



# The Bulletin

Quarterly Magazine of the  
Genealogical Forum of Oregon

Volume 68, Number 3

March, 2019

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## **Prosper Gillett (1817–1902): New York Packet Boat Captain, Missouri Railroad Supervisor, Hotel Owner**



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

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

## CALL FOR ARTICLES

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

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

We also welcome book reviews, transcriptions or extractions from original sources, and posts from your blog. You are encouraged to attach photographs or other graphics. Send submissions to [bulletin@gfo.org](mailto:bulletin@gfo.org). You may request a current "Instructions and Guidelines" by contacting us in writing or at the email address above. The information is also available at <https://gfo.org/learn/our-publications/gfo-bulletin.html>.

Deadlines for submission to *The Bulletin*:

March issue: January 1

June issue: April 1

September issue: July 1

December issue: October 1

# GFO OPEN HOUSE

## March 23 - 31

*9 days  
35+ free events*

**Discover the roots  
of your family tree.**

### GENEALOGICAL FORUM OF OREGON

#### Special Appearance!

Barbara Rae-Venter, the genetic genealogist who cracked the Golden State Killer case, will speak during DNA Days.

Seating is limited. [Advance registration is required](#), and will begin March 1st at 9 a.m.



photo: Brian L. Frank

- Learn How to Find Your Ancestors!
- 9 Straight Days
- 35+ FREE Family History Classes
- Full Library Access
- Everyone is Welcome
- Irish Day
- Beginning Genealogy Day
- Finding Family Day - Adoption, Siblings, Parents
- 2 Full Days of DNA!



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**SATURDAY MARCH 23: IRISH DAY** 

**Irish Research for Beginners & Experts**—Tom O'Brien  
Tom shares tips and resources for their Irish family history research.

**Are you ready to jump the pond?**—Karen Hubbard  
Learn how to review what you have, to discover every clue.

**The Irish Census 101**—Barbara Schrag  
Discover easy ways to access the Irish census online.

**Irish Civil Records**—Joann Taylor  
Learn how to best use Irish birth, marriage, and death records found at the GRO website.

**SUNDAY MARCH 24: BEGINNERS DAY** 

**Beginning Genealogy**—Laurel Smith  
Learn how to get started, stay on track, and keep organized.  
**Registration before March 20th required.**

**MONDAY MARCH 25:**

**Genealogy and the Law**—Dale Deatherage  
Rich records hide in the court house, but you've got to know the language!

**Pennsylvania Research**—Elise Deatherage  
Learn what unique digital and onsite resources are available to Pennsylvania researchers.

**PERSI**—Kristin Parks  
Learn how to tap into the most extensive genealogy and history subject index on the planet: the PERiodical Source Index.

**JSTOR**—Kristin Parks  
Discover the digital library that has journals, books, and other primary sources.

**Archive.org**—Geoff Smith  
Find out how to access genealogy and local history books online for free!

**TUESDAY MARCH 26:**

**Evernote for Genealogy**—Dale Deatherage  
Want to remember EVERYTHING and find ANTHING?  
Evernote's got you covered!

**They were Religious Radicals**—Darrell Gulstrom  
Discover the amazing value of local resources.

**Tips for Searching Ancestry.com**—Laurel Smith  
Learn the basics of successful searches on Ancestry.com.

**Online Family Trees**—Laurel Smith  
Learn how to evaluate online family trees and how to best make use of what they offer.

**WEDNESDAY MARCH 27: FINDING FAMILY** 

**Introduction and Panel Discussion**  
Unexpected relations are turning up everywhere—whether you are the seeker or the one found, the day is devoted to the topic.

**Finding Living People**—Leslie Lawson  
Once you've identified them, how do you find them?

**Identifying Family**—Lisa McCullough  
Learn out about key resources to help you identify family.

**First Contact**—Panel  
Once family is identified and located, learn about best practices for first contact.

**Let's Get Organized!**—Laurel Smith  
If you can't find the record you're looking for in your genealogical quagmire, attend this class to get inspired to turn over a new leaf.

**THURSDAY MARCH 28:**

**Know Before You Go, Research Trips**—Lori Washburn  
What you might find and how to maximize your time.

**Scanning and Archiving Your Genealogy**—Lori Washburn  
We will briefly discuss scanners, how to scan, how to file the images, and the basics of touching them up.

