - Level I shows which Kingdom or

State the place is located in. Quakenbrück is located in Preussen.

Prov Hann. - The Province shows which Province or State the place is located in. Quakenbrück is located in Hannover.

RB Osnabrück - The Regierungsbezirk for Quakenbrück is Osnabrück. The Regierungsbezirk is a government district that is in hierarchy between the State and Kreis level.



#### **RELATED**

'Related' provides a list of other towns that refer to your town as another jurisdiction, such as *Amtsgericht*.

#### E-MAIL

In this section, for the town in which you are searching, you can add names and your email address so that others who are searching for the same names can contact you. Then you can collaborate and share information. (Please add your search names and contact information!)

#### **FEEDBACK**

Finally, you can also give feedback. This includes corrections, suggestions for improvements or new features, how you use the data, or just a word or two to compliment the owners of the site.

As with most projects, this is a work in progress and will evolve over time. Additions and corrections are being made as of this writing. It is possible that other features may be added in the future. In the meantime, it is hoped that researchers will use this very valuable tool in their research.

To learn more about Meyer's, especially the many abbreviations, see:

Uncapher, Wendy K. How to read & understand Meyers Orts- und Verkehrs-Lexikon des Deutschen Reichs. Janesville, Wisconsin: Origins, 2003.

#### **REFERENCES:**

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#### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

# Fritz Juengling, Ph.D., AG

Ph.D. University of Minnesota: Germanic Philology with minors in both English and Linguistics

**MA University of Minnesota: Germanic Philology** 

BA Western Oregon University: Secondary Education with Honors

BA Western Oregon University: International Studies German Emphasis with Honors

# **Certificate of Graduation from LDS Institutes of Religion**

Germanic Philology is a highly specialized field of study, combining languages, linguistics, paleography and history. For his graduate degrees, Dr. Juengling was required to demonstrate competence in English, German, Medieval Latin and two other modern languages. He chose Dutch and Norwegian. He also took courses in Old, Middle, and Early Modern English, Old and Middle High German, Old Norse (Old Icelandic), Gothic, Old Frisian, Old Saxon, Middle Dutch, history of the English, German, Dutch, and Scandinavian languages, Latin and Greek philology, Latin paleography, and Middle English paleography. He also took a number of courses on English dialects and wrote his dissertation on the formation of Southern Hemisphere dialects of English.

#### **Employment and Service**

German, Dutch and Scandinavian Research Specialist at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City

# A German Translation

The birth and baptismal certificate of Karl August Ernst Hering (1872-1937)

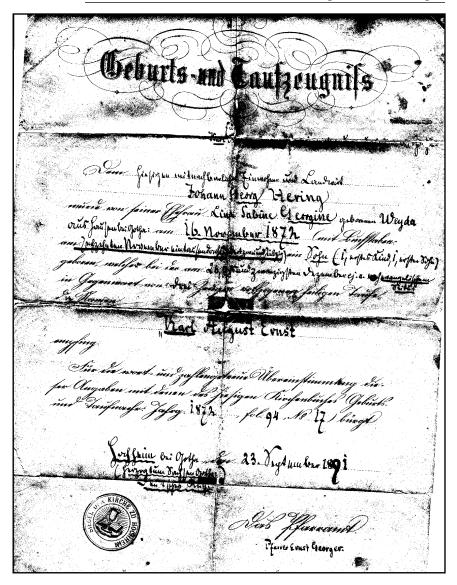
Steve Turner

**Background information from Alena** Wheary: Karl August Ernst Hering was born in Hochheim bei Gotha, Germany, on November 16, 1872, the oldest son of Johann Georg Hering and Lina Sabine Georgine (Weyda) Hering. As a youth, Karl learned the masonry trade. He may have wanted to avoid serving in the military, so in 1891 at the age of 18, he immigrated to the United States. He earned his passage by stoking the ship's boiler fires. Relatives likely sponsored Karl while he worked as a brick mason in Portland, Oregon. He saved his money and bought timberland near Gaston, Oregon, in 1898 with an initial down payment of \$435.00. He married Elizabeth Braune in Multnomah County, Oregon, on May 5, 1912, at the age of 39. Karl died on April 30, 1937, in

Portland, Oregon. Karl and Elizabeth had four children: three daughters (Hilda Charlotte, Margaret, and Selma Pauline) and one son (George Karl), and I am the grand-daughter of Hilda Hering.

**Editor's note:** Alena approached GFO's Library Committee Chair, Steve Turner, for help understanding a German document about her great-grandfather. What follows was Steve's email reply to Alena.

This was a very neat puzzle indeed. Two hours of fun punctuated by many "Omigosh, that's what it is!" moments. To my amazement I think I totally succeeded in getting it all. Four different scripts used: the German Gothic for the title, the printed "handwriting" font in the German style, the more variable actual



German-style handwriting, and handwritten Latin-style lettering used for personal names and the Latin abbreviation ej. a. (ejusdem anni = of the same year), which was the last thing I figured out—nailed it down this morning with the help of the Internet. Endings of adjectives might be off in a couple of cases as the letters can be ambiguous and my command of endings for genders and cases is poor, but I'm sure the original has them all quite as they should be. This document appears to be painstakingly, even hyperaggressively accurate, as befits a German undertaking.

This Certificate of Birth and Baptism was produced 23 Sep 1891 for Karl August Ernst Hering when he was approaching 19; maybe he needed it for military purposes and/or maybe he was preparing to emigrate, even perhaps to avoid the draft? The Internet tells me Hoch-

heim bei Gotha and Hausen bei Gotha are both in what is now Thuringen, whereas the document indicates they were in the Duchy of Sachsen Gotha as of 1891. Here are a transliteration and a translation; underlined names are the names they commonly went by:



#### GEBURTS- UND TAUFZEUGNISS

Für

<u>Karl</u> August Ernst Hering, Maurer aus Hochheim bei Gotha

Dem hiesigen mitnachbarlichen Einwohner und Landwirt Johann Georg Hering wurde von seiner Ehefrau Lina Sabine Georgine geborene Weyda aus Hausen bei Gotha: am 16. November 1872 (mit Buchstaben: am sechzehnten November eintausendachthundertzweiundsiebzig) ein Sohn (1, erstes Kind, 1, erster Sohn) geboren, welcher bei der am 26, sechsundzwanzigsten Dezember ej. a. nach evangelischem Ritus in Gegenwart von drei Zeugen vollzogenen heiligen Taufe die Namen

"Karl August Ernst" empfing.

Für die wort- und zahlengetreue Übereinstimmung dieser Angaben mit denen des heiligen Kirchenbuches (Geburts.

Und Taufnachr. Jahrg. 1872, fol. 94, N<sup>o.</sup> 17) bürgt <u>Hochheim</u> bei Gotha, den 23. September 1891 (<u>Herzogtum Sachsen Gotha</u>:)

<u>Deutsches Reich.</u> SIEGEL DER KIRCHE ZU HOCHHEIM Das Pfarramt

Pfarrer Ernst Georger

#### **BIRTH AND BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE**

for

<u>Karl</u> August Ernst Hering, mason [or builder] from Hochheim bei Gotha

To the local neighboring resident and farmer Johann Georg Hering was by his wedded wife Lina Sabine Georgine nee Weyda from Hausen bei Gotha: on the 16th November 1872 (in letters on the sixteenth November one thousand eight hundred two and seventy) a Son (1, first child, 1, first son) born, who by the on the 26th, twenty sixth December of the same year according to the evangelical [Lutheran] rite in the presence of three witnesses performed holy baptism

the name

"Karl August Ernst" received.

For the word-for-word and numeral-for-numeral true agreement of this Information with that of the holy churchbook [parish register] (Birth and Baptism record year-volume 1872,

folio [page?] 94, No. 17) vouches

Hochheim bei Gotha the 23d September 1891

(Duchy of Sachsen Gotha)

**German Reich** 

SEAL OF THE CHURCH AT HOCHHEIM

The Church Office

**Pastor Ernst Georger** 

[signed by the pastor vouching for the accuracy of the document]



The two long sentences, being German, are in what is a tortured word order for English; put more in English order and simplifying:

To . . . farmer JGH . . . by his wife LSG(W) . . . a son . . . was born on 16 Nov 1872 [recorded two ways for absolute clarity], who received the name KAE in the

evangelical rite of holy baptism performed 26 Dec same year in the presence of 3 witnesses.

[The undersigned] vouches for the exact agreement of this information with that in the parish register (cites book, page and entry number).

# William Henry Davison Brick Wall Update

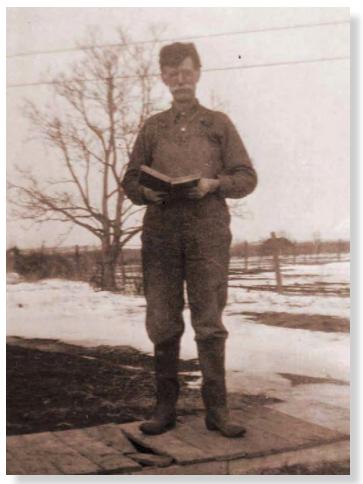
Marti Dell

This is an update to the article published in the March 2015 issue of the Bulletin. As a gift to my mother (who will be turning 80 soon), in December 2015, I decided to hire a professional genealogist to see if they could find more information on William Henry Davison. Both my mother and I have been searching for clues to identify his siblings and parents for at least 40-50 years. It was time for new insights.

am pleased to say that the genealogist I hired was able to find William Henry's naturalization papers. The *Bulletin* article notes that my mother had tried to track them down and had been told that they were destroyed in a fire. So I had not followed-up on that avenue. I learned an important lesson: to follow-up on everything yourself. The genealogist decided to check around to see if the naturalization papers could be located elsewhere and was successful.

With these naturalization papers (she found both the Declaration of Intention and the Petition), we were able to confirm some known records and add other information including:

1. William Henry's birth date and birth place. We had his birth date from other records, but not his birth place.



William Henry Davison, circa 1920. Photo courtesy of author

- 2. The names, birthdates, and birth places of all of his children.
- 3. When and how his family came to the United States. It was on November 20, 1867 by train from Toronto, Canada, to Detroit, Michigan.

This led the professional genealogist to look at the 1861 census for Bolton's Village, Canada, which is the location

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Egal. The wall is a space the signed. The major of the signed of the sig	The part of the pa	were formed and a common of the common of th	Hilliam of Backs and Backs	and other coasts of our coasts our co	of the least one age to the least of the lea	of premiung also also  in a series of a series of the Contract  in a serie

William Henry Davison's Petition for Naturalization.

William Henry listed as his birth place. There she found a Davi(d)son family with a "W. H." of the correct age. Although we still need to find additional confirming information, it appears from the 1861 Canadian census that:

- 1. His parents are Frank and Sarah, born circa 1817 and 1827 respectively, and both born in Ireland.
- 2. His siblings are an older sister, Emily (born circa 1850), an older brother, Frank (born circa 1852), and three younger sisters; Sarah, Ann, and Nancy (born circa 1855, 1857, and 1859, respectively.) Note: Except for Emily, all of the children are listed as having been born in the United States. However, we are suspicious of this designation because William Henry is one of those five and he says he was born in Canada in multiple records.
- 3. His father's occupation at that time was a hotel-keeper.

The genealogist also did a bit more research on Ancestry. com and found potential descendants of Frank Davi(d) son, the probable brother of our William Henry. As I said in the earlier article, part of our frustration is that we had the name for two of William Henry's siblings – a "Frank" Davison from St. Joseph, Missouri, and a "Mrs. T. J. Patton" from Iola, Kansas, but I had never been able to confirm any additional information about them. I knew that I would have to verify the information found about this Frank Davi(d)son that she found on multiple family trees, but at least it gave me a good place to start.

One additional piece of information located was an obituary for Frank. It states he was survived by a sister, "Mrs. Anna Patterson" of Iola, Kansas. Oh my! Patton and Patterson are very close and both lived in Iola, Kansas, one in 1928 (at the time William Henry died) and the other in 1936 (at the time Frank died). This is another clue that points towards this being the correct family, because both Frank and William had a younger sister named Ann or Anna who lived in or near Iola, Kansas, according to their respective obituaries.

Finally, the last item found by the genealogist was a photo of this Frank/Francis Davison with "an unknown brother" posted by a few people on Ancestry. Soon after I received the report, I emailed all 14 of the people who listed this Frank/Francis on Ancestry. Three of them immediately responded saying they had connected to a wrong Frank Davison and were deleting him from their tree (I always consider this a win also). But the fourth gentleman who responded appears to be a direct

JUN 17 1936 M	BUREAU OF V	BOARD OF HEALTH	Do not use this space.
1. PLACE OF DEATH County DISCUSSION Township City Discussion	Registration Distriction Prismary Registration (No. 1707)	4004	1.8674 Pile No. 764 Registered No. 764 St. Ward
2. FULL NAME JYMMIN C.  (a) Residence, No. 170 h x (Urual place of abode)  Length of residence in city or town where death o	June 10 50 00 000 000 000 000 000 000 000 00		oresident, give city or town and State) reign birth? yrs. mos. di
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Saw mill, bank, etc	True 10 years) spent in this occupation.	Other contributory caused of importa	by food fair
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15. MAIDEN NAME CONVO 16. BIRTHPLACE (CITY OR TOWN) GOAL (STATE OR COUNTRY) STATE OR COLOR TOWN A (ADDRESS)	then I	Where did injury occur?	Date of injury , 19.
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= 7 "	Kegitirar.	7	7 17 100

Frank Davison's Death Certificate courtesy of Missouri Public Records (<a href="http://www.sos.mo.gov/images/archives/deathcerts/1936/1936\_0001935.PDF">http://www.sos.mo.gov/images/archives/deathcerts/1936/1936\_00019335.PDF</a>).

descendent of this Frank Davison. I forwarded him the report from the genealogist as well as other information I had on William Henry. I was so happy when he wrote back and said that he agrees. He also now believes that our William Henry Davison was a brother to his Frank Davison. The photo of Frank/Francis Davison with "an unknown brother" shows the unknown brother in profile and wearing a hat. I do not have any photos of William Henry wearing a hat or in profile. However, the bushy mustache is the same, the shape of the jaw is the same, and the "unknown brother" – and Frank – both look a lot like William Henry's children. They look like family as best I can tell from these very old sepia-toned photographs.

Most recently, my mother was contacted on Ancestry.com by another descendent of this Frank Davi(d) son's stating that Ancestry says they are third or fourth cousins. As far as we can tell, the only match is through William Henry and this Frank Davi(d)son.

Although my mother and I still have more research to do on William Henry, his parents, and his siblings, at least we now have confirmed where he was born from the naturalization papers. We also have information about who all of his siblings likely were and the names of his parents. I am so glad I did this. Hiring a professional genealogist for this type of situation was worth every penny to me, and then some.

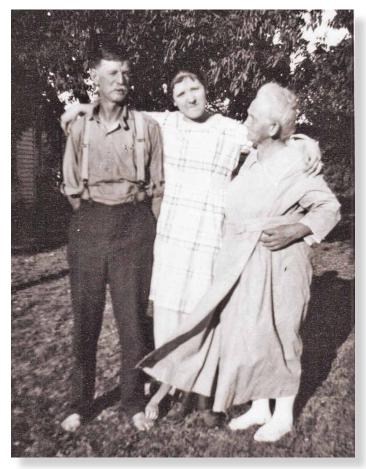


Photo of (L to R) William Henry Davison, (youngest) daughter Merieo Davison Pfefferman, and Maggie (Calvert) Davison. We are not sure whose hand is by William's foot. Photo courtesy of author.

#### First Families of Multnomah County

# Kristen Kristensen/Christen Christensen of Denmark (1866 – 1956)

**Judith Leppert** 

ne of our latest First Families of Multnomah County submissions hails from the windy shores of Denmark. The submitter gave documentation retelling the story of her grandparents' arrival around 1893 in Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon, from Copenhagen, Denmark, in 1886. The earliest available documentation that definitively shows the subject's residence in Multnomah County is a marriage record of the submitter's Danish grandparents dated May 20, 1893. Because this date is after September 11, 1883 (completion of the transcontinental railroad to Portland) but prior to 1905, the documentation qualifies the submitter's ancestors for First Families of Multnomah County "Lewis and Clark Exposition" status.

Christen Christensen was born Kristen Kristensen on October 27, 1866, in Denmark to Christen Hansen Christensen, as evidenced by his death certificate. According to information from the New York Passenger Lists, 1820-1957, Christen Christensen took the ship *Thingvalla* from his Danish homeland, arriving in New York, New York, on April 6, 1885. Danish emigration records, however, show his journey to New York was accomplished aboard the ship *Island* on July 21, 1886, from Bjerreby, Tasinge, Svendborg; Tasinge is an island in south Denmark.

The records also show he used an Americanized version of his Danish name, switching from his original Kristen Kristensen to Christen Christensen, shortly after his arrival in the United States. For example, the 1887 Polk City Directory for Portland shows a "Christensen Christen, bds 24 N 4th." His was a common name at that time, and this record is not confirmed without a doubt to be the submitter's ancestor; however, two pieces of circumstantial evidence convincingly support this being the correct Christen. First, it would be typical for a new immigrant to be boarding when he first arrived in his new country, especially after having so recently journeyed from his immigrant ship's landing site to his destination city in another part of the county. And



Christen Christensen

second, Hans P. Christensen, who is shown in the records to have travelled with Christen on the same ship from Denmark, is also shown in the same city directory as working for Christensen and Hansen, a painting company in the Portland area at that time.

According to the above-mentioned Multnomah County marriage record from May 20, 1893, we see that Christen had, at this point in his history, begun to use his Americanized name. The record shows his marriage to Johanna Hansen at the Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church in the presence of witnesses Hans Christiansen and Christia Jensen. (See Multnomah County Marriage Book Number 10, page 240.)

Interestingly, on the subject of names, additional records following the life of Johanna Christensen and her children, Alfred, Harry, and William, show she sometimes went by "Hannah" and/or "Anna." For example, Enumeration of the Inhabitants of the County of Multnomah, Oregon, for the year 1895 shows Christen Christensen with a Christian and a Hannah living in one household. Further, she is listed as Hannah Hansen on her son Harry's death certificate. The 1900 Federal Census for the 42nd precinct in Portland, Oregon, shows Chris Christensen as the head of the household married to Anna with sons Alfred, age 5; Harry, age 4; and William, age 2. Christen and his wife appear together in every census through 1940, and are shown living at the same home in southeast Portland near Taylor Street for those same years. This is a good reminder that genealogical research often presents the need for a little sleuthing here and there in not only gathering but also in interpreting the details from individual records to understand the whole of our ancestors' stories.

The 1903 Polk City Directory for Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon, is the earliest available record showing that Christen made his living by working with the Bonneville Navigation Company as a ship builder. An unknown newspaper clipping gives the following comments regarding Christen's contributions to the shipbuilding field:

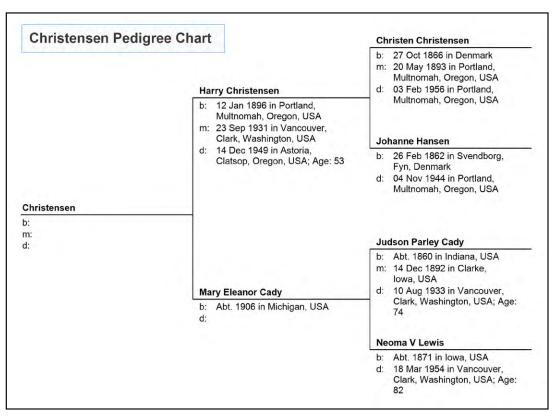
"A veteran boat builder and repairman C. Chris-

tensen, vice president and superintendent of the Portland shipyards in South Portland has charge of the work being done on the Cascades. 'She [the Cascades] is to get new boilers and her decks probably will be remodeled to make them more suitable for sightseeing purposes. She will be able to accommodate from 240 and 250 persons when the work is completed,' Christensen said."