**InDesign: Help or Hinderance?**—Jay Fraser  
InDesign is a powerful application that can make your (project) look more professional. Is it worth the effort to learn?

**Write It Up!**—Marti Dell  
Learn how to get started on that writing project you've been putting off.

**Multnomah County Library**—Rachael Short & Enrique Rivera  
Genealogists can never have too many resources. Representatives from the library will share information about their collections.

**FRIDAY MARCH 29:**

**Citing your Sources**—Janice Sellers  
This class will explain why citations are important and shed light on the bewildering assortment of citation styles and resources.

**Mexican Ancestry 101**—Vince Ramirez  
Learn the basics of research to find those valuable genealogical records of your Mexican ancestors.

**Mexican Ancestry 102**—Vince Ramirez  
Develop your genealogical detective skills to find more!

**Ohio River**—Lynn Rossing  
Discover the Ohio River's history as the region's major transportation corridor.

**SATURDAY MARCH 30: DNA 101** 

**DNA Your Paper Trail**—Emily Aulicino  
Learn the basics about how DNA testing can help your genealogical research.

**5 DNA testing companies**—Dr. Tim Janzen  
Understand how to maximize your experience with each of the five major testing companies.

**Finding Birth Relatives**—*Special Guest* Barbara Rae-Venter  
Techniques and tools to help identify birth relatives.  
**Advance registration required.**

**GEDmatch for Beginners**—Narda Foust  
Learn the basics of this free third-party tool for DNA analysis.

**SUNDAY MARCH 31: DNA 102** 

**Genetic Genealogy**—*Special Guest* Barbara Rae-Venter  
Learn how Barbara cracked the Golden State Killer Case  
**Advance registration required.**

**Jumpstart Your Discoveries**—Lisa McCullough  
Discover how to maximize your use of Family Tree DNA & Ancestry DNA sites.

**Excel for DNA Analysis**—Lisa McCullough  
Find out how to use Excel to view and manipulate DNA results to make more sense of your matches.

**3rd Party Tools, what's new?**—Dr. Tim Janzen  
Using free 3rd party tools can make your DNA research easier and lead to more discoveries.

[gfo.org/openhouse2019](http://gfo.org/openhouse2019)

# Discover Your Roots *with Tony Burroughs*

**Saturday, April 27**

**10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

**Center for Self Enhancement (SEI)**

- Six Phases of African American Genealogy
- Black Biographies, Autobiographies and Family Histories
- From Census to Slavery
- Mixing Online and Offline Sources

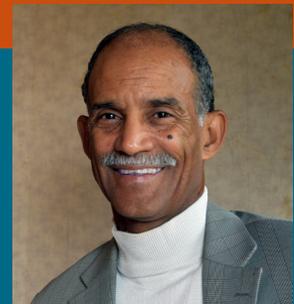
**Sunday, April 28**

**9:30 a.m. - Noon**

**Genealogical Forum of Oregon Library**

- Farmers, Tenant Farmers, and Share Croppers
- Forty Acres and a Mule: Hidden Land Records in the National Archives

— — — — —  
| Sign up for one day |  
| or both days! |  
— — — — —



**TONY BURROUGHS** is the founder and CEO of the Center for Black Genealogy. He is an internationally known genealogist who taught genealogy at Chicago State University for fifteen years, and has appeared as a guest genealogy expert in twenty-five national and international television broadcasts. He lectures throughout the United States and Canada, having delivered one hundred lectures at national conferences, twelve national keynote addresses, nine regional keynotes, ten state keynote addresses and twelve local keynote addresses.

Burroughs has received many honors including: the *Distinguished Service Award* from the National Genealogical Society, the *Rabbi Malcolm H. Stern Humanitarian Award* from the Federation of Genealogical Societies, the *Lowell Vokel Award* from the Illinois State Genealogical Society and *Fellow of the Utah Genealogical Association (FUGA)*.

**Author of**  
*Black Roots: A Beginners Guide to Tracing the African American Family Tree.*



## SATURDAY SEMINAR DETAILS

### Location

Center for Self Enhancement (SEI)  
3920 N. Kerby Avenue  
Portland, Oregon

### Time

10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. • Saturday, April 27  
Break for lunch 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

### Seminar Features

Book sales from Heritage Quest & the GFO  
Raffle with great prizes  
Coffee, tea and snacks throughout the day  
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 side. Add \$1 for gluten-free bread.

## SUNDAY PROGRAM DETAILS

### Location

Genealogical Forum of Oregon Library  
2505 SE 11th Ave. #B-18  
Portland, Oregon

### Time

9:30 a.m. to noon • Sunday, April 28

**– Sunday Event Limited to 50 –**

### Payment and Refund Details

Register and pay online at [www.GFO.org](http://www.GFO.org).

**– – OR – –**

Complete registration form below and mail with your check to: **GFO Spring Seminar, 2505 SE 11th Ave. #B-18, Portland, OR 97202-1061.**

For cancellations received after April 22, 2018, refunds will be subject to a \$10 cancellation fee. Lunches must be ordered by noon on April 24, 2019. **Lunch fees are non-refundable if canceled after noon on April 24, 2019.**

## REGISTRATION FORM – OR – register online @ [gfo.org](http://gfo.org)

You may sign up for Saturday, Sunday, or both sessions. One form per attendee, please.

Circle price selected, enter amounts on the right, and total at the bottom.

Name _____ Member No. _____		
Email _____ Telephone No. _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> Payment Enclosed <input type="checkbox"/> Paid online at <a href="http://PayPal.com">PayPal.com</a> using the email address <a href="mailto:payments@gfo.org">payments@gfo.org</a> .		
SPRING SEMINAR WITH TONY BURROUGHS	REGISTRATION	AMOUNT
Select one or both sessions		
<b>SATURDAY PROGRAM</b> 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., April 27th @ SEI, 3920 N. Kerby Ave.	\$25	
Lunch from GG's Deli (order/cancel by April 24)	\$10	
Add gluten-free bread	\$1	
Add paper copy of Syllabus (electronic copy free)	\$3	
<b>SUNDAY PROGRAM</b> 9:30 a.m. to noon, April 28th @ GFO, 2505 SE 11th Ave. #B18	\$15	
Add paper copy of Syllabus	\$3	
<b>Mail to:</b> 2505 SE 11th Ave. #B18, Portland, OR 97202 • <a href="http://gfo.org">gfo.org</a>	<b>TOTAL</b>	

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Photo note: The cover image of Prosper Gillett and that of Delia Ann (Selleck) Gillett on page 6 are courtesy of Shawn Hendrix.

## Letter from the Editor

I often tell the story of how, when I was beginning to do genealogical research, I witnessed a scene that has stuck with me through the years. I was attending a national conference in Chicago and had the opportunity to visit the Newberry Library with other conference attendees. During my visit, it was impossible not to hear an exchange between one attendee and the person helping her review a census image.

“That’s not my family!” she shrieked.

“But all the children are correct, their ages and birth-places match your list, this must be your family,” replied the helper, trying to calm her.

“It’s not, it’s NOT!” the woman bellowed. “That is NOT how they spell their name!”

I should mention that the long string of children had some unique names, but the woman could not, would not, see her family in the misspelled or misrepresented surname.

I suspect you may have a knowing smile on your face. We’ve all had situations where the names we seek are spelled differently in the originals or are completely misrepresented in an index. Skilled researcher Gerry Lenzen didn’t let spelling phase him in his research about the Gillett family story of his great-grandmother’s birth on a packet boat. Nor did Harold Hinds and Nanci Remington as they uncovered a wealth of variations for the Göttl surname found in an old “speller.” Nanci shares some great tips for searching indexes for surname variations.

Spelling wasn’t the issue in the two stories of mistaken identity in this issue. Joan Galles explains how she revisited her research to find she had the wrong great-grandparents in her tree. And Judith Leppert de-

tails her attempt to discover the author of a message written in a book, only to find after some research that it could not be the person she thought.

We also have a story by Darrell Gulstrom about his great-grandfather Olaf Olsson, who immigrated, settled in the Tillamook area, and changed his surname to Gulstrom. Cheri Emahiser shares the third and final chapter in her “Finding Margaret” series. The Bible records of the Jesse Upson family are detailed, and there are, of course, book reviews.

Finally, Nanci Remington and Mary Nelson tell us of the importance of attending seminars and conferences—which brings me to two very special events. Don’t miss the GFO Open House later this month, with nine straight days of free classes. In April, you have the opportunity to attend the Tony Burroughs seminars on April 27th and 28th. I know I wouldn’t miss either day! Flyers for both events can be found in this issue.