Christen Christensen died in Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon, February 3, 1956, having reached the age of 71 years. His death certificate lists his occupation as ship builder.

Christen and Johanna's second son, Harry, was the father of the submitter of this First Families' application. Harry Chistensen was born January 12, 1896, in Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon, and on September 23, 1931, he married Mary Eleanor Cady, also in Portland. Before they parted ways in June 1939, Harry and Mary gave birth to the First Families applicant on October 18, 1932. Harry's occupation on the birth certificate is listed as Superintendent of Jantzen Beach for the prior five years. The court documents from Harry and Mary's divorce cite domestic cruelty as the reason for Mary's request for their separation, with Harry being accused of having "developed an ungovernable temper" over the previous two years. Harry's death certificate gives his occupation at the time of death, December 14, 1949, as a tavern employee. His death certificate also shows he passed away in Astoria, Clatsop County, Oregon.

While some details can sometimes be more difficult than others to unearth when digging through the historical records that make up our ancestors' stories, they are no less important. Perhaps Christen's success was too overshadowing for his middle son, or perhaps their story is like many others with the twists and turns not needing any particular explanation in the end. Being a third generation from a First Families of Multnomah County ancestor is impressive enough in and of itself.



#### Spotlight

# The Reorganized GFO Library

Marti Dell

Editor's Note: All committee meetings and Board meetings are open to anyone who wishes to attend.

our GFO volunteers are always looking for ways to improve the library. Over the past year or so, we have noticed that even with active management of books, new acquisitions were outpacing de-

acquisitioned items and space was at a premium.

This situation prompted the formation of a space planning committee which met in October and November to develop a plan to deal with a number of space



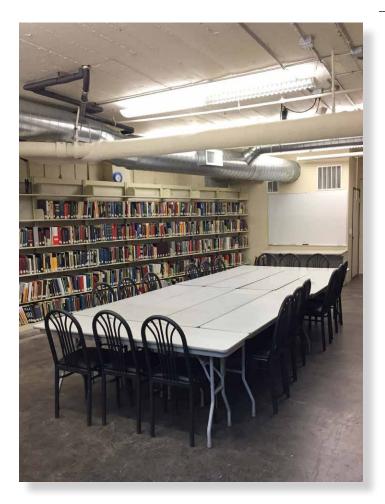


issues, such as how to create more room for new bookshelves and to deal with a number of other issues. For example, since moving into the Ford Building in 2011, our microfilm cabinets have been in two locations—neither of which were near the microfilm readers. Another issue the space planning committee tackled was the collections spanning either side of the library's brick wall which proved to be just that—splitting the books for the British Isles and several U.S. states into an illogical and inconvenient flow. After much discussion and many measurements, the committee was able to bring a comprehensive proposal to the November 2016 board meeting for some major shifts in the library.

The committee first set out a list of goals. They were to:

- Create more shelf space for our growing collection;
- 2. Increase space in the multi-purpose area for presentations;
- 3. Eliminate the flow issues created by the brick wall so the natural flow is not broken and is more intuitive for patrons; and
- 4. Find solutions to store manuscript material on site and out of sight.

The committee's goal was to have everything completed before our Open House in March. The two meetings produced detailed plans which were approved by the



Board, and the changes were implemented very ably by Jerry McGarvin, our facilities manager, with a big push from the many volunteers on #givingTuesday on November 29th. The project was finished more than two months ahead of the planned schedule, and we were all

so amazed and pleased by how quickly the project was accomplished. If you have been to the GFO Library in the past month or so, some of those changes are immediately obvious.

Here are the primary changes, both big and small, about which you should be aware:

- The microfilm cabinets have been moved from the back of the library to the front where they are all together, and they are now close to the microfilm readers.
- 2. The city directories, which were in the space where the microfilm now reside, have been moved back along the same wall to make room for the microfilm cabinets.

- 3. Nanci Remington volunteered overtime to box all the manuscript material stored in file cabinets in the multi-purpose room and the file cabinets were given a new home. The manuscripts were moved to shelves specifically built for them in the GFO office.
- 4. The map cabinet has been moved from the back of the library to the south side of the brick wall where it fits perfectly. In addition, the very large map books that used to be in that space are now in the Oversized Rare Books section.
- 5. One shelf unit was relocated and there is now a walkway on the west side of the brick wall so people can move between the shelves with ease.
- 6. Books for the Pacific Northwest (Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Alaska) have been moved to the east side of the brick wall (previously mostly the British Isles and New England) closest to the research area and the front desk so they are more easily accessible. Although the GFO is very proud of our broad, international collections, many people come into the library specifically for our Pacific Northwest collection. It has always been near the front, but now it is truly front and center.
- 7. The shelves for the oversized books have shifted from their old end-cap location to a wall in the multi-purpose room, and Jerry McGarvin has built a couple matching shelf units to join them.

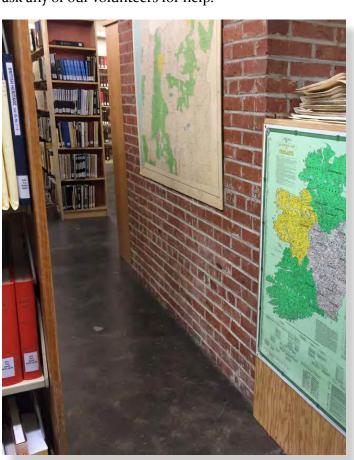


- 8. Thanks to your generous donations, new shelves were purchased, and Jerry installed them as soon as they were delivered.
- All the books in the library have been either shifted slightly or relocated completely.

We want to thank Rose City Moving and Storage for the loan of their "book carts on steroids" which made the whole process easier.

Volunteers and patrons have provided very positive feedback about the reorganization, although it will take a little adjustment for those accustomed to finding things where they were located before the move. We hope you appreciate the

changes the next time you visit the library. Of course, if there is anything you have trouble finding, be sure to ask any of our volunteers for help.





# GFO March 2017 Open House!

### Sunday March 19 – DNA Day!

**9am:** Convincing Family and Strangers to Test and Why

**10:30am:** The Four Autosomal DNA Testing Companies

**12:30pm:** Examples of How Autosomal DNA Testing Solved Genealogical Problems

**2pm:** GEDmatch **3:30pm:** Q and A

# The Leonard Steever– Susannah Seal Bible

#### Nanci Remington

The information found on the pages of this 1805 German Bible suggest that it originally belonged to Leonard Steever, as his name is written inside the front cover not twice, but three times—twice with the surname spelled Steever and below them spelled Stüber.

David Steever 1823 - - - to 1859 Son of Leonard

Marie Polly Steever Sugnet (Daughter of David) 1859 to 1891

Esther Louise Sugnet Bramble (Daughter of Marie Polly) 1891 to

These dates seem to indicate ownership of the Bible rather than lifespans. The Bible lists the marriages, births, and deaths of three generations spanning the years 1759 to 1891. A few locations are noted. Several people were born in Williamsville, Erie County, New York. One person died in Ypsilanti, Michigan.

Some research found that Leonard was born in Pennsylvania, the son of John Jost Steever and his wife, Anna Margaretha. There are many records that tie both men to Upper Paxton Township in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, including John Jost's will, which was recorded there on 28 August 1807. Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application files show that Leonard served in the Revolutionary War. He lived in Upper Paxton until around 1830 when he moved to Erie County, New York. He died in 1850 at the age of 91 years.

Leonard's son David may have moved with his parents to Erie County. He married in 1832 and his children were all born in New York. He died in Erie County, New York, in 1859. After David's death, his widow, Catherine, and some of the children moved to Michigan. In 1880 Catherine was living in Bay County with her daughter Esther. Marie Polly, the next person listed on the inside cover of the Bible, had married Frederick Sugnet and lived in Clare County, Michigan. A few years later her family moved to Arkansas. However, in her later years



Title page of the Leonard Steever–Susannah Seal family Bible, a German Bible published in 1805.

Marie Polly moved to Portland, Oregon. In 1930 she was living with her daughter Esther in the household of Robert Boyce, her grandson. She died there on Christmas Day, 1931.

The last name on the inside cover is Esther Louise. She was born in Erie County, New York, in 1870. On 14 February 1891, she married Charles E. Bramble in Nevada County, Arkansas. Her obituary states that she moved to Oregon in 1922. She died at the home of her daughter Clara Agnes on 22 June 1942 in Cottage Grove, Oregon.

It is not known who owned the Bible after Esther Louise's death. She had a son and two daughters. Two of the children left Oregon and later died in California. In 1919, the third child, Clara Agnes Bramble, married Robert Boyce in Shanghai, China. Clara Agnes and her husband later settled in Cottage Grove, Oregon, where she died in 1994 at the age of 100.

Other surnames of Leonard Steever's descendants discovered when researching the family include:

- Brown
- Hunsberger
- Stever

- Coon
- Morford
- White

- Guggisberg
- Santee
- Wittig

Hartman

#### [INSIDE COVER]

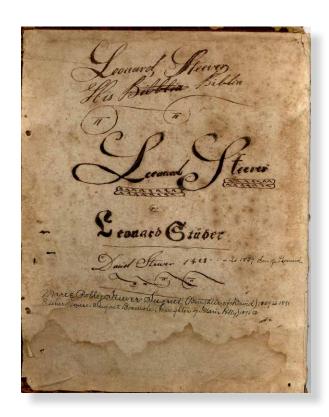
Leonard Steever His <del>Bibblia</del> Biblia

Leonard Steever

Leonard Stüber

David Steever 1823 - - - to 1859 Son of Leonard

Marie Polly Steever Sugnet (Daughter of David) 1859 to 1891 Esther Louise Sugnet Bramble (Daughter of Marie Polly) 1891 to



#### **HEIRATHEN. [MARRIAGES]**

Leonard Steever and Sussanna Seal was marit the 28 day of May in the yeare of our Lord one thousant Eight houndert and ninty four [The above entry has a large X across it.]

Daniel Steever and Sarah dettrick was marit the 5 Day of May in the year of our Lord 1824

John Steever and Reachel Bowen was Marid the 25# Day of Feb. in the Year of our Lord 1830 Samilien. Berzeich niß.

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Leonard Steever and Susanah Seal was marryd the 28 nd day of May in the year of our Lord 18 1795

David Steever and Catharine Richt was married January 17<sup>th</sup> 1837 ["Married" was inserted in another hand.]

Mathias Wittig & Sophronia E. Steever Were maried Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> 1861

Frederick Sugnet & Maria(e) P(olly) Stever Were married August 23rd 1868 [The "a" in Maria is written

over with an "e" and "olly" was added after the "P", both in a different hand and ink from the original.]

Elizabeth Steever and James S White was married on the 6 Day of Feb. in the year of our Lord 1831

#### **GEBURTEN. [BIRTHS]**

Leonard Steever was Born February the 12 in the year of our Lord 1759) Susanna Steever was Born March the 10 in the year of our Lord 1774 - - -Elizabeth Steever was Born June the 1 the year of our Lord 179?) Daniel Steever was Born January the 20 in the year of our Lord 1799) Jacob Steever was Born June the 13 in the year of our Lord 1801) David Steever was Born August the 28 in the year of our Lord 1804 John Steever was Born November the 13 in the year of our Lord 180[?] - - - -



Mary Steever was Born October the 24 in the year of our Lord 1815

Sussanah Daugher of David Steever and Catharine his wife was Born the 11<sup>th</sup> Day of Oct 1837 Sine of fish

Catharine Rich wife of David Steever was born June the 4th in the year of our Lord 1817

Sophronia E was Born the 9 of March in the year of our Lord 1840

### BIBLE PROJECT - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - CAN WORK FROM HOME!

The GFO has a long tradition of collecting Bible records. We often publish them in the Bulletin and provide an index of the records on our website. However, we have a box of records at the library waiting their turn to be published. These can be broken down into three groups:

- Those that have never been transcribed some with the original pages and some that are photocopies. These will need to be transcribed to a Word or text file format.
- 2. Those that have been transcribed and have copies of the original pages. These will need to be proofread and then either retyped or converted to a Word or text document.
- 3. Those where the information was written or typed and given to the GFO without originals or copies. Some of these transcriptions were sent in by owners, while others were copied from Bibles of friends or found in thrift stores. These will need to be retyped or converted to a Word or text document.

The records have all been scanned and can be downloaded so that you can work from home. The original pages are also available at the library. We would love to finish this project by the end of the year. If you can help, please send a note to <a href="manuscripts@gfo.org">manuscripts@gfo.org</a>. As always, many thanks for your continued support.

#### **HEIRATHEN. BORN**

Herriet Steever
Daugher of David
& Catherine Steever
Was born September 25th
in the Year 1842
in the Sign twins
(Williamsvill)
[Insertion; different
handwriting.]

Marie Polly Steever Daugher of David & Catharine Steever was Born March 27nd 1845 beteen 10 and 11 O Clock Scorbune (Williamsvill) [Insertion; different handwriting.]

Catharine Ann was Born November 25th in the year of our Lord 1847 in the Sign of grape in Williamsvill Amherst Erie Co St of NY Wmville

Ester Rachel Stever was born
September 13th 1850
in Willimsvill Sign
of [symbol of bow and arrow?] Erie Co NY
Wmsville



Lusinda Jane
Daugher of David
& Catharin Stever
Was born July 30
at 7 Oclock 1853
in of Tween
stat of NY Williamsville

Millard Fil. Steever was born August 15th 1856

Irene Agnese
Daughter of F. &
Maria(e Polly) Sugnet was
[The "a" in Maria was
written over with an "e" and
"Polly" was added, both in a
different hand and ink from
the original]
Jan (16th) 1869
[16th inserted between
January and 1869 in different
hand and ink]

Esther Louise Daughter of Fred & Maria(e Polly) Sugnet was born A D Sept. 30th A D 1870

[In margin.]

Gerald Alfred Son of Frederick & Maria(e Polly) Sugnet

[The "a" in Maria was written over with an "e" and "Polly" was added, both in a different hand and ink from the original]

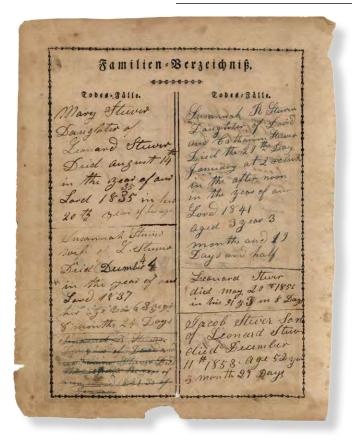
Born March 23nd 1874

#### **TODES • FÄLLE. [DEATHS]**

Mary Steever Daughter of Leonard Steever Died August 14<sup>th</sup> in the year of our Lord 1835 in her 20<sup>th</sup> year of her age

Susannah Steever wife of L. Steever Died Decmber 4 in the year of our Lord 1837 her age was 63 year 8 months 24 Days

Susannah R Steever Daughter of David and Catherine Steever Died 30th Jan the year of our Lord 1841 30 of January



Susannah R Steever Daughter of David and Catharine Steever Died the 29<sup>th</sup> Day January at 2 oclock in the after noon in the year of our Lord 1841 aged 3 year 3 months and 19 Days and half

Leonard Stever died May 20<sup>th</sup> 1850 in his 91 y 3 m 8 Days

Jacob Stever Son of Leonard Stever died December 11<sup>th</sup> 1853. age 52 year 5 month 29 Days

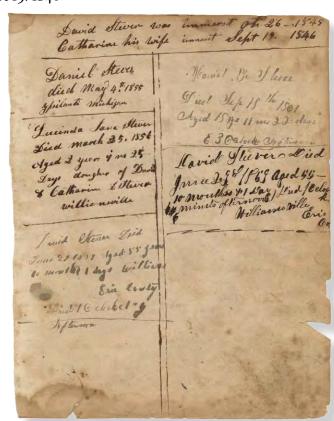
#### [ADDED PAGE]

David Steever was immerst Otc. 26 \_ 1845 Catharine his wife immerst Sept 19. 1846

Daniel Stever died May 4th 1855 Ypsilanti Michigan

Lucinda Jane Stever Died March 25, 1856 Aged 2 years 7 m 25 Days dougher of David & Catharine D Stever Williamsville

David Stever Died June 29 1859 Aged 55 years 10 months 1 days Williams Erie County Died 1 O Clock ? Afternoon



Harriet? Stever
Died Sep 18<sup>th</sup> 1861
Aged 18 yr 11 m 22 days
[?] 3 O clock Afternoon

David Steever Died June 29<sup>th</sup> 1859 aged 55 – 10 months & 1 day Died 1 O clock 6 minets afternoon Williamsville Erie Co

#### Tools for Genealogy

# Probate Records-Double your chances of finding them online

#### Nanci Remington

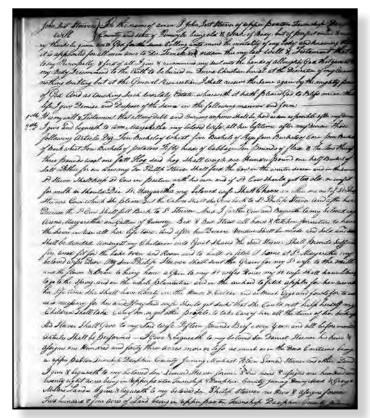
Probate records can be some of the most valuable genealogical sources you find, especially if they were created before there was civil registration of vital records and before the census listed all household members. They can fill in the gaps and give you clues to family, friends, neighbors, and associates.

Until recently you had to travel to local courthouses or other repositories to find these records. Many, but not all, had been microfilmed by the Family History Library. These could be ordered and viewed as if you were in the courthouse reading through the books. This process is not too bad if there were indexes in the books, but very time consuming if not. FamilySearch began putting the films on their website a few years ago, which saved time, but still involved a lot of page turning.

In September of 2015, Ancestry.com released a searchable index and the images for many of these films. They have images of over 170 million records from all 50 states. These include wills, accounts and inventories, guardianships, and petitions. However, it is important to know that not all of the images have been indexed and that these are not all-name indexes.

So how do you find the ones that you want? We will use the names from the Leonard Steever–Susannah Seal Bible (see accompanying article on page 21) to work through the process.