Before signing off, I want to thank everyone who plays a part in *The Bulletin*: authors, editors, proofreaders, layout, printing, handling, mailing, and posting online. It takes a considerable amount of effort, and I am sincerely grateful to all. I hope you, the reader, enjoy the fruits of their labor.

Best regards, Laurel Smith



\* \* \*

## Prosper Gillett (1817–1902): New York Packet Boat Captain, Missouri Railroad Supervisor, Hotel Owner

Gerald S. (Gerry) Lenzen

Ella Izora Gillett Taylor's obituary contained a description of her birth in New York on an Erie canal packet boat.

Mrs. Taylor was born June 24, 1850 on a packet boat owned by her father, Prosper Gillett, who operated it on the famous Erie Canal in the days when the canal was the main artery between Albany and Buffalo, New York. When she was ten years old her father gave up canal boating and moved his family to Hannibal.<sup>1</sup>

Ella died in 1950, a few months shy of her 100th birthday. A 1902 obituary for Prosper did not list the packet boat operation as one of his life occupations.<sup>2</sup>

I set out to verify that the family lore about Ella's birth on a packet boat could be proven with facts and data about Prosper's life and family. The census records provide a framework for that journey, filled in with newspaper accounts, city directories, and other historical records.

### Wayne County, New York

According to the family Bible, Prosper Gillett, the son of Isaac and Sally (Selleck) Gillett, was born on 13 June 1817 in or near what is today's Wayne County, New York.<sup>3</sup> He died on 28 January 1902 in Hannibal, Marion County, Missouri.<sup>4</sup>

His wife, Delia Ann Selleck, daughter of Henry (aka Harry) and Polly (Herrick) Selleck, was born on 4 May 1819, probably in Marcellus, Onondaga County, New York.<sup>5</sup> She died on 2 July 1897 in Hannibal.<sup>6</sup>

Sally Selleck (1789–1863), Prosper's mother, and Henry Selleck (1791–1870), Delia's father, were siblings.



*Gillette-Sellick family, photo courtesy of Gerry Lenzen. This image, taken after all the girls were married, may have been at Prosper and Sally's 40th wedding anniversary. The photo was published in a local paper.*

They were the first two children of Benjamin Selleck and Jemima Hickok. Both Sally and Henry were born in Rutland County, Vermont.

The family Bible records contain different spellings for the surname Gillet/Gillett/Gillette. These variations and others, such as the surname beginning with a "J," are found in various records for the family in Vermont, New York, Massachusetts, and Connecticut.

Both the Gillett and Selleck families have their roots in Massachusetts and Connecticut.<sup>7</sup> They moved to the wilds of Vermont before the Revolutionary War. Revolutionaries fought only one battle in Vermont, and it was on the property of John Gillette, Prosper's grandfather, at Hubbardton, Rutland County, on 7 July 1777.<sup>8</sup> The Green Mountain Boys held off the British for a day and then retreated. Later, the Green Mountain Boys participated in the successful battles at Saratoga and on the Walloomsac River in New York.

The Gillett and Selleck families moved to northwestern New York following the War of 1812. The area was now cleared of Native Americans (mostly Onondaga Nation people) and British loyalists.

<sup>1</sup> *The Herald Press* (St. Joseph, Michigan), 25 June 1950, p.8; digital image, Newspapers.com (<https://www.newspapers.com>: accessed 25 October 2018)

<sup>2</sup> 1902 Obituary, Hannibal, Missouri, newspaper clipping (publisher unknown).

<sup>3</sup> Prosper Gillett Family Bible, 1817–1902; *The Holy Bible Containing the Old and New Testaments* (Cooperstown, New York), 1838; in possession of Gerald S. Lenzen (2019).

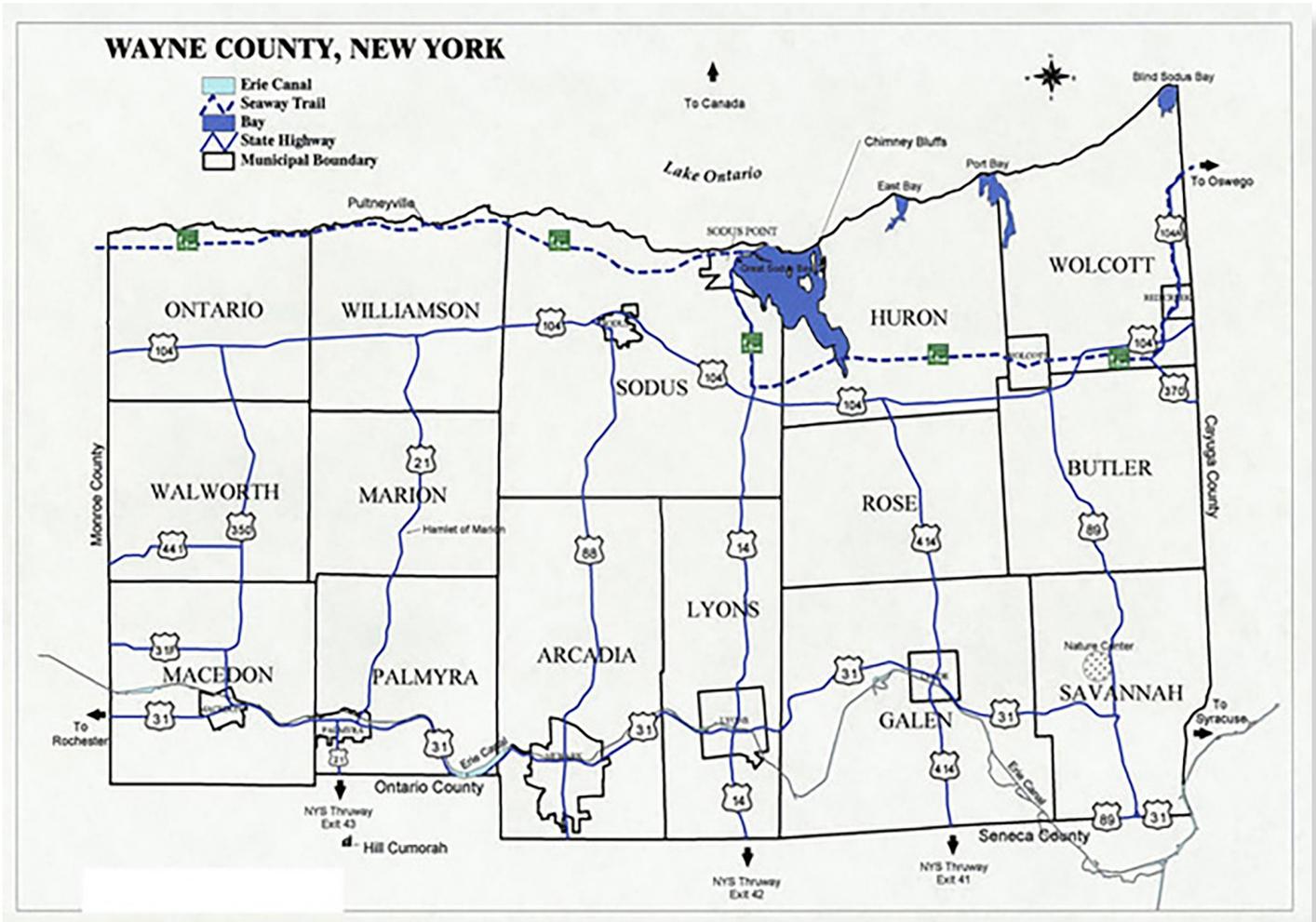
<sup>4</sup> J. Hurley and Roberta Hagood, comp. *A List of Deaths in Hannibal, Missouri 1880-1910* (Hannibal: privately printed, 1985), page 30.

<sup>5</sup> Gillette Family Bible.

<sup>6</sup> Hurley and Hagood, page 26.

<sup>7</sup> The author has extensive genealogies for both of these families plus the Hickoks who intermarried with them. His research has been submitted to the national family history associations.

<sup>8</sup> "Historic Sites, State of Vermont," Hubbardton Battlefield (<https://historicsites.vermont.gov/directory/hubbardton>: accessed 5 December 2018).



Wayne County Map, Office of the County Historian, Wayne County, New York. This map shows Wayne County and current townships. Understanding the relationships of the townships to each other is important in later discussions about the availability of data resources.