- The Bible stated that Leonard Steever was born 12
   Feb 1759, married 28 May 1795 and died 20 May
   1850. No locations were noted. Some research
   found that he spent most of his life in Dauphin
   County, Pennsylvania. To search for probate records on Ancestry, do the following:
  - a. Go to Search
  - b. Click on *Search All Collections* in the dropdown menu
  - c. Scroll down to the map and click on the statein this case Pennsylvania



Page 1 of 2 of John Jost Steever's will

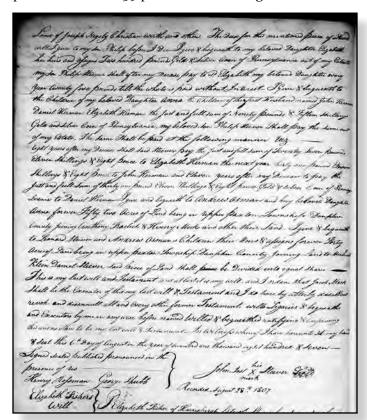
- d. Scroll down and click on *Pennsylvania*, *Wills and Probate Records*. 1683-1993
- 2. This leads you to a search box for Pennsylvania. If you know the county that you want to search be sure to:
  - a. Go to the box on the right side of the page called *Browse this Collection*.
  - b. Find the county in the drop down menu
  - c. Look at the records that are available for that county.
  - d. Now search for your ancestor using the search boxes

Why browse the collection first? Because not all of the names in the records were indexed in the books, and many times only those listed in the book's index are found in the search results. If you know there are images for additional books, you can follow the information from the index to the image of the original documents. For example, the records that are available for Dauphin County are:

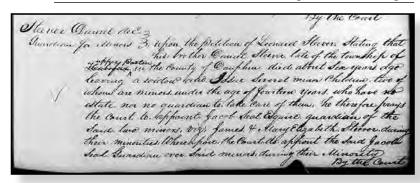
- Orphans Court Dockets, Index A-F, 1785-1937
- Orphans Court Dockets, Index G-M, 1785-1937

- Orphans Court Dockets, Index N-Z, 1785-1937
- Orphans Court Dockets, Vol 1a-1c, 1785-1811
- Orphans Court Dockets, Vol 1d-1e, 1812-1825
- Orphans Court Dockets, Vol 1f-1h, 1825-1835
- Orphans Court Dockets, Vol 1i-1j, 1835-1843
- Orphans Court Dockets, Vol 1k-1m, 1843-1852
- Will Records and Index, 1785-1795 and Orphans Court Docket, 1785-1787
- Wills, Vol 1a-1c, 1785-1814
- Wills, Vol 1d-1e, 1812-1845
- Wills, Vol 1f-1g, 1845-1869
- Wills, Vol 1h, 1869-1875

When I searched for Steever in Dauphin County, I got three results before 1850: two for **John Jost Steever** and one for **Daniel Steever**. The results for John Jost include the *Index for the Wills* book and the image of the will. Pretty clear cut. But the results for Daniel can be misleading. What I found was the *Index for Orphan Court Dockets, N-Z, 1785-1937*. The Ancestry results screen gives the record date as 1839 and the inferred death date as 1839. Clicking on the image will show the probate date of 1839 plus columns that give volume and



Page 2 of 2 of John Jost Steever's will



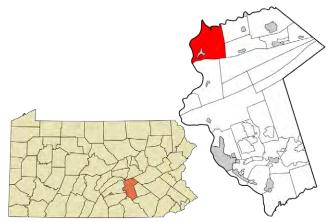
1839 Steever Appointment of Guardian

page numbers for two additional sets of records. One is an administrator account; the other is the Appointment of Guardian. You must return to the browse screen to go to those additional volumes.

Without doing that, it could be assumed that Daniel died in 1839. However, the appointment of guardian reads:

"Upon the petition of Leonard Steever. Stating that his brother Daniel Steever late of the township of upper Paxton in the County of Dauphin died about Six years ago leaving a widow and Issue. Several minor children two of whom are minors under the age of fourteen years who have no estate nor no guardian to take care of them. He therefore prays the court to appoint Jacob Seal Esquire guardian of the Said two minors viz. James & Mary Elizabeth Steever during their minorities."

According to this record, Daniel would have died about 1833, and it gives the township he was living in when he died – Upper Paxton. The next mention of Leonard and Daniel was in September 1846 when there was a final accounting of the estate. Might that have been when the youngest child reached the age of majority?



A map showing the location of Upper Paxton in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania

The above information contradicts what is found online in Steever family trees, most of which show that Daniel Steever, son of John Jost, brother of Leonard, died in 1844.

Leonard Steever's Bible does not name his parents or siblings. However, Leonard had a son named Daniel, and the Daniel who died in 1844 is shown to have a son named Leonard. So is Leonard the son of John Jost, and did he have a brother named Daniel? Perhaps reading the will of John Jost Steever would help.

The index and image are in the same book and were found in the initial search results. The will was recorded August 28, 1807.

John's will turned out to be a treasure trove of information about the family. It named John's wife, Anna Margaretha; sons Philip, Daniel, and Leonard; and daughters Elizabeth and Anna. It named the children of his daughter Anna and her first husband plus the name of Anna's second husband. It described the boundaries of the land that he left to each of the children by naming the neighbors. There are many clues to follow up.

To improve your chances of finding even more information, be sure to go to FamilySearch to see if they have more probate records. These will not show up in the search results when you put in a name. To find them:

- Go to the search page at <a href="https://familysearch.org/search">https://familysearch.org/search</a>
- Click on the map and choose your state
- · Scroll down to Probate and Court records
- Click on Browse the Images to go to the county of interest

Another search to try:

- Go to the search page and then to Catalog
- Click on Keyword and enter your county name and probate
- The images may not be online but can be ordered.

**Hint:** When looking at records on microfilm, it is important to check how many volumes are on a film. In the above example, there are three on one film. You will need to find where each book starts on the film to see if there is an index there for that book.



For a basic overview of United States probate records go to <a href="https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/United\_States\_Probate\_Records">https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/United\_States\_Probate\_Records</a>

For more information about using Ancestry probate records, download their Research Guide at <a href="https://c.mfcreative.com/mars/landing/probates/ProbatesResearchGuide\_final.pdf">https://c.mfcreative.com/mars/landing/probates/ProbatesResearchGuide\_final.pdf</a>

For more information about the scope of the Ancestry. com collection see Randy Seaver's blog post at <a href="http://www.geneamusings.com/2015/09/how-complete-is-ancestry.com-wills-and.html">http://www.geneamusings.com/2015/09/how-complete-is-ancestry.com-wills-and.html</a>

The GFO library has over 150 entries for probate. Be sure to search for probate plus your county to see if we have what you need-http://gfo.ind.opalsinfo.net/bin/home

## Best Will Ever! - John Jost Steever's Will

Paxton Township Dauphin County and State of Pennsylv, being old & weak of Body, but of perfect mind & memory thanks be given unto God for the same Calling unto mind the mortality of my body and knowing that it is appointed for all men once to Die To make and ordain this my last will & Testament that is to say Principally & first of all I give & recommend my soul into the hands of Allmighty God that gave it [?] my Body I recommend to the Earth to be buried in Decent Christian burial at the Discretion of my Executor nothing doubting but at the General Resu-

rection I shall receive the same again by the mighty power of God and as touching Such worldly Estate, wherewith it hath pleased God to Bless me in this life I give Demise and Dispose of the same in the following manner and form ---

1<sup>stly</sup> It is my will and Testament, that all my Debts and Burying expense Shall be paid as soon as possible after my Decease

2<sup>stly</sup> I give and bequeath, to Ann Margaretha my beloved wife, all her lifetime after my Decease those following Articles, Viz, Ten Bushels of wheat five

Bushels of Rye four Bushels of Corn four Bushels of Buck-wheat Ten Bushels of potatoes Fifty heads of Cabbage Ten pounds of flax & the Tow thereof three pounds wool one fatt Hog said hog shall weigh one Hundred pound one half Bushel of Salt Fother for one cow my son Phillip Steever shall feed the cow in the winter season and in the summer s<sup>d</sup> Steever Shall keep s<sup>d</sup> Cow in pasture with his own and if s<sup>d</sup> cow should get too old, or unfit for milk or should Die sd Mararetha my beloved wife Shall Choose an other one out of s<sup>d</sup> Philip Steevers Cows which she please But the Calves shall she Give back to sd Philip Steever. And after her Decease the sd Cow Shall fall Back to s<sup>d</sup> Steever. And I further Give and Bequeath to my beloved wife Anna Margaretha one Gallon of Hunney, Bed & Bed Stead all house & kitchen furniture to have the Same in use all her life time. And after her Decease Residue Shall be made and Sold and [?] shall be divided amongst my Children into Equal Shares The Said Steever Shall provide Sufficient fire wood fit for the bake oven and Room and to hall or fetch it home at sd Margaretha my beloved wifes Door. My Son Philip Steever Shall sent the grain for my s<sup>d</sup> wife to the mill and the flower & Bran, to bring home aGain to my sd wifes House my sd wife shall have liberty to go to the spring, and on the whole plantation and in the orchard to fetch apples for her use all her lifetime She Shall have liberty in the House & Cellar, and as much Eggs and fowls for to eat as is necessary for her and If my said wife should get sick that she Could not help herself my Children Shall take Care of her or get other people, to take care of her all the time of her Sickness. Said Steever Shall Give to my Said Wife Fifteen pounds Beef every Year, and all before mentioned Articles Shall be performed—I Give & bequeath to my beloved Son Daniel Steever his heirs & assigns one Hundred and forty three acres more or less as much as in the Deed Contains being in upper Paxton Township Dauphin County joining Michael Klein Leonard Steever and other Land. I give and bequeath to my beloved Son Leonard Steever forever & his heirs and assigns one hundred and twenty eight acres being in upper Paxton Township & Dauphin County joining Henry Meck & George Millers Land. I give & bequeath to my beloved Son Philip Steever his Heirs & assigns forever Two hundred & four acres of Land being in upper Paxton Township Dauphin County joining Land of Joseph Hegely Christian Wirth

and others. The Deed for this mentioned piece of Land will I give to my son Philip before I Die. I give & bequeath to my beloved Daughter Elizabeth her heirs and assigns Two hundred pounds Gold & Silver coin of Pennsylvania out of my Estate my son Philip Steever shall after my Decease pay to S<sup>d</sup> Elizabeth my beloved Daughter every year twenty five pounds till the whole is paid without Interest. I give & bequeath to the Children of my beloved Daughter Anna, the Children of her first Husband named John Herman Daniel Herman Elizabeth Herman, the Just and full sum of Ninety pounds & Fifteen Shillings Gold and Silver coin of Pennsylvania, my beloved Son Philip Steever Shall pay the same out of my Estate. The Same Shall be paid at the following manner Viz. Eight years after my Decease Shall Said Steever pay the Just and full sum of Twenty Seven pounds Eleven Shillings & Eight pence to Elizabeth Herman the next year thirty one pound Eleven Shillings & Eight pence to John Herman and Eleven years after my Decease to pay the Just and full Sum of thirty one pound Eleven Shillings & Eight pence Gold and Silver Coin of Pennsylvania to Daniel Herman. I give and bequeath to Andrew Osman and my beloved Daughter Anna forever Fifty two Acres of Land being in upper Paxton Township Dauphin County Joining Anthony Froelich & Henery Mack and other their Land. I give & bequeath to Leonard Steever and Andrew Osman's Children their Heirs & assigns forever Forty acres of Land being in upper Paxton Township Dauphin County Joining Land to Michael Klein Daniel Steever, said piece of Land shall piec be Divided into equal shares. This is my last will and Testament and at last it is my will, and I ordain that Jacob Meck Shall be the Executor of this my last will & Testament and I do hereby utterly disallow revoke and disannull all and Every other former Testament, wills Legacies & bequeaths and Executors by me in anywise before named willed & bequeathed ratifying & Confirming this and no other to be my last will & Testament. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand & Seal this 6<sup>th</sup> Day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred & seven.

Signed sealed published pronounced in the Presence of us

Henry Rossman. George Shubb John Jost [insert his X mark] Steever Recorded August 28<sup>th</sup> 1807

# **Bulletin** Index, 2016

The following is an index of names and subjects that have appeared in the *Bulletin* in the year 2016. This list was compiled by Shirley Wilkerson and Cathy Lauer.

Name	Vol	No	Page
Allen, Arthur J	66	2	10
Allen, Charley T	66	2	10
Allen, Francis O	66	2	10
Allen, Georgia A	66	2	10
Allen, James O	66	2	10
Allen, Nancy	66	2	10
Allen , Morris	66	2	11
Amato, Achille	65	3	12
Amato, Albert	65	3	13
Amato, Amalie	65	3	13
Amato, Anthony K	65	3	12
Amato, Francesco Michele	65	3	13
Amato, M	65	3	13
Amato, Mike	65	3	13
Amato, Nathan/Natale	65	3	12
Amato, Prisilla Joy	65	3	12
Amato, Salvatore	65	3	12
Amato, Samuel	65	3	12
Ames, Ira James	66	2	23
Anderson, Family	65	3	14
Anderson, Jeanette	65	3	14
Lavonne	65	3	36
Annan, Thomas	65	4	5
Audry, Bella	65	3	17
Audry, Georgiana	65	3	17
Audry, John Wither	65	3	16
Awdry, Ambrose	65	3	15
Awdry, Caroline	65	3	17
Awdry, Elizabeth	65	3	16
Awdry, Jane	65	3	16
Awdry, John	65	3	15
Awdry, Margaret	65	3	17
Awdry, Mary Oliver	65	3	16
Awdry, Peter	65	3	15
Awdry, Rose	65	3	15
Awdry, Sarah Marie	65	3	16
Awdry, Thomas	65	3	16
Awdry, West	65	3	15
Awdry, William Henry	65	3	17
Baeske, Minerva	65	3	31
Baker, Andrew Jackson	66	1	35
Baker, Bethel August	66	1	35
Baker, Eugene Lock	66	1	35
Bamford, Eliza	65	4	4
Bamford, Thomas	65	4	5
Barnaby, Rebecca	66	2	8
Barrows, Family	65	3	5
Bauman, Minnie Lee	65	3	31
Baxter, Grace M	66	2	13
Bechtler, Christopher	65	3	5
Beckwith, Agnes S	66	2	7
Beckwith, Alfred Edward	66	2	7
Beckwith, Arthur Sutherland	66	2	8

Name	Vol	No	Page
Beckwith, Arthur			
Wellesly	66	2	8
Beckwith, H M Mrs	66	2	7
Beckwith, Harry Mason	66	2	6
Beckwith, Harry Mason	66	2	8
Beckwith, Helen Bernice	66	2	7
Beckwith, Herbert Ralph	66	2	8
Beckwith, J A	66	2	8
Beckwith, J Albert Mrs	66	2	7
Beckwith, John L	66	2	7
Beckwith, John Leander	66	2	8
Beckwith, Norman	66	2	8
Mayhew	•••	_	ŭ
Beckwith, William Sibley	66	2	8
Bennett, Alva	65	3	29
Bennett, Beth Frances	65	3	31
Bennett, Betsy A	65	3	31
Bennett, Edgar	65	3	29
Bennett, Ellsworth D	65	3	29
Bennett, Elva E	65	3	31
Bennett, Mary Lown	65	3	29
Bennett, Minnie Lee	65	3	31
Bennett, Sarah	65	3	29
Elizabeth		_	
Bennett, Shirley Jean Bennett, Theo	65	3	31
Marguerita	65	3	31
Bennett, Wynonia	65	3	31
Bigg, Jane	65	3	17
Black, Laura Moserman	66	2	22
Bosley, Prisilla Joy	65	3	12
Bradford, Henry	66	1	23
Bradford, Mary	66	1	23
Bradford, Rachel	66	1	23
Breckon, William Adrian	65	3	31
Brewer, Mary	66	1	3
Brown, Sarah J	66	2	10
Bryant, Mary Crane	65	4	24
Burnard, E C	65	3	17
Burnett, Averil	66	2	21
Burnett, Daniel Lillie	66	2	21
Burnett, Jonathan	66	2	21
Burras, Family	65	3	5
Burroughs, Family	65	3	5
Butenschoen, Albert Claude	66	1	26
Butenschoen, Elizabeth Marie	66	1	26
Butenschoen, Ernie	66	1	26
Butenschoen, John	66	1	26
Bernard Cantwell, Kathleen	65	4	12
•		-	
Carry Frances	65	3	17
Carrell, Georgia Ann Carrell, Howard Lowell	66	2	9
Carreil, HOWard LOWell	66	2	10

Castleberry, Henry

Name	Vol	No	Page
Castleberry, Katrin/ Catherine	65	3	7
Castleberry, William	65	3	7
Castlebury/Castleberry, Family	65	3	4
Charlescroft, James	65	3	8
Childs, Austin	66	2	21
Childs, Eliza	66	2	21
Christe, Elizabeth Jane	66	2	16
Coffey, Asbury	66	1	23
Coffey, Francis	66	1	23
Coffey, Henry	66	1	23
Coffey, Henry Bradford	66	1	23
Coffey, Laurette	66	1	23
Coffey, Mary Louise	66	1	23
Coffey, Rachel	66	1	23
Coffey, William Benjamin	66	1	23
Collins, Ellen MacIntosh	66	2	36
Cookston, Margaret	65	3	17
Cooper, Francis Marion	66	2	10
Cooper, George Washington	66	2	10
Cooper, James Abraham	66	2	9
Cooper, Lewis E	66	2	12
Cooper, Mary Frances	66	2	10
Cooper, Nancy Ann	66	2	10
Cooper, Robert E	66	2	10
Cooper, Sena Ann	66	2	9
Cooper, Thomas	66	2	9
Cooper, Thomas Harrison	66	2	10
Cornwell, Charles Harrison	66	1	35
Cornwell, Charlotte May "Lottie"	66	1	35
Cornwell, Christian Peter	66	1	35
Cornwell, Henrietta Wilamina "Etta"	66	1	35
Cornwell, Jacob Herbert	66	1	35
Cornwell, Myrtle Florence	66	1	35
Cornwell, Thelma Alice	66	1	35
Cornwell, William J B	66	1	35
Cosad/Cosart, Leah	66	2	20
Cox, Arlene	65	4	36
Crawford, Arthur Charles	65	4	24
Crawford, Charles Henry	65	4	24
Crawford, Julia Marguerite	65	4	24
Culbertson, Bertel	66	1	35
Culbertson, Cedric C J "Jack Dalton"	66	1	35
Culbertson, MacKelroy Arden	66	1	35

Name	Vol	No	Page
Culbertson, Matthew Alexander	66	1	35
Culbertson, Violet E	66	1	35
Davenport, Joyce Estelle Nabower	66	2	38
Davenport, Roy A	66	2	38
Davis, James	65	3	9
De L, Norman	66	2	16
Dell, Marti	65	4	4
Delme, Christiana	65	3	15
Dempsey, Richard	66	2	39
Denny, Andrew Jackson	65	3	29
Denny, Sarah Elizabeth	65	3	29
Dinnen, Charles	65	4	12
Dinnen, Family	65	4	12
Dinnen, James	65	4	12
Dinnen, Margaret	65	4	16
Dinnen, Mary	65	4	12
Dinnen, Tom	65	4	12
Donaldson, Nancy	66	2	9
Dougherty, Family	65	4	12
Downing, Missouri Ann	66	2	10
Early, David	65	4	20
Early, Elizabeth "Lizzie"	65	4	20
Early, Joseph	65	4	20
Early, Mary V	65	4	20
Early, Samuel	65	4	20
Early, Sarah Elizabeth	65	4	20
Ebersole, Mary V	65	4	20
Elam, Dorothy Mae	65	3	20
Emerson, Violet Marvell	66	1	35
Enneking, Marjorie Ann	65	4	36
Evans, Mary C	66	2	10
Evans, Missouri A	66	2	10
Evans, Nancy	66	2	10
Evans, Rebecca J	66	2	10
Evans, Robert W	66	2	10
Evans, Sarah J Evans, Seny Ann	66 66	2	10
Elizabeth			
Evans, Thomas H	66	2	9
Faherty, John	65	4	13
Farnsworth, Anna	66	2	21
Farnsworth, George Mrs	66	2	21
Fawcett, Rose Emma	65	3	17
Fischer, Dora	65	3	31
Frahm, Margaret Christine	65	4	29
Fraser, Ada	65	4	3
Fraser, Adelaide Bamford	65	4	6
Fraser, Alexander Duncan	65	4	4
Fraser, Donald	65	4	2
Fraser, Donald Lionel	65	4	4
Fraser, Harold Jeffrey Darnton	65	4	8
Fraser, Isabelle Jessie	65	4	4