Isaac Gillett, Prosper's father, arrived in Wayne County (then part of Seneca County) in 1813 from Hubbardton, Vermont, with his wife, Sally Selleck.<sup>9</sup> They initially settled in Rose Township, just north of today's Galen Township. They later moved to Huron, and then settled in Bay Bridge or Port Glasgow, where Isaac was the proprietor of a hotel. Both places are in the Sodus Bay area on Lake Ontario. Isaac died in 1829 at the young age of forty-five.

After Isaac's death, Sally rented the hotel to Henry Graham, a well-known person in Rose Township. In about 1831, she married John Hyde.

Isaac's father, John Gillett, also came to Rose Township with his wife, Rhoda Avery.

John died in Huron Township in 1819 at age seventy-one. Rhoda lived until 1835, dying at age seventy-three.



Delia Ann (Selleck) Gillett

**1820 U.S. Census**

**Census Date: 7 August 1820**

**Walcott, Seneca County, New York**

The 1820 census lists John Gillett's widow, Rhoda Gillet, three doors from her son Isaac Gillet and his family.<sup>10</sup> It also lists one female age 16 thru 25 in Rhoda's household, whose identity is not known. Isaac's household consisted of himself, a female age 26 thru 44, likely his wife Sally, and five children under 10 years old. One of the children was likely Prosper, who would have been three years old.

<sup>9</sup> Alfred S. Roe, *Rose Neighborhood Sketches* (Pultneyville, NY: Yankee Peddler Book Shop, 1976), 129.

<sup>10</sup> 1820 US census, Seneca County, New York, Wolcott, page 464, line 12, Rhoda Gillet; digital image, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 14 November 2017), NARA microfilm publication M33, roll 75.

### 1830 U.S. Census

**Census Date: 1 June 1830**

#### Port Bay, Wayne County, New York

Isaac Gillett died in 1829, leaving Sally (Selleck) Gillett with their nine children at census time in 1830. This census does not list individuals in the household. However, the known children from the Gillett/Selleck family Bible records can be identified by age group. Though close, they do not exactly match the Bible entries, which is not untypical for census tallies. The census images are difficult to read. Only eight children are listed, one of whom would have been Prosper. Perhaps Tacy Gillett, the oldest child according to the Bible, was gone by census time.<sup>11</sup> By 1830, Tacy was old enough to be married and listed in a husband's household, but a marriage record for Tacy has not been located.

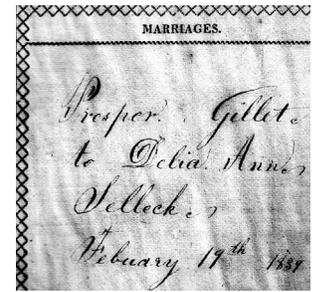
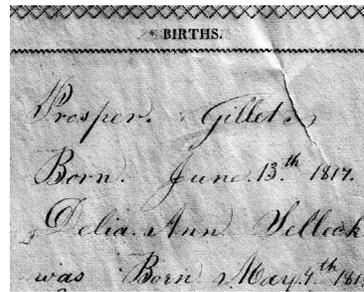
Interestingly, a John Hyde is listed in the same census, but on a separate page (87), in the nearby locality of Sodus, Wayne County, New York.<sup>12</sup> Since there are no other persons with the name John Hyde enumerated in this part of New York, this could be presumed to be the same John Hyde who married the widow Sally Selleck in about 1831. There is a female of the correct age group, listed on the 1830 census, to be a wife of John. Perhaps, if a wife, she died before 1831.

#### Prosper Gillett and Delia Ann Selleck

Prosper Gillett married Delia Ann Selleck, his first cousin, on 19 February 1839 in Auburn, Cayuga County, New



“View on the Erie Canal.” The Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Division of Art, Prints and Photographs: Print Collection, The New York Public Library; New York Public Library Digital Collections. The scene depicts a packet boat on the canal.



Gillett/Selleck Family Bible, Published in 1838. The collection of Gerry Lenzen. Prosper Gillett and Delia Ann Selleck were his great-great-grandparents.

York.<sup>13</sup> In this part of New York, where both their families had settled, the county names and county boundaries changed continually from the 1820s until about 1840. The search for records prior to 1840 must focus on a specific locality during a specific time period. Records are found where they were created. Families may not have moved, but political boundaries did.