30 March, 2017

Name	Vol	No	Page
Fraser, John	65	4	2
Fraser, John Mauris	65	4	2
Fraser, John Stuart Fraser, Leo	65 65	4	2
Fraser, Nancy Leslie	65	4	2
Fraser, Robert Lincoln	65	4	4
Freeman, Jesse	65	3	4
Freeman, John	65	3	4
Freeman, Malone	65	3	6
Freeman, Robertson Freer, Jessie Mae	65 65	3 4	6 29
Freer, John Forman	65	4	29
Ganner, Frank	65	4	38
Ganner, Ray Lester	65	4	38
Garrett, Jessie	65	4	7
Geitlinger, Nick Gerard, Frances	66 65	1 3	35 8
Gerard, John	65	3	8
Gerard, Thomas (Dr)	65	3	8
Gerrard, Thomas (Dr)	65	3	8
Gillespie, Robert	65	4	6
Gillett, Almyra	66	2	5
Gillett, Chauncy H Gillett, Ella Izora	66 66	2	5 4
Gillett, Emmanual	66	2	5
Gillett, Emmaret	66	2	5
Gillett, Franklin August	66	2	5
Gillett, Isaac	66	2	3
Gillett, Isaac N	66	2	5
Gillett, Lois Olive Gillett, Moses Buekley	66 66	2	5 5
Gillett, Orsamus	66	2	5
Gillett, Prosper	66	2	3
Gillett, Rhoda Jemima	66	2	5
Gillett, Sally	66	2	5
Gillett, Tacy Ann Goddard, Priscilla	66	2	5
Goodwin, James	65 66	2	17 13
Gough, Cecil	65	3	16
Gould, Albert	66	2	23
Gould, Carlton Wilbur	66	2	22
Gould, Frank Solomon	66	2	23
Gould, Gilbert Lafayette Gould, Irwin	66 66	2	22 24
Gould, Jay Lafayette	66	2	24
Gould, Jessie Orintha	66	2	23
Gould, Joseph Isaa	66	2	24
Gould, LaVerne Ernest	66	2	22
Gould, Lucinda May Gould, Melvina	66 66	2	23 24
Gould, Susan Nellie	66	2	22
Gould, William Louis	66	2	23
Gunn, Isabelle Jessie	65	4	4
Guy, Elizabeth	65	3	15
Hacker, Robert Mrs Hall, Everard (Rev)	66 65	1 3	3 16
Hall, Vallie Blanche	66	2	4
Handy, Sadie	66	2	23
Harlan/Harlam, Hannah	66	1	22
Hawes, Elsie May	65	4	2
Henricks, Naomi Herrick, Polly	66	2	4
Herriff, Ida M	66 65	2 4	29
Hickock, Jemima	66	2	3
Higgins, Margaret	65	4	4
Higley, Caroline	66	1	2
Hill, Elizabeth	65	3	17
Hoover, George Kirk Hoover, Kirk Hershall	66 66	1 1	35 35
Hunt, Robert (Rev)	65	3	3
Hunt, William	65	3	4

Name	Vol	No	Page
Hurd, Esther Joye	66	2	14
Hurd, Fanny E	66	2	13
Hurd, Harris Dale	66	2	14
Hurd, Hyla Lucetta	66	2	14
Hurd, Mariane Geneva Hurd, Orisa Ann	66 66	2	14 14
Hurd, Theodore Alonzo	66	2	14
Hyde, Harriet M	66	2	3
Hyde, John	66	2	3
Hyslop, Lily Emma	65	4	4
Jameson, Ernest M	65	3	31
Jesuale, Margaret Jones, Abram	65 65	4	38 9
Kaler, Peter (JP)	65	3	30
Kautz, August C	65	4	29
Kautz, Eugene D	65	4	29
Kautz, Eugene Debs Jr	65	4	29
Kautz, Hans	65	4	29
Kautz, John Freer Kautz, Nancy Ann	65 65	4	29 29
Keinath, Erna Frances	65	3	31
Keinath, Otto	65	3	31
Kesselberg, Heinrich	65	3	7
Kibler, Martin	65	3	5
Kimble, Family	65	3	14
Laise, Angelia Leiser, Eliza	65 66	3 2	13 16
Lenzen, Sylvester Otto	66	2	4
Leslie, Nancy Lois	65	4	4
Litherland, Norman Elwood	65	4	21
Livingstone, William	65	4	5
Lockwood, Lillian Katherine	65	4	24
Lockwood, Reuben Thurston	65	4	24
Lockwood, Sumner Fremont	65	4	25
Lord, George Washington	66	2	23
Lord, Hazel Winifred	66	2	22
Lowell, Grace	66	2	10
Lowell, Mary Frances	66	2	9
Malehorn, Samuel Atwood	66	1	35
Marshall, J C Mrs Marshll, Charles R	66	2	7
Marshll, Eldon P	66	2	7
Marshll, John	66	2	7
Marshll, Zella Fern	66	2	7
Martocello, Florence L	66	2	39
Maynard, Josiah Crudup	65	3	6
Maynard, Sidney	65	3	6
McCarthy, Lois Mary McClintick, Josephine	66	2	10
McClintick, Josephine Anna "Josie" McClintick, Esther	66 66	1	35 35
McClintick, Genora "Nora"	66	1	35
"Nora" McClintick, Glenn Forest	66	1	35
McClintick, Harriet M "Hattie"	66	1	35
McClintick, Hugh Mortin	66	1	35
McClintick, Joseph H	66	1	35
McClintick, Josephine Anna "Josie"	66	1	35
McClintick, Minnie Mary	66	1	35
McClintick, Terence	66	1	35
McClintick, Viletta	66	1	35
McGuire James	66 65	1 7	23
McGuire, James McGuire, Nancy	65 65	3	25 25
count, runtey	33	,	23

Name	Vol	No	Page
McLachlan, Chrisina	65	4	4
Mikkelsen, Brochner	65	4	36
Miller, Ethelyn Miller, Sarah Elizabeth	65 65	3 4	31 20
Monahan, John	65	4	15
Munnerly, Norah	66	2	38
Munro, Arabella	66	2	16
Munro, Eliza	66	2	16
Munro, Hazel Marcella Munro, James Cornelius	66 66	2	16 16
Munro, Mary Matilda	66	2	16
Munro, Robert Henry	66	2	16
Murtha, James	65	4	12
Musser, Robert Henry	66	2	17
Nabower, Walter Otto Neff, Elizabeth Strickler	66 65	2	38 19
Neff, Jacob	65	3	19
Neff, John	65	3	19
Neff, John Henry	65	3	19
Neff, Joseph	65	3	19
Neff, Peter Neff, Samuel	65 65	3	19 19
Newton, Edwin John	66	2	4
Newton, Harold Richard	66	2	4
Olds, Samuel	66	1	23
Oliver, Mary	65	3	17
Packer, Ada Pearl Parish, Abigail	66 66	1 2	35 21
Persing, Leland James	65	3	31
Persuhn/Presuhn,	66	1	26
Wilhelmina			
Peterson, Family	65	3	14
Phelps, Cuthbert Pierce, William	65 66	3	8 17
Prey, Julie Ann	66	2	13
Radcliffe, Elizabeth	65	3	16
Radcliffe, R Heber	65	3	15
Rawlings, James	65	3	8
Rawlins, James Reed, John	65 65	3	8 5
Reid, Hattie	65	4	24
Reid, Margaret	65	3	17
Rice, Mr	66	1	23
Riggs, Betsey	66	2	21
Riggs, Caroline Elizabeth	66	2	21
Riggs, Harmina	66	2	21
Riggs, Jehiel	66	2	21
Riggs, John L	66	2	21
Riggs, John P Riggs, Joseph	66 66	2	20 20
Robinson, Daphney	66	1	23
Robinson, Frank	66	1	24
Rollins, George	65	3	9
Rollins, Rebecca	65	3	9
Roth, Elizabeth Marie Rowe, T J Mrs	66 66	1	26 7
Russell, Zeta Alice	66	2	23
Schaby, Amy	65	3	21
Schaby, Ann Marie	65	3	21
Schaby, Benjamin	65	3	21
Schaby, Julia Schaby, Luretta	65 65	3	21 21
Schaby, Teresa	65 65	3	21
Schiffer, Family	65	3	14
Scott, Agnes	65	4	4
Selfe, Mary	65	3	16
Selleck, Benjamin	66	2	3
Selleck, Delia Ann Selleck, Henry	66 66	2	3
Selleck, Sally	66	2	3

66 2 3

Name	Vol	No	Page
Seward, John	65	3	10
Sinclair, R A	65	4	2
Skov, Eileen	66	2	39
Smith, Daisy	66	1	2
Smith, Glenn Sr	66	1	26
Smith, Mary Remington	65	3	16
Smith, Sinthea/Cynthia	66	1	35
Snowe, Susannah	65	3	8
Spencer, Charles Elmer	66	2	23
Spencer, Veeda Marie	66	2	22
Staley, Joan Cradick Carson	66	2	37
Stansbery, Nancy	66	2	6
Stout, Samuel	65	3	25
Stout/Stott, Hezekiah	65	3	25
Sunderland, Bertha B	66	2	8
Sunderland, C J	66	2	7
Sunderland, Charles J	66	2	8
Sunderland, Elsie M	66	2	8
Sunderland, Maria E Sunderland, Mary A	66 66	2	8
Sunderland, Mary E	66	2	6
Sunderland, Milton	66	2	6
Sunderland, Nancy E	66	2	8
Swain, John	65	3	6
Swain, Richard	65	3	6
Swain, Stephen	65	3	7
Swanson, Oscar	66	2	16
Tarsitano, Concetta	65	3	12
Tarsitano, Emanuela	65	3	14
Taylor, Allie May	66	2	4
Taylor, Daniel Hale	66	2	4
Tracy, P W	65	3	30
Turner, J S	65	3	30
Upchurch, Jubal Van Pelt, Dorothy	65 66	3 1	6 2
Van Wickle, Sophia	66	2	20
Verne, Mae	65	4	38
Vining, Walter A	65	3	31
Vogel, Dorothy Mae	65	3	20
Waggoner, Andrew	66	2	16
Waggoner, Mary Matilda	66	2	16
Waldram, Julia	66	1	3
Walker, Archibald	66	1	22
Walker, Marie	66	i	22
Walker, Rebecca	66	1	22
Walker, Robert Hales	66	1	23
Walker, Ruth Sarah Ann	66	2	22
Jennett Walker, William Everett	66	1	22
Weeks, Arville Delmer	65	3	31
Weise, Mary Louise	65	3	12
Whitaker, Judith	65	3	16
Widmer, Menno R	65	4	24
Wilson, John C	66	2	17
Woltring, Bernhard Henry	66	1	35
Woltring, Leona Elizabeth Loretta	66	1	35
Zimbeck, Emma L	66	2	23

# A History of the Grandparents I Never Had

Reviewed by Harold E. Hinds, Jr.

**Author:** Ivan Jablonka

**Publisher:** Stanford University Press

Publication date: 2016 Pages: 352

**Price:** \$30.00, hardcover

**Order from:** Your favorite bookseller

If you read only one personal family history this year, make it the brilliant but painful story of Ivan Jablonka's discovery of his grandparents, Matès and Idesa Jablonka, who died as prisoners at Auschwitz during the Second World War. A History of the Grandparents I Never Had (Stanford University Press, 2016; translation from the original 2012 French edition) ably combines exhaustive scholarly research, searing personal reflection, masterful storytelling, and careful parsing of the limits of primary and secondary historical sources.

French historian Ivan Jablonka began his quest to discover his grandparents with almost no clues or information, just a few letters and a passport, as well as the recollections of their two surviving children, his father and his aunt.

The story he uncovered began in a central Polish shtetl, Parczew, where young Matès and Idesa were Communist militants, at odds with both Jewish Zionists and Polish authorities. Both were jailed, and upon their release they married. Then in 1937 they fled rampant anti-Semitism for the supposed safety of France. America and Argentina were beyond their financial means, and Palestine would not have been welcoming for anti-Zionists. Yet in France they were stateless, without the necessary documents to secure either legal residency or citizenship. As a result, both were investigated by the Parisian police. Matès was ordered to leave France within five days, then imprisoned, and subsequently released. When Germany invaded France, Matès joined the French Foreign Legion, and despite rough treatment, served honorably.

Upon Matès's demobilization 28 September 1940, he barely missed being interred in a concentration camp or labor camp. Indeed, life in Vichy France became increasingly intolerable for the young couple and their two children, both born in France. Avoiding the police, attempting to earn enough to survive, and hiding out became full-time activities. Finally, on 25 February 1943, Matès and Idesa were arrested and sent to Auschwitz.

Their children, Marcel, the author's father, and Susanne—through the timely assistance of a Pole whose name no one remembers, as well as help from friends of the family, and the Amelot Committee—obtained forged documents, gained financial support, and were sent to the countryside to live with an elderly couple for the duration of the war. Matès and Idesa did not survive Auschwitz. Idesa probably died shortly after arrival. Matès could have been part of the notorious Sonderkommando, prisoners assigned to empty gas chambers and burn corpses. If so, he may have perished when the men of Krematoriums II and IV rebelled on 7 October 1944.

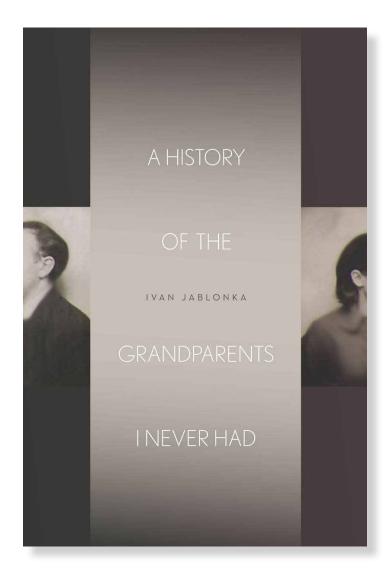
Jablonka's study is well worth reading just for its exceptionally well-told story. But his search for his grandparents is also valuable because it is told as a process of discovery. Within the text he shares his search for evidence and his evaluation of that evidence; and he clearly distinguishes between solid fact-based evidence, iffy evidence, and varying degrees of conjecture. Therefore it is a model study, especially valuable for genealogists and personal family historians who likewise search for any available scraps of evidence, and who often must grapple with questionable evidence or even a complete lack of evidence.

The story of the Jablonkas is divided into three phases: life in Parczew, life in exile in France, and survival and death at Auschwitz. Following are a few examples of the author's diligence in finding and piecing together sources of historical information.

The Yizkor Bukh, or book of remembrance, of Matès's ancestral village, written by World War II survivors, is a key resource for life in Parczew. It is written in Yiddish, which the author neither reads nor speaks, so he hired a translator. He visited central Poland and especially the central Polish State Archives where he discovered court files and confidential police reports for Matès and Idesa. For these rich sources also, he was dependent on Polish interpreters and guides.

Sources for the French years are particularly diverse. In the course of his investigation into his grandparents' sojourn in France, the author used more than twenty archives; met all sorts of witnesses in Poland, Israel, Argentina, and the United States; and read original and translated texts in French, Yiddish, Polish, Spanish, English, and German. One especially impressive example of historical sleuthing and reconstruction for the French years was when Jablonka sought to reconstruct life at Passage d'Eupatoria where Matès and family tried to avoid the Parisian authorities. The author examined the 1936 and 1946 censuses at the archives of the City of Paris and recorded the names of everyone who lived at Numbers 15, 17, and 19 at Passage d'Eupatoria. Then he phoned about 100 total strangers who lived in the region of the Île-de-France and whose surnames matched those of wartime tenants. By this means, Jablonka managed to locate five "reliable witnesses." Their recollections were then meshed with those National Security files at the French National Archives which described tenants who were illegal aliens living at the Passage. Finally, he traveled to Argentina where he interviewed cousins and obtained key family documents. Combining these, as well as numerous other primary and secondary sources, he masterfully reconstructed the Passage's community, Matès and Idesa's arrest, and Marcel and Susanne's avoidance of arrest (see in particular pp. 182-210).

Auschwitz presents an especially difficult task of historical reconstruction. Most Auschwitz archives



were destroyed. The author locates three clues: Matès was transported to Auschwitz in "convoy no. 49." So was Chaim Herman, who when at the camp buried a letter dated 6 November 1944 which was later discovered near a crematorium. Two leaders of the 7 October 1944 revolt of the Sonderkommando were also part of convoy no. 49. None of these mention Matès. However, a survivor of Auschwitz stated that he saw Matès at the camp, and that Matès was an "undertaker." So Matès might have been in the Sonderkommando; but, ultimately the author can only "conjecture." For Idesa, he can only state, "I'll formulate a conjecture within a conjecture." (p. 264).

# The Battle of Wyoming for Liberty and Life

# The Whole Story of the 1778 Battle and Massacre in Wyoming Valley, Pennsylvania

### Reviewed by Molly P. Kernan

**Author:** Mark G. Dziak **Publisher:** Self published

Publication date:2008Pages:305Price:\$17.95

**Order from:** No longer available for purchase,

GFO has a copy.

This book is about a small community that was forced to defend itself during the American Revolutionary War because the Continental Congress refused to supply a militia to aide in its defense. Anyone who is interested in the American Revolutionary War and what life was like for such a community or anyone who had ancestors who lived in Pennsylvania's Wyoming Valley during the American Revolution would find this book a fascinating read.

The Battle of the Wyoming Valley, also known as the Wyoming Massacre, was not a part of any major campaign during the Revolutionary War, though it affected the lives of so many people. This book is intended to tell the complete history of this battle, the massacre, what led up to it, the devastation suffered by those who survived, and the events it triggered when the Continental Congress finally decided to take notice.

The author, Mark G. Dziak, was born and raised in the Wyoming Valley. A graduate from King's College in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, he later became a senior publishing editor for an educational book producer.

Dziak begins by describing the heavy taxation of the American colonies in the 1770s to help pay for Britain's war with France. He then recounts how some rowdy colonists threw snowballs at British soldiers in Boston,

and in response the soldiers fired back, killing five civilians in what became known as the Boston Massacre.

Tensions continued to increase, and colonists began to talk about declaring their independence from Britain. Militias were formed, and storage facilities for armaments were built. Britain sent more troops to stop this, and some British soldiers abused their power over the colonists. On April 19, 1775, British soldiers were ordered to march to Concord to confiscate stores of ammunition and armaments. En route they encountered a group of American militia who were prepared to fight, thus triggering the American Revolutionary War.