Prosper Gillett owned a family Bible. It is possible that the Bible, published in 1838, was a marriage gift from Delia Ann's father, Henry Selleck. Or perhaps Prosper's mother, Sally, presented it to the couple. The handwriting is not the same in each section, suggesting several recorders of the information. However, the initial entries for Prosper and his family are all in the same hand. Prosper and Delia's birth dates are the first entries in the birth section, which also lists the birth dates of Isaac's siblings, including his half-sister Harriet M. Hyde. She was the tenth and last child borne by Sally. The birth information predating the Bible's publication does not qualify as a contemporary record, but presumably, Prosper and Delia Ann were told their birthdates by their parents. The Bible continues with the birthdates of the children of Prosper and Delia. The entire Gillett/Selleck Bible transcription and images were published December 2016 in *The Bulletin, Quarterly Magazine of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon*.<sup>14</sup>

### 1840 Census

**Census Date: 1 June 1840**

#### Galen Township, Wayne County, New York

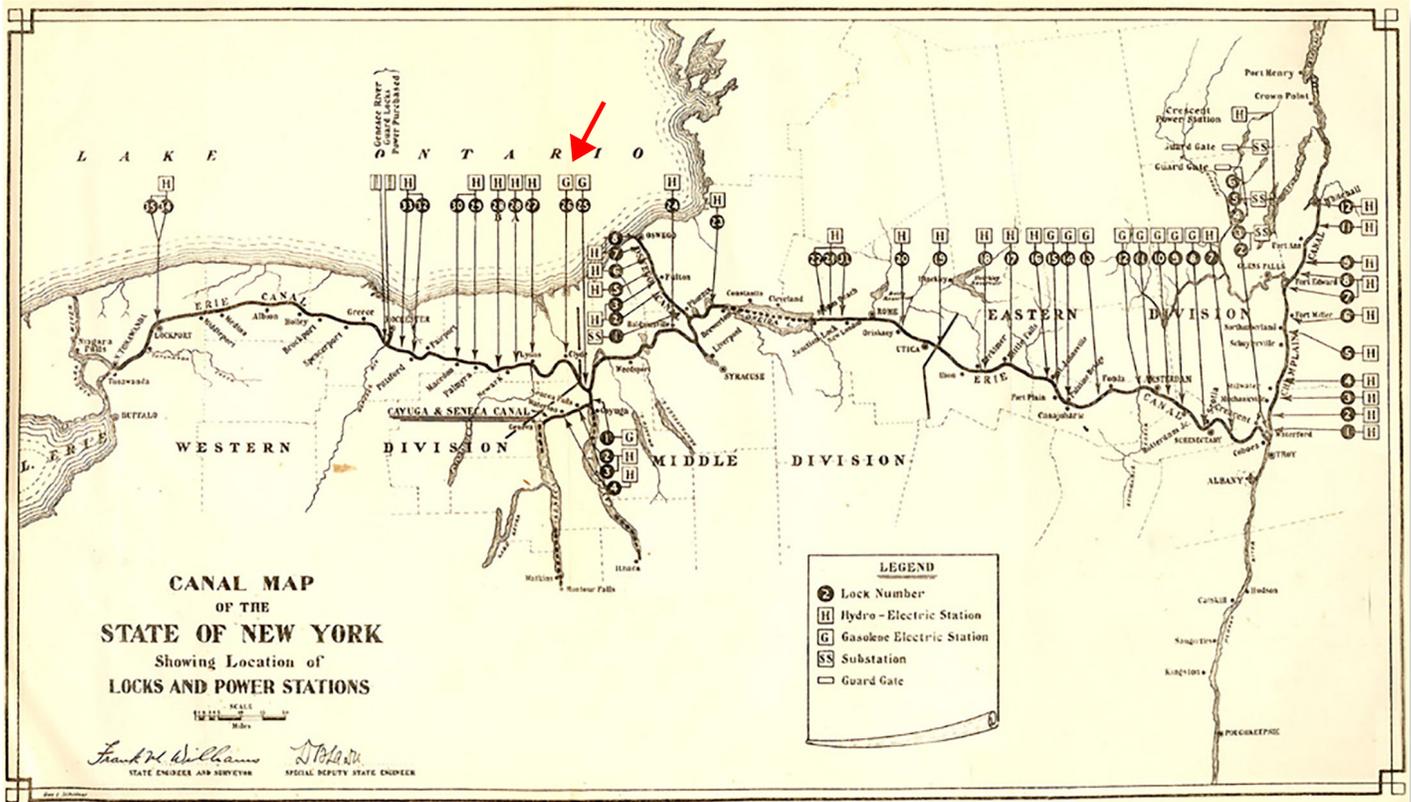
In 1840, the Prosper Gillett family was found in Galen Township, Wayne County, New York. As in the earlier census records, Prosper's name, as the head of house-

<sup>11</sup> 1830 US census, Wayne County, New York, Port Bay, page 183, line number 27, Sally Selleck; digital image, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 14 November 2017), NARA microfilm publication M19, roll 117.