Dziak then focuses on Pennsylvania's remote Wyoming Valley region, where many of the settlers were sympathetic to the patriotic cause. On August 8, 1775, a panel of Wyoming Valley patriots made a written declaration, offering their support for the American cause for independence. Wyoming was a small, very isolated settlement in the wilderness, consisting of five townships—Wilkes-Barre, Plymouth, Pittston, Forty (Kingston), and Nanticoke. Wyoming settlers knew that if the War came their way, they would probably have to defend their homes and the settlement themselves.

Tensions grew between American Patriots and Loyalists living in the area. Many of the Loyalists were forced from their homes, and they vowed to take revenge.

Since 1731, people living in the Wyoming Valley had maintained friendly relations with the Iroquois Confederacy, which consisted of the Seneca, Onondaga, Oneida, Cayuga, Mohawk, and later the Tuscarora tribes, but by 1776 that started to change. As American forces searched for allies in Europe, British forces searched for allies amongst disaffected Loyalists and people of the Iroquois Confederacy.

At first the Iroquois Confederacy refused Loyalists' pleas to help crush the Americans into submission. Loyalists continued to urge the Iroquois to fight for their cause, and the Iroquois continued to refuse until one of the Seneca chiefs accused them of being cowards. That was intolerable, and it achieved the desired results: the Mohawk, Seneca, and Cayuga chiefs, finally defending their honor, pledged their support to the British. Meanwhile, the Onondaga chiefs declared that they would remain neutral, and the Oneida and Tuscarora chiefs pledged that if they were to fight, it would be on behalf of the American Patriots.

After Wyoming Valley's Patriot panel gave its declaration of support for the cause of American independence, experienced soldier Colonel Zebulon Butler was given command of the Twenty-fourth Regiment. He oversaw the construction of two forts and the reconstruction of another, so that those living in the settlement would have a place to go if the area came under attack.

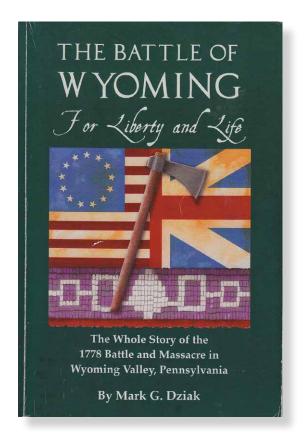
As George Washington called for more troops, recruiters came to the Wyoming Valley and enlisted many of the settlers who were eager to fight. By the time Colonel Butler built his militia, few able-bodied men were still available, so many of those he recruited were old men and very young boys.

As things grew from bad to worse, Colonel Nathan Denison, who was in charge of one of the forts, petitioned the Continental Congress to send soldiers. His request was denied; however, Congress did send guns and ammunition. Denison continued to plead with Congress for support, but each time, he was refused—until late June of 1778, when they finally agreed to combine two broken-down regiments of the Independent Company and order them to march to the Wyoming Valley. By then, it was too late.

In the final days of June 1778, it became clear that the men of the Twenty-fourth were facing a fight. On June 30th, British Loyalists and their Iroquois allies made three attacks on small groups of men who were working away from the settlement. Eight men were killed, two were wounded, and a few others managed to escape and make their way back to Fort Jenkins.

The next day, Colonel Butler led a detail to chase down the enemy, but none were found until they reached the Hadsall Tannery where two of three men had been killed. Butler ordered a small detail to recover the bodies. As they approached, they spotted two Seneca sharpshooters prepared to shoot. Patriots shot at them, injuring one. They chased the other into the river where they bludgeoned him. The squad retrieved the remains of those killed and returned to the Fort.

On July 3, 1778, the British Loyalist Colonel sent a truce party to Fort Jenkins, demanding that Butler surrender the fort, all of its foods, guns, armaments, ammunitions, and all American soldiers. If refused, the Fort would be taken by force and no mercy would be given to those living in or nearby. Butler refused, saying he could not



make that decision without consulting with his officers, and that bought him some time.

Later that day, Butler marched his little militia of 400 towards the enemy stronghold, which consisted of 250 British Loyalists and 450 of their Iroquois allies. Soon after the battle started, it appeared that the Patriots were succeeding in pushing the enemy out of the Wyoming Valley, but the enemy had set a trap. Butler and his men had not realized that they were fighting only half of the British Loyalists and their allies. The other half flanked them, giving them no avenue of escape.

Hundreds were killed during the battle, and many more were killed and scalped in the days after. Those who were spared suffered atrocities and torture and watched in horror as friends and family members were murdered and mutilated, and as their houses and fields were burned and their animals either killed or run off.

Prior to the beginning of the American Revolutionary War, the Wyoming Valley had held a population of about 3,000, but Dziak points out that the Wyoming Massacre triggered what has become known as the "Big Runaway." Some settlers made boats out of the remains of buildings and fences and escaped down the Susquehanna River to Fort Augusta at Sunbury in Northumberland County. Others escaped into the forests and swamps. Many of

the women were pregnant and gave birth in the swamps, and many people, attempting to escape, died before they could get to safety.

Dziak is a very good writer. While I found the background information presented in the first two chapters a little bit slow, chapter three brought the story alive, and as the story progressed I found myself eagerly turning the pages as the story unfolded. It seemed almost as if I was reading a fictional novel that had made it onto The New York Times Best Sellers list. I sometimes found myself revisiting the first two chapters to reread some of the background information in order to get a better understanding of developing events.

The seven chapters of this book are broken into individual sections of just a few paragraphs or a few pages, making it an easy, enjoyable read.

My only criticism is due to my personal preferences. I prefer footnotes to endnotes, which force me to flip to the back of the book to search for sourcing. Additionally, the endnotes provide only the last name of the author of the source along with a page number, which forces the reader to turn to the bibliography to find the full name of the source. My preference would be to obtain all that information on the page that I am reading.

That said, the book is very well sourced with an extensive bibliography, some sources dating back to the early 1800s. It also includes an extensive index of events, places, names of fallen Patriots, survivors, and others who led or participated in or witnessed the events. Additionally, there is an appendix, which includes biographies of leaders of both factions, as well as the text of various surrender agreements. Overall, Dziak has done a masterful job of documenting the story of the 1778 battle and massacre in Wyoming Valley, Pennsylvania.

# GFO March 2017 Open House!

### **Saturday March 18**

**9am:** Comparing Three Testing Companies

**10:30am:** Basics of Y-DNA and mtDNA

12:30pm: atDNA Basics

**2pm:** Organizing Data and Contacting

Matches

**3:30pm:** From Native American to Scottish—Discovering my birth father through DNA testing

## GFO March 2017 Open House!

# Thursday March 23 – Mexican History!

**10am:** Intro to Mexican History for Genealogy

11:30am: Intro to Mexican Records

**1pm:** Probate Records-Introduction

**2:30pm:** US Military Records-Introduction

# The Brix Logging Story: In the Woods of Washington and Oregon

Reviewed by Dale Deatherage

Author: Peter J. Brix & Bryan Penttila

Publisher: BLM LLC, Portland, Oregon, USA

Publication date:2013Pages:150Price:\$29.95

**Order from:** Beverly Warren-Leigh

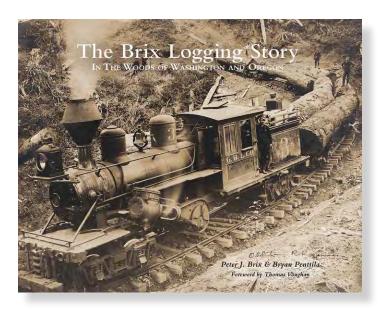
bevw@timepreserved.com

This book is about the Brix family, early logging entrepreneurs, during the glory days of tiny trains and titanic trees in the Pacific Northwest. It is a book suited to the family coffee table, full of pictures and stories. The book covers the family history of the co-author's grandfather from his immigration to Washington in 1881 to his death in Portland in 1948. If you like history, photography, railroading, transportation, forestry, logging, even genealogy, you will enjoy this book.

Peter J. Brix co- authored this book to preserve the family records and to provide clues to others searching out the family lineage. As the grandson of Peter John (P.J.) Brix, he has access to a storehouse of family documents, photos, and correspondence.

The book covers four generations. The first generation was the immigrant parents who came from Germany. Accompanying them were six boys and two girls. The writing style is direct. The use of anecdotes and stories gives a robust picture of the family. To have so much context for an ancestor, when so many of us know only the vitals, would be wonderful.

Each chapter of the book covers a decade. During each decade there are details about the various family ventures, changing fortunes, family births, deaths and marriages, and movements of family members around the Pacific Northwest. As business owners, the family had a significant impact on Southwest Washington and Northwest Oregon for many years.



The facts in the book appear to be well documented. They are taken from family records, letters, photos (some by well-known photographers of the time), business ledgers, newspaper clippings, and eye-witness accounts.

If you are related to the Brix family, or had an ancestor who worked for the various Brix family enterprises, this book might be of great interest. If you had an ancestor involved in the forest industry during the early 1900s, the photos and stories recorded could help you understand what life in the woods was like. This book captures a time, not so long ago, when the Pacific Northwest was a paradise for woodsmen and lumber barons.

### **BOOK REVIEWERS NEEDED**

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

# **Early Gravestones in Southern Maine**

### The Genius of Bartlett Adams

### Reviewed by Gerry Lenzen

**Author:** Ron Romano **Publisher:** The History Press

**Publication date:** 2016 **Pages:** 176

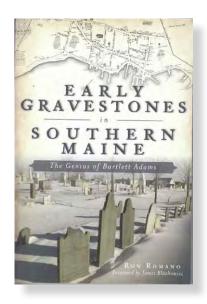
Price: \$21.99, paperback
Order from: arcadiapublishing.com

hose interested in Bartlett Adams's family history; genealogy in southern Maine; the early history of Portland, Maine; stone carvers, cutters, and iconographers; early ship disasters; cemetery enthusiasts; as well as biographers, may find this book of great interest.

Ron Romano wanted to expand the work by Jim Blachowicz about the Kingston, Massachusetts, stone carvers in the Boston area.¹ Bartlett Adams, a stone carver, had gone from Massachusetts to Portland, Maine, where he set up his shop. Blachowicz had told Romano, "I did not attempt an exhaustive canvas of Adams's stones after he moved to Maine." This set Romano on his search for all Adams's work in southern Maine, as well as in several cemeteries in other areas of the state.

Ron Romano is a native of Portland, Maine, and he has an interest in both history and nature. He is an adjunct faculty member at Suffolk University and has served on the board of Emerald Necklace Conservancy in Boston. In 2011 he served on the board of Spirits Alive, "The Friends of Portland's Eastern Cemetery." He currently leads the Historic Walking Tours Program at Eastern Cemetery and lectures both locally and nationally about his own research on Bartlett Adams.

Early Gravestones describes the first tombstone cutter in the Portland area in 150 years. It gives the history of Bartlett Adams and his family, providing a good discussion of the early births and deaths of many members of this family that was fraught with much tragedy.



This book features the work of Bartlett Adams, who was born in Kingston, Massachusetts, October 24, 1776, and died in Portland, Maine, January 27, 1828. He was a prolific carver, and Romano discovered more than 1,750 stones created by Adams in 133 Maine cemeteries. His designs and stone shape are very distinctive and creative.

The text, which is organized in chronological order, makes for a very effective technique for presenting other state and world events that occurred during Adams's life. These events are reflected in some of his carvings.

The material seems well researched. Because it is primarily the work of Ron Romano telling of his searches throughout the greater Portland peninsula, there are no footnotes; however, there are five pages of bibliography and general references. Appendix B lists the 133 cemeteries and the number of Adams's stones in each cemetery. A three-page index is included.

This is an interesting book about the history of a family and the works done by its patriarch. It includes the author's pertinent observations about the drama in the family's life. Most of Bartlett Adams's children died young; six before he and his wife, Charlotte, died. One daughter bore three children before she died at age twenty-four. These were the only grandchildren of Adams.

Anyone who has an interest in gravestones and in the history of the Portland, Maine, area from the latter 1700s to the beginning of the 1800s would find Romano's piece a fascinating read.

#### **ENDNOTES**

 From Slate to Marble: Gravestone Carving Traditions in Eastern Massachusetts, 1770–1870.

# White Slave Children of Colonial Maryland and Virginia

## **Birth and Shipping Records**

### Reviewed by Joan Galles

**Author:** Richard Hayes Phillips, Ph.D.

**Publisher:** Genealogical Publishing Company

Publication date: 2015 Pages: 393

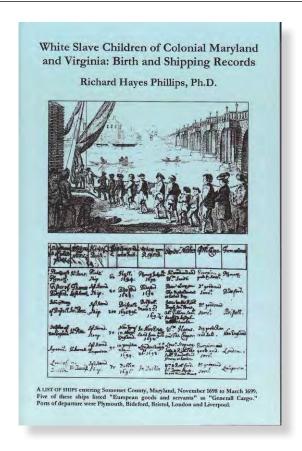
**Price:** \$39.95 + \$5.50 shipping

**Order from:** <u>genealogical.com</u>

This book is a companion volume to a book by the same author reviewed in the December 2014 Bulletin: Without Indentures: Index to White Slave Children in Colonial Court Records (Maryland and Virginia). Like its predecessor, this book is for families researching their ancestors who came from the British Isles between 1660 and 1720, and for historians studying early American history, the development of the colonies, and particularly the role of slavery. Those interested in social justice and civil rights may also find this book noteworthy. During the seventeenth century, nearly all the forced labor in Maryland and Virginia was provided by white children. This book attempts to trace their origin.

Richard Hayes Phillips has searched birth and baptism records with the express purpose of matching them to individuals listed in court slave documents. Phillips, a descendant of James Hambleton, discovered his ancestor was "kidnapped from the coast of New England and sold into slavery in Virginia." New Hampshire records showed a James Hambleton for whom there was nothing but a birth record. Virginia records contained a reference to a James Hambleton for whom there was nothing but a will. Research revealed a Westmoreland County, Virginia, court order book in which Hambleton was sentenced into slavery on 26 April 1699.

This book explores in more depth the origins (through birth and baptismal records) of children who were enslaved in Maryland and Virginia in the late 1600s and



early 1700s. Dr. Phillips researched ports of embarkation and ports of entry and matched birth and baptism records with probable names in court slavery records. Phillips hopes to refute any of those "who excuse or defend this kidnapping of children found begging and vagrant in the streets . . . asserting that these destitute orphans were better off as slaves on the plantations... I disagree with the basic premise that anyone can or should own another human soul."

Phillips's diligence has revealed that very few of these children were orphans and not all came from destitute families. Many were likely simply on the street at the time and convenient to take for commercial purposes.

The author explains what his research has found and why it is important, and he has documented his findings. He then provides lists of children and information about them, including identified siblings, parents, date and place of baptism, and date of their court appearance. Included are lists of the various ships that transported these children across the seas, the duty paid for the children, and the date the duty was paid. Additionally, Phillips provides sections entitled "Profiles of Child Traffickers," "Owners of White Slave Ships," and "Index to Revolutionaries," which lists some of the families who descended from these original white slaves.

### **Extracts**

# **Biographical Index Hyland-Kindred**

### Submitted by Loretta Welsh

For more information about the source of this list, see the October 2014 *Bulletin*, page 33.

Company	Circa Nome	Commonto	Dool: Codo	Door
Surname	Given Name	Comments	Book Code	Page
Hyland	Amos Damon	home drawing, pg 160	Wall-IHLC	484
Hyland	B S	home drawing, pg 400	Wall-IHLC	490
Hynd	Robert Forbes	incl. portrait	Clar-HCRV2	550
Hynson	G Lee (M D)		Clar-HCRV3	406
Hyskell	Charles M		Gast-POHB2	727
Idleman	Cicero M		Clar-HCRV2	626
Ifft	George Nicholas (II)	incl. portrait	Down-ENWB	264
Iler	Savil W		Chap-PBRP	694
Iler	W E		Lang-HWV	677
Iler	William E		Chap-PBRW	1381
Imbler	Albert E		Gast-CHO4	556
Imbler	Edward W		West-IHUW	587
Imbrie	Thomas Robb		Gast-CHO2	809
Imbrie	James		Lang-HWV	659
Imel	John Gray (Prof)		Gast-CHO4	90
Imlay	James B	incl. portrait	Clar-HCRV3	144
lmus	Zachariah J		Chap-PBRW	1267
Ingle	George Benton		Gast-CHO3	811
Ingle	James Claude		Gast-CHO3	810
Ingledue	William		Gast-CHO4	927
Ingram	Clarence		Gast-CHO4	1074
Ingram	Frank L (D M D)		Gast-CHO3	242
Inman	Joel C	home drawing, pg 224	Wall-IHLC	485
Inman	Robert D (Hon)		Chap-PBRP	147
Inman	Robert D (Hon)	incl. portrait	Chap-PBRW	147
Inman	Robert David		Clar-HCRV3	819
Ireland	DeWitt C		West-IHCO	516
Ireland	Edward Clark		Gast-CHO3	283
Ireland	John Preston		Gast-CHO3	683
Ireland	Reade M		Clar-HCRV2	686
Ireland	Theron A		Chap-PBRW	914
Ireland	William P		Chap-PBRW	766
Iremonger	Benjamin		West-IHCO	671
Irvin	John P		Gast-CHO4	517
Irvine	Benjamin Harrison		Gast-CHO4	864
Irvine	EL		Chap-PBRP	143
Irvine	EL		Chap-PBRW	143
Irvine	E L (MD)		Lang-HWV	842
Irvine	Frank		West-IHCO	406
Irvine	J D		Lang-HWV	769
Irvine	Osbert E		West-IHCO	1007
Irvine	Robert Armington		Chap-PBRP	139
Irvine	Robert Armington		Chap-PBRW	139
Irvine	Samuel Glasgow (Rev)		Chap-PBRW	508
Irving	William (Capt)		Gast-POHB3	118
Irwin	J R	incl. portrait	Gast-CHO2	512
Irwin	James H (M D)		Down-ENWB	217
Irwin	John		Gast-CHO4	339
Irwin	R S (Hon)		Chap-PBRW	1350

Surname	Given Name	Comments	Book Code	Page
Irwin	Richard		Chap-PBRW	1280
Irwin	W J		Hine-IHO	761
Isaac	S T (Capt)		Hine-IHO	418
Isaacs	Henry M		Clar-HCRV2	788
Isaminger	Orville D	incl. portrait	Gast-CHO3	270
Isenberg	F Howard		West-IHCO	344
Isenberg	Miles P		West-IHCO	345
Isham	John Myron		Gast-CHO2	593
Isom	Jefferson D		Chap-PBRW	969
Isom	John		Hine-IHO	1098
Isom	John		Lang-HWV	807
Ison	Leslie Oscar		Gast-CHO3	1084
Ison	Luther Buford (Judge)		Gast-CHO2	643
Ison	Oliver P		Gast-CHO3	40
Ison	Virgil S (Dr)		Gast-CHO2	89
Israel	John D		Hine-IHO	459
Jack	Andrew		Hine-IHO	1108
Jack	Calvin		Hine-IHO	933
Jack	Joseph J		Gast-CHO2	969
Jack	William Allen		Chap-PBRP	340
Jack	William Sherman		Gast-CHO2	305
Jackson	Carl H		Chap-PBRP	144
Jackson	Carl H		Chap-PBRW	144
Jackson	Charles Samuel		Clar-HCRV3	986
Jackson	Charles Samuel		Gast-POHB2	167
Jackson	Francis M		West-IHCO	324
Jackson	George W		Gast-CHO3	262
Jackson	James (Col)		Chap-PBRP	67
Jackson	James (Col)		Chap-PBRW	67
Jackson	James (Col)		Gast-POHB2	480
Jackson	John		Gast-CHO3	389
Jackson	John B		Clar-HCRV2	448
Jackson	John S		Hine-IHO	948
Jackson	Philip E		Chap-PBRW	1521
Jackson	Wesley		Chap-PBRP	143
Jackson	Wesley	incl. portrait	Chap-PBRW	143
Jackson	William C		Chap-PBRW	886
Jackson	William F		West-IHCO	485
Jackson	William L		Chap-PBRW	816
Jackson	William M		Chap-PBRP	257
Jacob	Barnhard		Gast-CHO2	851
Jacob	Robert T		Clar-HCRV2	444
Jacob	Vincent		Gast-CHO4	1078
Jacobs	Adolph R		Clar-HCRV3	766
Jacobs	Arley Randolph		Down-ENWB	272
Jacobs	J W		Gast-CHO2	443
Jacobs	J W		Gast-CHO3	565
Jacobs	Walter E		Gast-CHO3	282
Jacobs	Walter E		Hine-IHO	251
Jacobsen	WN	incl. portrait	Gast-CHO4	506
Jacobson	Clarence S		Gast-POHB2	749

Surname	Given Name	Comments	Book Code	Page
Jacobson	Henry J	Comments	Clar-HCRV3	539
Jacobson	Oscar F (Capt)	incl. portrait	Gast-CHO2	184
Jacobson	William		Gast-CHO4	937
Jaeger	John M		Hine-IHO	657
Jaggar	Benjamin		Gast-POHB2	742
Jaggar	Louis		Gast-POHB3	140
Jaggar	SC		CofC-MO	61
Jaksha	Martin		West-IHCO	341
James	ВН		Wall-IHLC	500
James	Charles W		Hine-IHO	1291
James	George E		West-IHCO	507
James	John T		Chap-PBRW	913
James	WH		Lang-HWV	770
James	William		Gast-CHO4	805
Jameson	William J		Down-ENWB	172
Jamieson	Amaziah A		Gast-CHO4	647
Jamison	Ewing B		Chap-PBRW	1382
Janelle	Joseph Albert		Gast-CHO4	775
Janes	Arthur S		Gast-CHO3	1078
Janney	George B		Hine-IHO	1103
Janney	Phineas		Lang-HWV	887
Jantzen	Carl C		Clar-HCRV3	843
Jaques	Thomas		Gast-CHO3	849
Jarnigan	Allen J		Lang-HWV	845
Jarvis	Earl G		Clar-HCRV2	285
Jasper	George M		West-IHUW	409
Jayne	Andrew A (Hon)		West-IHCO	398
Jayne	Robert A (M D)		Chap-PBRW	1136
Jefferson	Willard J	incl. portrait	Gast-CHO4	158
Jeffery	Edward James	incl. portrait	Clar-HCRV3	740
Jeffery	Edward James		Gast-POHB2	557
Jeffery	Edward James	incl. portrait 490a	Scot-HPO	577
Jeffery	Oliver K		Clar-HCRV3	661
Jeffries	FS		Lang-HWV	770
Jeffries	Theodore		Chap-PBRW	783
Jellison	John Anderson		Gast-CHO2	573
Jenkins	Carey H (D M D)		West-IHCO	272
Jenkins	Eugene		Gast-CHO2	841
Jenkins	George Washington		Gast-CHO2	499
Jenkins	Thomas		Wall-IHLC	498
Jenne	Eugene S		Chap-PBRP	255
Jenning	Charles		Clar-HCRV3	466
Jenning	Frederick O		Clar-HCRV3	490
Jenning	Henry		Clar-HCRV3	462
Jennings	Augustus C (Hon)		Chap-PBRW	1078
Jennings	Berryman		Lang-HWV	677
Jennings	C E (Hon)		West-IHUW	566
Jennings	Joseph C		Wall-IHLC	501
Jennings	Ralph G	incl. portrait	Gast-CHO4	488
Jennings	Solomon S	incl. portrait	Gast-CHO4	824
Jensen	Andrew		Gast-CHO2	691
Jensen	Claude S		Clar-HCRV3	647
Jensen	M		Hine-IHO	1091
Jensen	Mads C		Gast-CHO3	437
Jensen	Theodore		Gast-POHB3	777
Jeppesen	Peter		Gast-POHB3	345
Jerman	William J	incl. portrait	Chap-PBRW	489
Jernstedt	Frank		Gast-CHO2	581
	LIL (D)		Gast-CHO2	348
Jessen	J H (Dr)		Gast-Crioz	340
Jessen Jessup	S R (MD)		Lang-HWV	851

Jette	Surname	Given Name	Comments	Book Code	Page
Jewett			Comments		
Jewett					
John					
John			incl portrait		
Johns			ilici. portrait		
Johns					
Johns					
Johnson			incl portrait		
Johnson			inci. portruit		-
Johnson			incl portrait		
Johnson					
Johnson		, ,			
Johnson			incl. portrait		
Johnson					
Johnson C B Chap-PBRP 828  Johnson C D Clar-HCRV3 859  Johnson C L (Captain) Clar-HCRV2 107  Johnson Charles C Gast-CHO4 883  Johnson Charles E Gast-CHO4 959  Johnson Charles N Gast-CHO2 951  Johnson Charles N Gast-CHO2 951  Johnson Charles R Gast-CHO3 392  Johnson Daniel Lang-HWV 624  Johnson David Lang-HWV 625  Johnson Eben W Chap-PBRP 456  Johnson Edwin T Gast-CHO2 305  Johnson Elwood C Gast-CHO4 860  Johnson Eveen West-HCO 766  Johnson Frank S incl. portrait Gast-CHO3 337  Johnson Frank S incl. portrait West-IHUW 642  Johnson Frank S incl. portrait West-IHUW 642  Johnson Frank S incl. portrait West-IHUW 642  Johnson Gabriel (Dr) Wall-IHLC 498  Johnson Gabriel (Dr) Wall-IHLC 498  Johnson George C Clar-HCRV3 953  Johnson George R Chap-PBRW 608  Johnson H A Lang-HWV 678  Johnson H A Lang-HWV 770  Johnson H A Lang-HWV 770  Johnson Hazen D Gast-CHO4 1019  Johnson Johnson Johnson James Lang-HWV 679  Johnson James Lang-HWV 679  Johnson James Lang-HWV 679  Johnson James Lang-HWV 773  Johnson James Lang-HWV 679  Johnson James Augustin Down-ENWB 401  Johnson James Augustin Down-ENWB 407					
Johnson C D Clar-HCRV3 859  Johnson C L (Captain) Clar-HCRV2 107  Johnson Charles C Gast-CHO4 883  Johnson Charles E Gast-CHO4 959  Johnson Charles N Gast-CHO2 951  Johnson Charles N Gast-CHO3 392  Johnson Daniel Lang-HWV 624  Johnson David Lang-HWV 625  Johnson Eben W Chap-PBRP 456  Johnson Elwood C Gast-CHO2 305  Johnson Ewen West-IHCO 766  Johnson F M (Hon) Hine-IHO 255  Johnson Frank S incl. portrait Gast-CHO3 824  Johnson Franklin P (M D)  Johnson Gabriel (Dr) Wall-IHLC 498  Johnson George C Clar-HCRV3 393  Johnson Giles B Gast-CHO3 465  Johnson H A Lang-HWV 624  Johnson H A Lang-HWV 625  Johnson H A Lang-HWV 625  Johnson H A Lang-HWV 625  Johnson H A Lang-HWV 626  Johnson H A Lang-HWV 627  Johnson H A Lang-HWV 628  Johnson H A Lang-HWV 638  Johnson James Lang-HWV 638  Johnson James Lang-HWV 639  Johnson James Lang-HWV 639  Johnson James Catlin Chap-PBRW 1514  Johnson James Catlin Chap-PBRW 1514					
Johnson CL (Captain) Clar-HCRV2 107 Johnson Charles C Gast-CHO4 883 Johnson Charles E Gast-CHO4 959 Johnson Charles N Gast-CHO2 951 Johnson Charles N Gast-CHO3 392 Johnson Daniel Lang-HWV 624 Johnson Eben W Chap-PBRP 456 Johnson Edwin T Gast-CHO2 305 Johnson Elwood C Gast-CHO2 307 Johnson Ernest F Gast-CHO2 307 Johnson Ewen West-IHCO 766 Johnson F M (Hon) Hine-IHO 255 Johnson Frank S incl. portrait Gast-CHO3 824 Johnson Frank In P (M D) Johnson Gabriel (Dr) Wall-HILC 498 Johnson George C Clar-HCRV2 913 Johnson George W Hine-IHO 1097 Johnson Giles B Gast-CHO3 465 Johnson H A Lang-HWV 678 Johnson H A Lang-HWV 678 Johnson Hazen D Gast-CHO4 1100 Johnson Hezekiah Lang-HWV 638 Johnson Johnson Hezekiah Lang-HWV 638 Johnson Howard A (Chief Justice) Johnson James Lang-HWV 638 Johnson James Lang-HWV 678 Johnson James Lang-HWV 679 Johnson James Lang-HWV 679 Johnson James Lang-HWV 679 Johnson James Lang-HWV 679 Johnson James Catlin Chap-PBRW 1514 Johnson James Catlin Chap-PBRW 1514					
Johnson Charles C Gast-CHO4 883  Johnson Charles E Gast-CHO4 959  Johnson Charles N Gast-CHO2 951  Johnson Charles N Gast-CHO2 951  Johnson Charles N Gast-CHO3 392  Johnson Daniel Lang-HWV 624  Johnson David Lang-HWV 625  Johnson Eben W Chap-PBRP 456  Johnson Elwood C Gast-CHO2 305  Johnson Ewen West-IHCO 766  Johnson F M (Hon) Hine-IHO 255  Johnson Frank S incl. portrait West-IHUW 642  Johnson Frank S incl. portrait West-IHUW 642  Johnson Gabriel (Dr) Wall-IHLC 498  Johnson George C Clar-HCRV3 953  Johnson Giles B Gast-CHO3 465  Johnson H A Lang-HWV 678  Johnson H A Hine-IHO 1100  Johnson H A Hine-IHO 1100  Johnson H A Hine-IHO 1100  Johnson Hazen D Gast-CHO4 1019  Johnson Johnson James Lang-HWV 625  Johnson James Cattin Chap-PBRW 1514					
Johnson Charles E Gast-CHO4 959 Johnson Charles N Gast-CHO2 951 Johnson Charles Nelson incl. portrait Clar-HCRV3 552 Johnson Daniel Lang-HWV 624 Johnson David Lang-HWV 625 Johnson Edwin T Gast-CHO2 305 Johnson Elwood C Gast-CHO2 305 Johnson Ernest F Gast-CHO2 307 Johnson Ewen West-IHCO 766 Johnson F M (Hon) Hine-IHO 255 Johnson Frank S incl. portrait West-IHUW 642 Johnson Frank S incl. portrait West-IHUW 642 Johnson Frank S incl. portrait West-IHUW 642 Johnson G W Hine-IHO 450 Johnson Gabriel (Dr) Wall-IHLC 498 Johnson George C Clar-HCRV2 933 Johnson George R Chap-PBRW 608 Johnson Gies B Gast-CHO3 465 Johnson H A Lang-HWV 678 Johnson H A Lang-HWV 770 Johnson H Company Mest-IHO 1100 Johnson H Company Mest-IHO 1100 Johnson H H Hine-IHO 1097 Johnson Gies B Gast-CHO3 465 Johnson H H Hine-IHO 1097 Johnson H H Hine-IHO 1100 Johnson H O V (MD) Lang-HWV 678 Johnson H Company Mest-IHO 1100 Johnson Johnson James Lang-HWV 638 Johnson James Lang-HWV 625 Johnson James Lang-HWW 625					
Johnson Charles N Gast-CHO2 951 Johnson Charles Nelson incl. portrait Clar-HCRV3 552 Johnson Charles T Gast-CHO3 392 Johnson Daniel Lang-HWV 624 Johnson David Lang-HWV 625 Johnson Eben W Chap-PBRP 456 Johnson Edwin T Gast-CHO2 305 Johnson Elwood C Gast-CHO2 337 Johnson Ernest F Gast-CHO2 337 Johnson FM (Hon) Hine-IHO 255 Johnson FRAN S incl. portrait Gast-CHO3 824 Johnson Frank S incl. portrait West-IHLUW 642 Johnson Frank S incl. portrait West-IHLUW 642 Johnson Frank In P (M D) Clar-HCRV2 913 Johnson Gabriel (Dr) Wall-IHLC 498 Johnson George C Clar-HCRV3 953 Johnson George R Chap-PBRW 608 Johnson George W Hine-IHO 1097 Johnson Giles B Gast-CHO3 465 Johnson H A Lang-HWV 678 Johnson H A Lang-HWV 770 Johnson Hazen D Gast-CHO4 1019 Johnson Hezekiah Lang-HWV 638 Johnson Hezekiah Lang-HWV 638 Johnson Johnson James Lang-HWV 625 Johnson James Lang-HWW 625 Johnson James Lang-HWW 625 Johnson James Lang-HWW 625					
Johnson Charles Nelson (Charles T Gast-CHO3 392)  Johnson Daniel Lang-HWV 624  Johnson David Lang-HWV 625  Johnson Eben W Chap-PBRP 456  Johnson Elwood C Gast-CHO2 305  Johnson Ernest F Gast-CHO2 337  Johnson Ewen West-IHCO 766  Johnson FM (Hon) Hine-IHO 255  Johnson Frank S incl. portrait Gast-CHO3 824  Johnson Frank S incl. portrait West-IHUW 642  Johnson Frank IP (M D) Clar-HCRV2 913  Johnson Gabriel (Dr) Wall-IHLC 498  Johnson George C Clar-HCRV3 953  Johnson George R Chap-PBRW 608  Johnson Giles B Gast-CHO3 465  Johnson H A Lang-HWV 678  Johnson H A Lang-HWV 770  Johnson Hazen D Gast-CHO4 1019  Johnson Johnson Heraekiah Lang-HWV 638  Johnson Heraekiah Lang-HWV 638  Johnson Johnson James Lang-HWV 625  Johnson James Lang-HWW 625	Johnson			Gast-CHO4	959
Johnson Daniel Lang-HWV 624  Johnson David Lang-HWV 625  Johnson Eben W Chap-PBRP 456  Johnson Elwood C Gast-CHO2 305  Johnson Elwood C Gast-CHO2 337  Johnson Ewen West-IHCO 766  Johnson F M (Hon) Hine-IHO 255  Johnson Frank S incl. portrait West-IHUW 642  Johnson Gabriel (Dr) Wall-IHLC 498  Johnson George C Clar-HCRV2 913  Johnson George R Chap-PBRW 608  Johnson George W Hine-IHO 1097  Johnson Giles B Gast-CHO3 465  Johnson H A Lang-HWV 678  Johnson H V V (MD) Lang-HWV 770  Johnson Hazen D Gast-CHO4 1019  Johnson Howard A (Chief Justice)  Johnson James Lang-HWV 625  Johnson James Lang-HWV 625  Johnson James Lang-HWV 625  Johnson James Lang-HWV 625  Johnson James Catlin Chap-PBRW 1514  Johnson James Catlin Chap-PBRW 1514	Johnson				951
Johnson Daniel Lang-HWV 624  Johnson David Lang-HWV 625  Johnson Eben W Chap-PBRP 456  Johnson Edwin T Gast-CHO2 305  Johnson Elwood C Gast-CHO4 860  Johnson Ewen West-IHCO 766  Johnson F M (Hon) Hine-IHO 255  Johnson Frank S incl. portrait West-IHUW 642  Johnson Frank S incl. portrait West-IHUW 642  Johnson Frank S incl. portrait West-IHUW 642  Johnson G W Hine-IHO 450  Johnson Gabriel (Dr) Wall-IHLC 498  Johnson George C Clar-HCRV3 953  Johnson George R Chap-PBRW 608  Johnson Giles B Gast-CHO3 465  Johnson H A Lang-HWV 678  Johnson H V V (MD) Lang-HWV 770  Johnson Hazen D Gast-CHO4 1019  Johnson Howard A (Chief Justice)  Johnson James Lang-HWV 625  Johnson James Lang-HWV 625  Johnson James Lang-HWV 625  Johnson James Lang-HWV 625  Johnson James Catlin Chap-PBRW 1514  Johnson James Catlin Chap-PBRW 1514	Johnson		incl. portrait		552
Johnson David Lang-HWV 625  Johnson Eben W Chap-PBRP 456  Johnson Edwin T Gast-CHO2 305  Johnson Elwood C Gast-CHO4 860  Johnson Ewen West-IHCO 766  Johnson FM (Hon) Hine-IHO 255  Johnson Frank S incl. portrait Gast-CHO3 824  Johnson Frank S incl. portrait West-IHUW 642  Johnson Frank S incl. portrait West-IHUW 642  Johnson Frank S incl. portrait West-IHUW 642  Johnson Gabriel (Dr) Wall-IHLC 498  Johnson George C Clar-HCRV2 913  Johnson George R Chap-PBRW 608  Johnson George W Hine-IHO 1097  Johnson Giles B Gast-CHO3 465  Johnson H A Lang-HWV 678  Johnson H V V (MD) Lang-HWV 770  Johnson Hazen D Gast-CHO4 1019  Johnson Hezekiah Lang-HWV 638  Johnson Hezekiah Lang-HWV 638  Johnson Hezekiah Lang-HWV 638  Johnson Howard A (Chief Justice)  Johnson James Lang-HWV 625  Johnson James Lang-HWV 625  Johnson James Catlin Chap-PBRW 1514  Johnson James Catlin Chap-PBRW 1514  Johnson James Catlin Chap-PBRW 1514	Johnson	Charles T		Gast-CHO3	
Johnson Eben W Chap-PBRP 456  Johnson Edwin T Gast-CHO2 305  Johnson Elwood C Gast-CHO4 860  Johnson Ernest F Gast-CHO2 337  Johnson Ewen West-IHCO 766  Johnson Frank S incl. portrait Gast-CHO3 824  Johnson Frank S incl. portrait West-IHUW 642  Johnson Franklin P (M D) Clar-HCRV2 913  Johnson Gabriel (Dr) Wall-IHLC 498  Johnson George C Clar-HCRV3 953  Johnson George R Chap-PBRW 608  Johnson Giles B Gast-CHO3 465  Johnson H A Lang-HWV 678  Johnson H A Lang-HWV 770  Johnson Hazen D Gast-CHO4 1019  Johnson Howard A (Chief Justice)  Johnson James Lang-HWV 625  Johnson James Lang-HWV 625  Johnson James Lang-HWV 625  Johnson James Catlin Chap-PBRW 1514  Johnson James Catlin Chap-PBRW 1514  Johnson James Catlin Chap-PBRW 1514	Johnson			_	624
Johnson Edwin T Gast-CHO2 305  Johnson Elwood C Gast-CHO4 860  Johnson Ernest F Gast-CHO2 337  Johnson Ewen West-IHCO 766  Johnson F M (Hon) Hine-IHO 255  Johnson Frank S incl. portrait Gast-CHO3 824  Johnson Frank S incl. portrait West-IHUW 642  Johnson Frank IP (M D) Clar-HCRV2 913  Johnson Gabriel (Dr) Wall-IHLC 498  Johnson George C Clar-HCRV3 953  Johnson George R Chap-PBRW 608  Johnson Giles B Gast-CHO3 465  Johnson H A Lang-HWV 678  Johnson H A Lang-HWV 770  Johnson Hazen D Gast-CHO4 1019  Johnson Howard A (Chief Justice)  Johnson James Lang-HWV 625  Johnson James Lang-HWV 625  Johnson James Lang-HWV 625  Johnson James Catlin Chap-PBRW 1514	Johnson				625
Johnson Elwood C Johnson Ernest F Gast-CHO2 337  Johnson Ewen West-IHCO 766  Johnson F M (Hon) Hine-IHO 255  Johnson Frank S incl. portrait Gast-CHO3 824  Johnson Frank S incl. portrait West-IHUW 642  Johnson Franklin P (M D) Clar-HCRV2 913  Johnson Gabriel (Dr) Wall-IHLC 498  Johnson George C Clar-HCRV3 953  Johnson George R Chap-PBRW 608  Johnson Giles B Gast-CHO3 465  Johnson H A Lang-HWV 678  Johnson H A Lang-HWV 770  Johnson Hazen D Gast-CHO4 1019  Johnson Howard A (Chief Justice)  Johnson James Lang-HWV 625  Johnson James Lang-HWV 625  Johnson James Lang-HWV 625  Johnson James Catlin Chap-PBRW 1514  Johnson James Catlin Chap-PBRW 1514  Johnson James Catlin Chap-PBRW 1514	Johnson			Chap-PBRP	456
Johnson Ewen West-IHCO 766  Johnson F M (Hon) Hine-IHO 255  Johnson Frank S incl. portrait Gast-CHO3 824  Johnson Frank S incl. portrait West-IHUW 642  Johnson Frank Incl. portrait West-IHUW 642  Johnson G W Hine-IHO 450  Johnson Gabriel (Dr) Wall-IHLC 498  Johnson George C Clar-HCRV3 953  Johnson George R Chap-PBRW 608  Johnson Giles B Gast-CHO3 465  Johnson H A Lang-HWV 678  Johnson H W V (MD) Lang-HWV 770  Johnson Hazen D Gast-CHO4 1019  Johnson Hezekiah Lang-HWV 638  Johnson Hiram A Hine-IHO 1100  Johnson Howard A (Chief Justice)  Johnson James Lang-HWV 625  Johnson James Lang-HWV 625  Johnson James Lang-HWV 625  Johnson James Catlin Chap-PBRW 1514  Johnson James Catlin Chap-PBRW 1514  Johnson James Catlin Chap-PBRW 1514	Johnson			Gast-CHO2	305
Johnson Ewen West-IHCO 766  Johnson F M (Hon) Hine-IHO 255  Johnson Frank S incl. portrait Gast-CHO3 824  Johnson Frank S incl. portrait West-IHUW 642  Johnson Franklin P (M D) Clar-HCRV2 913  Johnson G W Hine-IHO 450  Johnson Gabriel (Dr) Wall-IHLC 498  Johnson George C Clar-HCRV3 953  Johnson George R Chap-PBRW 608  Johnson Giles B Gast-CHO3 465  Johnson H A Lang-HWV 678  Johnson H H H Hine-IHO 1100  Johnson H V V (MD) Lang-HWV 770  Johnson Hazen D Gast-CHO4 1019  Johnson Hezekiah Lang-HWV 638  Johnson Hiram A Hine-IHO 1100  Johnson Howard A (Chief Justice)  Johnson James Hine-IHO 793  Johnson James Lang-HWV 625  Johnson James Lang-HWV 625  Johnson James Catlin Chap-PBRW 1514  Johnson James Catlin Chap-PBRW 1514  Johnson James Catlin Chap-PBRW 1514				Gast-CHO4	860
Johnson F M (Hon) Hine-IHO 255  Johnson Frank S incl. portrait Gast-CHO3 824  Johnson Frank S incl. portrait West-IHUW 642  Johnson G W Hine-IHO 450  Johnson Gabriel (Dr) Wall-IHLC 498  Johnson George C Clar-HCRV3 953  Johnson George R Chap-PBRW 608  Johnson Giles B Gast-CHO3 465  Johnson H A Lang-HWV 678  Johnson H V V (MD) Lang-HWV 770  Johnson Hazen D Gast-CHO4 1019  Johnson Hezekiah Lang-HWV 638  Johnson Hiram A Hine-IHO 1100  Johnson Howard A (Chief Justice)  Johnson James Lang-HWV 625  Johnson James Lang-HWV 625  Johnson James Catlin Chap-PBRW 1514  Johnson James Catlin Chap-PBRW 1514  Johnson James Catlin Chap-PBRW 1514	Johnson	Ernest F		Gast-CHO2	337
Johnson Frank S incl. portrait Gast-CHO3 824  Johnson Frank S incl. portrait West-IHUW 642  Johnson Franklin P (M D) Clar-HCRV2 913  Johnson GW Hine-IHO 450  Johnson George C Clar-HCRV3 953  Johnson George R Chap-PBRW 608  Johnson Giles B Gast-CHO3 465  Johnson H A Lang-HWV 678  Johnson H V V (MD) Lang-HWV 770  Johnson Hazen D Gast-CHO4 1019  Johnson Hezekiah Lang-HWV 638  Johnson Hiram A Hine-IHO 1100  Johnson Howard A (Chief Justice)  Johnson James Lang-HWV 625  Johnson James Lang-HWV 625  Johnson James Lang-HWV 625  Johnson James Catlin Chap-PBRW 1514  Johnson Jasper J Gast-POHB3 419					766
Johnson Frank S incl. portrait West-IHUW 642  Johnson Franklin P (M D) Clar-HCRV2 913  Johnson G W Hine-IHO 450  Johnson Gabriel (Dr) Wall-IHLC 498  Johnson George C Clar-HCRV3 953  Johnson George R Chap-PBRW 608  Johnson Giles B Gast-CHO3 465  Johnson H A Lang-HWV 678  Johnson H W V (MD) Lang-HWV 770  Johnson Hazen D Gast-CHO4 1019  Johnson Hezekiah Lang-HWV 638  Johnson Hiram A Hine-IHO 1100  Johnson Howard A (Chief Justice)  Johnson James Hine-IHO 793  Johnson James Lang-HWV 625  Johnson James Lang-HWV 625  Johnson James Catlin Chap-PBRW 1514  Johnson Jasper J Gast-POHB3 419	Johnson				255
Johnson G W Hine-IHO 450  Johnson Gabriel (Dr) Wall-IHLC 498  Johnson George C Clar-HCRV3 953  Johnson George R Chap-PBRW 608  Johnson George W Hine-IHO 1097  Johnson Giles B Gast-CHO3 465  Johnson H A Lang-HWV 678  Johnson H W V (MD) Lang-HWV 770  Johnson Hazen D Gast-CHO4 1019  Johnson Hezekiah Lang-HWV 638  Johnson Hezekiah Lang-HWV 638  Johnson Howard A (Chief Justice)  Johnson J Calvin Chap-PBRP 738  Johnson James Lang-HWV 625  Johnson James Lang-HWV 625  Johnson James Catlin Chap-PBRW 1514  Johnson James Catlin Chap-PBRW 1514  Johnson Jasper J Gast-POHB3 419	Johnson		incl. portrait	Gast-CHO3	824
Johnson G W Hine-IHO 450  Johnson Gabriel (Dr) Wall-IHLC 498  Johnson George C Clar-HCRV3 953  Johnson George R Chap-PBRW 608  Johnson George W Hine-IHO 1097  Johnson Giles B Gast-CHO3 465  Johnson H A Lang-HWV 678  Johnson H V V (MD) Lang-HWV 770  Johnson Hazen D Gast-CHO4 1019  Johnson Hezekiah Lang-HWV 638  Johnson Hiram A Hine-IHO 1100  Johnson Giles B Gast-CHO4 1019  Johnson Howard A (Chief Justice) Down-ENWB 401  Johnson James Hine-IHO 793  Johnson James Lang-HWV 625  Johnson James Catlin Chap-PBRW 1514  Johnson Jasper J Gast-POHB3 419	Johnson		incl. portrait		642
Johnson Gabriel (Dr) Wall-IHLC 498  Johnson George C Clar-HCRV3 953  Johnson George R Chap-PBRW 608  Johnson George W Hine-IHO 1097  Johnson Giles B Gast-CHO3 465  Johnson H A Lang-HWV 678  Johnson H V V (MD) Lang-HWV 770  Johnson Hazen D Gast-CHO4 1019  Johnson Hezekiah Lang-HWV 638  Johnson Hiram A Hine-IHO 1100  Johnson Giles B Gast-CHO4 1019  Johnson Howard A (Chief Justice) Down-ENWB 401  Johnson James Hine-IHO 793  Johnson James Lang-HWV 625  Johnson James Catlin Chap-PBRW 1514  Johnson James Catlin Chap-PBRW 1514  Johnson Jasper J Gast-POHB3 419		, ,			913
Johnson George C Johnson George R Johnson George R Johnson George W Johnson Giles B Johnson H A Johnson H H Johnson H V V (MD) Johnson Hazen D Johnson Hiram A Johnson Howard A (Chief Justice) Johnson J Calvin Chap-PBRP 738 Johnson James Johnson James Lang-HWV 625 Johnson James Catlin Chap-PBRW 1514 Johnson James Gast-POHB3 419	Johnson				
Johnson George R Johnson George W Johnson Giles B Johnson Giles B Johnson H A Johnson H H Johnson H V V (MD) Johnson Hazen D Johnson Hiram A Johnson Howard A (Chief Justice) Johnson James Johnson James Johnson James Johnson James Lang-HWV 628 Hine-IHO Hin	Johnson	, ,			498
Johnson George W Hine-IHO 1097  Johnson Giles B Gast-CHO3 465  Johnson H A Lang-HWV 678  Johnson H H Hine-IHO 1100  Johnson H V V (MD) Lang-HWV 770  Johnson Hazen D Gast-CHO4 1019  Johnson Hezekiah Lang-HWV 638  Johnson Hiram A Hine-IHO 1100  Johnson Gown-ENWB 401  Johnson James Hine-IHO 793  Johnson James Lang-HWV 625  Johnson James Catlin Chap-PBRW 1514  Johnson Jasper J Gast-POHB3 419					
Johnson Giles B Gast-CHO3 465  Johnson H A Lang-HWV 678  Johnson H H Hine-IHO 1100  Johnson H V V (MD) Lang-HWV 770  Johnson Hazen D Gast-CHO4 1019  Johnson Hezekiah Lang-HWV 638  Johnson Hiram A Hine-IHO 1100  Johnson Johnson J Calvin Chap-PBRP 738  Johnson James Hine-IHO 793  Johnson James Lang-HWV 625  Johnson James Catlin Chap-PBRW 1514  Johnson Jasper J Gast-POHB3 419					608
Johnson H A Lang-HWV 678  Johnson H H H Hine-IHO 1100  Johnson H V V (MD) Lang-HWV 770  Johnson Hazen D Gast-CHO4 1019  Johnson Hezekiah Lang-HWV 638  Johnson Hiram A Hine-IHO 1100  Johnson Johnson J Calvin Chap-PBRP 738  Johnson James Hine-IHO 793  Johnson James Lang-HWV 625  Johnson James Catlin Chap-PBRW 1514  Johnson Jasper J Gast-POHB3 419	Johnson				
Johnson H H Johnson H V V (MD) Johnson Hazen D Johnson Hezekiah Johnson Hezekiah Johnson Hiram A Johnson Howard A (Chief Justice) Johnson James Lang-HWV 625 Johnson James Catlin Johnson James Catlin Johnson James Catlin Johnson Jasper J Gast-POHB3 419	Johnson	Giles B		Gast-CHO3	465
Johnson HVV (MD) Lang-HWV 770  Johnson Hazen D Gast-CHO4 1019  Johnson Hezekiah Lang-HWV 638  Johnson Hiram A Hine-IHO 1100  Johnson Howard A (Chief Justice) Down-ENWB 401  Johnson James Hine-IHO 793  Johnson James Lang-HWV 625  Johnson James Augustin Down-ENWB 407  Johnson James Catlin Chap-PBRW 1514  Johnson Jasper J Gast-POHB3 419	Johnson	H A		Lang-HWV	678
Johnson Hazen D Gast-CHO4 1019 Johnson Hezekiah Lang-HWV 638 Johnson Hiram A Hine-IHO 1100  Johnson Howard A (Chief Justice) Down-ENWB 401  Johnson J Calvin Chap-PBRP 738  Johnson James Hine-IHO 793  Johnson James Lang-HWV 625  Johnson James Augustin Down-ENWB 407  Johnson James Catlin Chap-PBRW 1514  Johnson Jasper J Gast-POHB3 419	Johnson	нн		Hine-IHO	1100
Johnson Hezekiah Lang-HWV 638  Johnson Hiram A Hine-IHO 1100  Johnson Howard A (Chief Justice) Down-ENWB 401  Johnson J Calvin Chap-PBRP 738  Johnson James Hine-IHO 793  Johnson James Lang-HWV 625  Johnson James Augustin Down-ENWB 407  Johnson James Catlin Chap-PBRW 1514  Johnson Jasper J Gast-POHB3 419	Johnson	HVV(MD)		Lang-HWV	770
JohnsonHiram AHine-IHO1100JohnsonHoward A (Chief Justice)Down-ENWB401JohnsonJ CalvinChap-PBRP738JohnsonJamesHine-IHO793JohnsonJamesLang-HWV625JohnsonJames AugustinDown-ENWB407JohnsonJames CatlinChap-PBRW1514JohnsonJasper JGast-POHB3419	Johnson	Hazen D		Gast-CHO4	1019
JohnsonHoward A (Chief Justice)Down-ENWB401JohnsonJ CalvinChap-PBRP738JohnsonJamesHine-IHO793JohnsonJamesLang-HWV625JohnsonJames AugustinDown-ENWB407JohnsonJames CatlinChap-PBRW1514JohnsonJasper JGast-POHB3419					638
Johnson J Calvin Chap-PBRP 738  Johnson James Hine-IHO 793  Johnson James Lang-HWV 625  Johnson James Augustin Down-ENWB 407  Johnson James Catlin Chap-PBRW 1514  Johnson Jasper J Gast-POHB3 419	Johnson			Hine-IHO	1100
JohnsonJamesHine-IHO793JohnsonJamesLang-HWV625JohnsonJames AugustinDown-ENWB407JohnsonJames CatlinChap-PBRW1514JohnsonJasper JGast-POHB3419	Johnson	Howard A (Chief Justice)		Down-ENWB	401
JohnsonJamesLang-HWV625JohnsonJames AugustinDown-ENWB407JohnsonJames CatlinChap-PBRW1514JohnsonJasper JGast-POHB3419	Johnson	J Calvin		Chap-PBRP	738
JohnsonJames AugustinDown-ENWB407JohnsonJames CatlinChap-PBRW1514JohnsonJasper JGast-POHB3419	Johnson	James		Hine-IHO	793
JohnsonJames CatlinChap-PBRW1514JohnsonJasper JGast-POHB3419	Johnson	James		Lang-HWV	625
JohnsonJames CatlinChap-PBRW1514JohnsonJasper JGast-POHB3419	Johnson	James Augustin		Down-ENWB	407
Johnson Jasper J Gast-POHB3 419	Johnson	James Catlin		Chap-PBRW	1514
	Johnson	Jasper J			419
	Johnson	Jasper J		Hine-IHO	462

Surname	Given Name	Comments	Book Code	Page
Johnson	John		Gast-CHO2	574
Johnson	John	incl. portrait	West-IHUW	643
Johnson	John Charles		Hine-IHO	1123
Johnson	John L		Chap-PBRW	1029
Johnson	John Lawrence	incl. portrait	Gast-CHO2	614
Johnson	John Wesley		Gast-POHB3	659
Johnson	Jonathan		Gast-CHO4	480
Johnson	Joseph D		Hine-IHO	406
Johnson	Joseph F		West-IHUW	601
Johnson	Julian E		Gast-CHO3	590
Johnson	Julian P (AM)(M D)		Gast-CHO4	1083
Johnson	Leslie G (Dr)		Gast-CHO3	490
Johnson	Lewis		Lang-HWV	737
Johnson	Major		Chap-PBRW	1496
Johnson	Maphus		Gast-CHO2	627
Johnson	Mark J		Clar-HCRV3	829
Johnson	N D	incl. portrait	Clar-HCRV3	450
Johnson	Oliver W		Gast-CHO4	567
Johnson	P O (Mrs)		Lang-HWV	770
Johnson	Peter		Chap-PBRP	840
Johnson	Peter		Clar-HCRV2	925
Johnson	Peter K		Chap-PBRW	1208
Johnson	Philip (Capt)		Hine-IHO	262
Johnson	Phoebe A (Mrs) (Taylor)		Chap-PBRW	888
Johnson	Rhoda (Mrs)		Gast-CHO2	924
Johnson	Robert W		West-IHCO	687
Johnson	Samuel		Gast-CHO3	510
Johnson	Samuel B		Chap-PBRP	740
Johnson	Seth E		Chap-PBRP	482
Johnson	Theodore W (Hon)	incl. portrait	Gast-CHO3	876
Johnson	Thomas B		West-IHUW	294
Johnson	Thomas F		Gast-CHO3	767
Johnson	Tyler		Clar-HCRV2	509
Johnson Johnson	W C		Chap-PBRP	609
Johnson	W Carey (Hop)		Lang-HWV Hine-IHO	638 550
Johnson	W Carey (Hon) W H		Gast-CHO3	107
Johnson	WJ		West-IHCO	769
Johnson	W P		Lang-HWV	876
Johnson	Walter		Lang-HWV	829
Johnson	Walter S (Dr)		Gast-CHO4	31
Johnson	William		Lang-HWV	607
Johnson	William R		Chap-PBRW	608
Johnson	William R		Hine-IHO	681
Johnston	Arthur H		Clar-HCRV2	84
Johnston	B A		Gast-CHO3	133
Johnston	Carl H		Clar-HCRV3	279
Johnston	Charles W		West-IHCO	245
Johnston	David		Chap-PBRW	1199
Johnston	David E		Gast-POHB2	8
Johnston	David H		Chap-PBRW	962
Johnston	Frank		Gast-CHO3	186
Johnston	George W		West-IHCO	231
Johnston	George William	incl. portrait	Clar-HCRV3	116
Johnston	J Henry		West-IHCO	238
Johnston	John		Chap-PBRW	1275
Johnston	John		Lang-HWV	717
Johnston	John C		West-IHCO	239
Johnston	Moses E	incl. portrait	Gast-CHO2	744
Johnston	Robert		Gast-CHO4	674
Johnston	Samuel B		West-IHCO	268

Surname	Given Name	Comments	Book Code	Page
Johnston	Thomas H (Hon)	incl. portrait	West-IHCO	344
Johnston	Thomas J	inci. portituit	Chap-PBRP	738
Johnston	Thomas J		Hine-IHO	1124
Johnston	W B		Lang-HWV	887
Johnston	William Milton		Down-ENWB	238
Johnston	William T		Chap-PBRP	818
Johnstone	Arthur J		Clar-HCRV2	687
Jolly	Frank B		Hine-IHO	1111
Jolly	W B		Lang-HWV	678
Jolly	William A (Hon)		Chap-PBRW	1145
Jones	Arthur C (M D)		Clar-HCRV3	522
Jones	Bert Levi		Gast-CHO3	598
Jones	D M (MD)		Lang-HWV	771
Jones	Evan E		West-IHUW	409
Jones	Francis Bedford (Capt)		Chap-PBRP	309
Jones	Francis Bedford (Capt)	incl. portrait	Clar-HCRV3	704
Jones	Francis Bedford (Capt)		Gast-POHB3	511
Jones	G W		Gast-CHO2	710
Jones	George M		Gast-CHO4	757
Jones	George W		Chap-PBRW	681
Jones	HI		Hine-IHO	1110
Jones	Harvey L		Lang-HWV	808
Jones	Henry E (MD)	incl. portrait 376a	Scot-HPO	602
Jones	Herman Halsey		Chap-PBRP	114
Jones	Herman Halsey		Chap-PBRW	114
Jones	Horace D (Sr)		Gast-CHO3	296
Jones	J A		Hine-IHO	292
Jones	J D		Gast-CHO3	479
Jones	James		Gast-CHO2	114
Jones	James Isaac		Chap-PBRW	1478
Jones	James Westley		Hine-IHO	1109
Jones	Jason		Chap-PBRP	388
Jones	John		Lang-HWV	771
Jones	John H		Chap-PBRP	113
Jones	John H	incl. portrait	Chap-PBRW	113
Jones	John L		West-IHCO	1045
Jones	John M		Clar-HCRV2	555
Jones	Joseph A		Chap-PBRW	927
Jones	Josephine V (Mrs)		Gast-CHO2	587
Jones	Linn E (Hon)		Clar-HCRV3	233
Jones	Madison L		Lang-HWV	808
Jones	Morris H		Clar-HCRV3	508
Jones	Noble Wiley (M D)		Clar-HCRV3	87
Jones	Owen	in al mantuait	West-IHCO	367
Jones	Philo Everett (M D) Samuel T	incl. portrait	Clar-HCRV3	182 696
Jones	Samuel W	incl. portrait	Lang-HWV Gast-CHO4	98
Jones Jones	Sherman	ilici. portrait	West-IHCO	613
Jones	Stephen David		Gast-CHO2	122
Jones	Thomas		West-IHUW	258
Jones	Thomas A		Chap-PBRW	354
Jones	W A		Gast-CHO2	343
Jones	Walter S (Dr)		Hine-IHO	420
Jones	William		Hine-IHO	300
Jones	William B		Chap-PBRP	756
Jones	William H		Gast-CHO2	127
Jones	William J		Hine-IHO	1109
Jones	William P		Gast-POHB3	22
Jones	William R		Chap-PBRW	1198
Jones	William T		Lang-HWV	659
Joplin	Ferdinand		Gast-POHB3	552

C	CiN	Comment	Doub Col	D
Surname	<b>Given Name</b> William T	Comments	Gast-POHB3	Page 477
Joplin Jordan	William I B T			
	Emil C		Gast-CHO4 Clar-HCRV2	967 73
Jorgensen	HS	incl portrait	Gast-CHO3	406
Jory	н s Hugh S	incl. portrait		678
Jory	James William		Lang-HWV Gast-CHO4	442
Jory	John W		Gast-CHO2	990
Jory	William			990
Jory			Gast-CHO3 Gast-POHB3	229
Josselyn	Benage S Benage Stockwell		CofC-MO	6
Josselyn	James I		Gast-CHO3	815
Joy	J Harry		Clar-HCRV2	827
Joyce	•	incl portrait	Clar-HCRV3	926
Joyce Jubitz	Thomas M (Dr) Raymond G	incl. portrait	Clar-HCRV3	598
Judah	•			
Judan Judd	Neely J James William		Chap-PBRW Gast-CHO4	491 678
	Leonard B			
Judson	Leonard B Luther B		Lang-HWV Gast-CHO2	604 669
Judy Junker		i		
<b>5</b> a	Caspar	incl. portrait	Gast-CHO3	972
Jurgens	John Henry		Down-ENWB	384
Jurgens	John Henry		Down-ENWB	434
Kadderly	John J		Chap-PBRP	667
Kaino	Henry		Gast-CHO3	391
Kaler	Charles L		West-IHUW	331
Kalez	Marion A		Down-ENWB	342
Kalez Kallunki	Martin J		Down-ENWB	341
Kallunki	Walter		Gast-CHO3	492
Kamm	Caroline Augusta (Mrs)		Chap-PBRW	85
Kamm	Caroline Augusta (Mrs) (Gtray)		Chap-PBRP	85
Kamm	Jacob	incl. portrait	Gast-CHO3	554
Kamm	Jacob		Gast-POHB2	124
Kamm	Jacob	inal nautusit	Hine-IHO	1114
Kamm	Jacob	incl. portrait 528 a	Scot-HPO	638
Kamm	Jacob (Capt)	incl. portrait	Chap-PBRP	83
Kamm	Jacob (Capt)	· ·	Chap-PBRW	83
Kamm	Jacob (Mrs)	incl. portrait	Clar-HCRV2	38
Kamna	John William		Chap-PBRP Hine-IHO	467
Kane Kanne	August			1113
Kanzler	Jacob (Hon)	incl portrait	Chap-PBRP Clar-HCRV3	382
Kapus	William (General)	incl. portrait	Hine-IHO	810 464
Karkeet	Robert Budd (M D)		Clar-HCRV3	446
Karnopp	John L		Clar-HCRV2	577
Karnopp Kaseberg	John L Edward E		West-IHCO	488
Kaseberg	John C		West-IHCO	488
Kaseberg	Frank		Gast-CHO2	966
Kassnaier	Louis Lucas		Gast-CHO2	479
Kastrier Kauffman	B F		Chap-PBRW	721
Kauiiman	John Jacob	incl. portrait	Down-ENWB	373
Kaulman	Moses	nici. portrait	Down-ENWB	165
Kaupisch	H W		Chap-PBRW	878
Kaupisch	A C		Clar-HCRV3	236
Kavanaugh	John P		Gast-POHB3	719
Kavanaugn	Isaac		Chap-PBRP	248
Kay	Thomas		Hine-IHO	600
r/dV				852
	Thomas			
Kay	Thomas R (Hon)		Lang-HWV	
	Thomas Thomas B (Hon) Joseph W		Chap-PBRW Gast-CHO4	587 966

Surname	Given Name	Comments	<b>Book Code</b>	Page
Keady	William F		Gast-CHO3	459
Keasey	Dorr E		Gast-POHB3	214
Keating	John		Gast-POHB2	357
Keats	Harry L		Gast-POHB2	346
Keebler	Elbert		Gast-CHO4	829
Keebler	Joseph R		Chap-PBRW	1037
Keeley	Leslie E (Dr)		Hine-IHO	611
Keeley	William E		Down-ENWB	148
Keeley Institute	The		Hine-IHO	611
Keene	James M (Dr)		Gast-CHO4	411
Keene	James Madison		Hine-IHO	1107
Keeney	Andrew J	home drawing, pg 256	Wall-IHLC	482
Keeney	Benjamin F		Chap-PBRW	1524
Keeney	Elias		Chap-PBRW	1159
Keeney	Harry G		Gast-CHO2	706
Keeney	James Maynard	incl. portrait	Clar-HCRV2	570
Keep	C M		Hine-IHO	630
Keeton	Perry Lewis		West-IHCO	695
Keinlein	Eugene		Hine-IHO	1112
Keisecker	Michael		Chap-PBRP	841
Keizur	Manly F		West-IHCO	604
Keller	A Ad	incl. portrait	West-IHCO	363
Keller	Andrew		Clar-HCRV2	135
Keller	Edward		Gast-CHO4	405
Kelley	Aaron J		Clar-HCRV3	387
Kelley	Harry L		Gast-CHO2	977
Kelley	William A		Wall-IHLC	497
Kellogg	Charles H (Capt)		Chap-PBRP	104
Kellogg	Charles H (Capt)		Chap-PBRW	104
Kellogg	Ernest Eugene		Chap-PBRP	248
Kellogg	J B		Hine-IHO	616
Kellogg	John Beldon		Chap-PBRP	243
Kellogg	John R		West-IHUW	275
Kellogg	Joseph (Capt)		Chap-PBRP	101
Kellogg	Joseph (Capt)	incl. portrait	Chap-PBRW	101
Kellogg	Joseph (Capt)	incl. portrait	Hine-IHO	1037
Kellogg	Orrin (Capt)		Chap-PBRP	103
Kellogg	Orrin (Jr) (Capt)		Chap-PBRW	103
Kelly	Andrew		Lang-HWV	771
Kelly	Clinton		Gast-POHB2	218
Kelly	Clinton (Rev)		Chap-PBRP	607
Kelly	Clinton (Rev)		Clar-HCRV2	232
Kelly	Clinton (Rev)		Hine-IHO	1273
Kelly	Daniel M		Gast-CHO2	153
Kelly	David		Gast-CHO2	441
Kelly	E D		Lang-HWV	808
Kelly	Eliza E (Mrs)		Gast-CHO3	897
Kelly	Everington D		Chap-PBRP	674
Kelly	Frank		Gast-CHO3	450
Kelly	Hampton		Gast-POHB3	268
Kelly	Hampton		West-IHCO	376
Kelly	James Garfield		Gast-CHO3	117
Kelly	James K		Lang-HWV	737
Kelly	James K	incl. portrait 178a	Scot-HPO	528
Kelly	John (Hon)		Chap-PBRW	1371
Kelly	John (Hon)		Hine-IHO	1111
Kelly	John (Hon)		Wall-IHLC	489
Kelly	John F		Chap-PBRW	1420
Kelly	Lucern B		West-IHCO	376
Kelly	Nira C B (Mrs)		Hine-IHO	494

Curnama	Civon Namo	Commonts	Pook Codo	Dago
Surname Kelly	Given Name Orlando A	Comments	Book Code Gast-CHO4	Page 853
Kelly	Penumbra		Clar-HCRV2	27
Kelly	Penumbra		Gast-POHB2	573
Kelly	Penumbra		Lang-HWV	696
Kelly	Penumbra (Hon)		Hine-IHO	1122
Kelly	Plympton		Chap-PBRP	608
Kelly	Plympton		Gast-POHB2	600
Kelly	Plympton (Rev)		Gast-CHO3	373
Kelly	Richmond		Hine-IHO	1275
Kelly	Richmond (M D)		Clar-HCRV2	404
Kelly	Richmond (M D)		Gast-POHB2	225
Kelly	Thomas I (O D)		Down-ENWB	478
Kelly	William G (Capt)		Down-ENWB	474
Kelsay	BS		Chap-PBRW	1518
Kelsay	John		Lang-HWV	808
Kelsay	John (Col)		Chap-PBRW	759
Kelsay	LN		West-IHCO	881
Kelsey	F D		Hine-IHO	1122
Kelsey	Russell Calvin (M D)	incl. portrait	Gast-CHO3	290
Kelso	Lewis		Hine-IHO	1106
Kelso	William G		Gast-CHO4	141
Kem	Omer M (Hon)		Gast-CHO4	161
Kemp	Harry		Clar-HCRV3	946
Kemp	I M		Gast-CHO3	827
Kenady	Perry L		Gast-CHO2	670
Kendall	Fred P		Clar-HCRV3	972
Kendall	George W		Clar-HCRV3	725
Kenedy	George W		Gast-CHO3	891
Kenedy	John Edmund		Down-ENWB	229
Kenna	Elsie Virginia (RN) (D S C)		Down-ENWB	435
Kennedy	Barney		Chap-PBRW	947
Kennedy	Barney		Lang-HWV	678
Kennedy	Charles D	incl. portrait	Clar-HCRV3	88
Kennedy	Emma (Lammert) (Mrs)		Gast-CHO2	437
Kennedy	JE		Clar-HCRV3	259
Kennedy	John W		Hine-IHO	655
Kennedy	M		Lang-HWV	808
Kennedy	Michael William		Gast-CHO4	242
Kennedy	William W	incl. portrait	West-IHCO	680
Kenney	George Watson		Gast-CHO4	951
Kent	Fred Leroy		Chap-PBRW	1257
Kent	John L		Gast-CHO4	369
Kent	Sylvester B		Gast-CHO3	325
Kenworthy	John		Hine-IHO	245
Keppinger	Eliza (Mrs)	incl. portrait	Gast-CHO4	888
Kerley	Vernon V		Gast-CHO3	939
Kern	Henry G		Gast-CHO4	525
Kern	J M		Gast-CHO2	293
Kern	JW		Hine-IHO	955
Kern	John T		Clar-HCRV2	106
Kern	John William		Gast-POHB2	586
Kern	Loyal E		Chap-PBRP	267
Kern	Loyal E		Clar-HCRV3	751
Kern	Loyal E		Gast-POHB3	520
Kernan	William		West-IHUW	606
Kerns	Benjamin E		Gast-CHO4	298
Kerr	Frank Marion		Down-ENWB	329
Kerr	George W	incl. portrait	Gast-CHO3	518
Kerr	James B		Gast-POHB2	76
Kerr	Mark P		Clar-HCRV2	693

Surname	Given Name	Comments	Book Code	Page
Kerr	William	Comments	Gast-CHO4	554
Kerry	Albert Sperry		Down-ENWB	154
Kershaw	Andrew (M D)		Gast-CHO2	679
Kessey	Orville B		Gast-CHO2	562
Kessler	Harry S		Down-ENWB	108
Ketchum	Delaney Paulin	incl. portrait	Clar-HCRV2	780
Ketchum	I L	incl. portrait	West-IHCO	792
Ketchum	W M		Lang-HWV	678
Keyes	Francis Tilden		Chap-PBRW	1233
Keys	William		West-IHCO	587
Keyser	Charles P		Clar-HCRV2	637
Keyt	EC		Lang-HWV	717
Keyt	Ebenezer C		Hine-IHO	1106
Kidd	Genevieve E (R N)		Clar-HCRV3	101
Kidd	William Thomas		Gast-CHO2	845
Kiddle	Ed		Gast-CHO3	666
Kiddle	Edward		Hine-IHO	329
Kiddle	Jesse Orville		Gast-CHO3	1053
Kiefer	Charles		Chap-PBRW	437
Kiehle	Frederick A (M D)		Clar-HCRV2	920
Kiernan	John		Clar-HCRV2	465
Kightlinger	Adam S		Hine-IHO	1130
Kilburg	JH		Gast-CHO3	672
Kilgore	Merle Shelly		Gast-CHO4	395
Kilgore	Roy I		Gast-CHO4	278
Kilgour	J M		Gast-CHO2	371
Killfeather	Edward		Gast-POHB3	245
Killin	Benton		Gast-POHB3	411
Killin	Benton	incl. portrait 566a	Scot-HPO	567
Killin	Thomas Benton		Gast-POHB3	454
Killin	Thomas Benton		Hine-IHO	1131
Killingsworth	William M		Hine-IHO	508
Kimball	Horace		Down-ENWB	112
Kime	Albert W (M D)		Gast-CHO3	85
Kimmel	Carl	incl. portrait	Gast-CHO4	464
Kimsey	Alvis		Chap-PBRW	708
Kimsey	Doctor S		West-IHCO	411
Kincaid	Austin C		Wall-IHLC	479
Kincaid	Eliza Jane		Wall-IHLC	479
Kincaid Kincaid	Elizabeth Maria George Summerfield		Wall-IHLC Wall-IHLC	479 479
Kincaid	Harrison R		Hine-IHO	1118
Kincaid	Harrison Rittenhouse		Wall-IHLC	478
Kincaid	Harrison Rittenhouse (Hon)	incl. portrait	Gast-CHO2	294
Kincaid	Harrison Rittenhouse (Hon)		Gast-CHO4	358
Kincaid	Harrison Rittenhouse (Judge)		Chap-PBRW	1263
Kincaid	John		Wall-IHLC	479
Kincaid	John Sandford		Wall-IHLC	479
Kincaid	Mary Alice		Wall-IHLC	479
Kincaid	Nancy (Mrs)		Gast-CHO4	363
Kincaid	Rebecca Ann		Wall-IHLC	479
Kincaid	Thomas		Wall-IHLC	476
Kincaid	Webster Lockwood		Clar-HCRV3	62
Kincaid	Webster Lockwood		Gast-CHO4	34
Kincaid	William R		Gast-CHO2	613
Kindred	David C		Gast-CHO4	714
Kindred	James F		Gast-CHO3	47
Kindred	Joel B		Gast-CHO3	517

### **CALL FOR ARTICLES**

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- memoirs and personal essays
- research articles and source guides
- · how-to articles

- problem-solving articles
- articles on family history travel
- using technology

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

Send submissions to  $\underline{\text{bulletin@gfo.org}}$ . You may request a current "Instructions and Guidelines" by contacting us in writing or at the email address above. The information is also at  $\underline{\text{http://gfo.org/learn/our-publications/gfo-publicat$ 

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March issue: December 15 September issue: June 15

June issue: March 15 December issue: September 15



GENEALOGICAL FORUM OF OREGON, INC Headquarters & Library 2505 S.E. 11Th Ave., Suite B-18 Portland OR 97202 ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

10am Let's Start with the Census 11:30am Immigration & Naturalization 1pm History of railroads in the US

2:30pm Ports and Shipping

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### **GFO CALENDAR: MARCH 2017 OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE**

All events are free to members and the public. Help spread the word and invite your friends. Full descriptions at http://gfo.org/who-we-are/calendar.html

Saturday	March 18	Tuesday I	Marc 21	Friday Ma	arch 24
9am	Comparing Three Testing Companies	10am	GFO Website and Card Catalog - An	10am	Genealogy Basics
10:30am	Basics of Y-DNA and mtDNA		Introduction	11:30am	Genealogy for Beginners and Beyond
12:30pm	atDNA Basics		Facebook 101	1pm	Using a Timeline
2pm	Organizing Data and Contacting Matches	•	Facebook 102	2:30pm	Organizing all that STUFF!
3:30pm		2:30pm	Create a Blog to Share Your Family Stories	Saturday	March 25
	Discovering my birth father through DNA testing		Wednesday March 22		French Prairie
ŭ		10am	Cemetery Research	11am	The French Canadian Collection at the
Sunday March 19 – DNA Day		11:30am	FindAGrave		GFO
9am	Convincing Family and Strangers to Test and Why	1pm	Photoshop Elements-Intro	12:30pm	Membership Meeting
10·70am	The Four Autosomal DNA Testing	2:30pm	Heritage Makers Books	1pm	British Group
10.500111	Companies		GFO's Resources	Sunday N	larch 26
12:30pm		Thursday	March 23	10am	Ancestry.com
	Solved Genealogical Problems	10am	Intro to Mexican History for Genealogy	11:30am	Findmypast
•	GEDmatch	11:30am	Intro to Mexican Records	1pm	One-Step Webpages
3:30pm	Q and A	1pm	Probate Records-Introduction	2:30pm	HistoryGeo
Monday I	Warch 20	2:30pm	US Military Records-Introduction	3:30pm	Family Search