<sup>12</sup> 1830 US census, Sodus, Wayne, New York, Page: 137, line number 11, John Hyde; digital image, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 30 November 2017), NARA microfilm publication M19, roll 117.

<sup>13</sup> Prosper Gillett Family Bible, 1817-1902; “Family Record, Marriages.”

<sup>14</sup> Lenzen, Gerald S. “Analysis and Provenance of the Isaac Gillett-Sally Selleck Family Bible.” *The Bulletin, Quarterly Magazine of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon* Vol 66, No 2 (December 2016) : 3-5 ([https://gfo.org/file\\_download/inline/3c5a8e2d-8dda-48c7-a1c9-c05boe8a580a](https://gfo.org/file_download/inline/3c5a8e2d-8dda-48c7-a1c9-c05boe8a580a)).



Canal Map of the State of New York, the village of Clyde is designated by an arrow above number 26. A recent road map identifies Clyde as in the center of Galen Township, Wayne County, New York.

hold, was the only name detailed. The search results on Ancestry had him indexed as “Prapier Pillet.” Family members are listed by age category and gender. There is one male listed as age 20 through 29 (Prosper), one female age 20 through 29, likely his wife Delia, and one female listed under age five.

The census was to be recorded as of 1 June 1840. The family group at that time would include only the first daughter, Emmarett, born on 10 May 1840. She had a twin brother, Emmanuel, who died shortly after birth, so he does not appear on the total census count of three persons.<sup>15</sup>

Here, for the first time, is a record that testifies to the packet boat of family lore. The second page of the census asks respondents for the number of people employed in several categories. The Gillett entry is marked as two persons employed in “Navigation of Canals, Lakes, and Rivers.”<sup>16</sup> This could indicate that Delia Ann was the helmsman, an assistant required to steer the packet boat. The captain would either ride or walk the tow

team horses or mules, to be sure the packet’s bow was clear of obstruction.

Since families lived on their packet boats, it is likely that the young Gillette family was passing through town when the census enumerator found them in Galen township.<sup>17</sup> It’s possible the family had stopped in Wayne County to be with either Selleck or Gillett relatives for the birth of the twins. However, the census does not detail any close known relatives living in Galen. There were Gillet and Selleck families living in adjacent townships.

**1850 U.S. Census**

**Census Date: 1 June 1850**

An extensive search for the Prosper Gillett family in the population schedule for the 1850 census has yielded no results. Perhaps they were traveling at the time. They are also not found in the non-population schedules.

The Bible lists four children born between 1840 and 1 June 1850. One son, Franklin Augustus, is shown as born on 24 October 1848 and died on 28 April 1849.

15 Even though not in the Bible birth and death records, family tradition indicates that Emmanuel died at birth on 10 May 1840.

16 1840 US census, Wayne County, New York, Galen Township, page 31, line number 26, Prosper Gillet; digital image, Ancestry (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 14 November 2017), NARA microfilm publication M704, roll 350. This image was indexed as Prapier Pillet on Ancestry and corrected to Prosper Gillet.

17 The Erie Canal opened in 1825 and extended from Albany on the Hudson River to Buffalo on Lake Erie. An accessory canal went from Buffalo up the river to Lake Ontario. The canal passed through the village of Clyde in the town of Galen, Wayne County, New York.

This should account for three children plus the parents in 1850.

The fifth and youngest child of Prosper and Delilah, Ella Izora, my great-grandmother, was born on 24 June 1850, three weeks after the census date. Family lore consistently stated that Ella Izora was born on her father's packet boat. Her birth record was found in the village records for Clyde Village, Galen Township, Wayne County, New York. However, the indexed name is entered as Ellah Leora Gillett.<sup>18</sup>

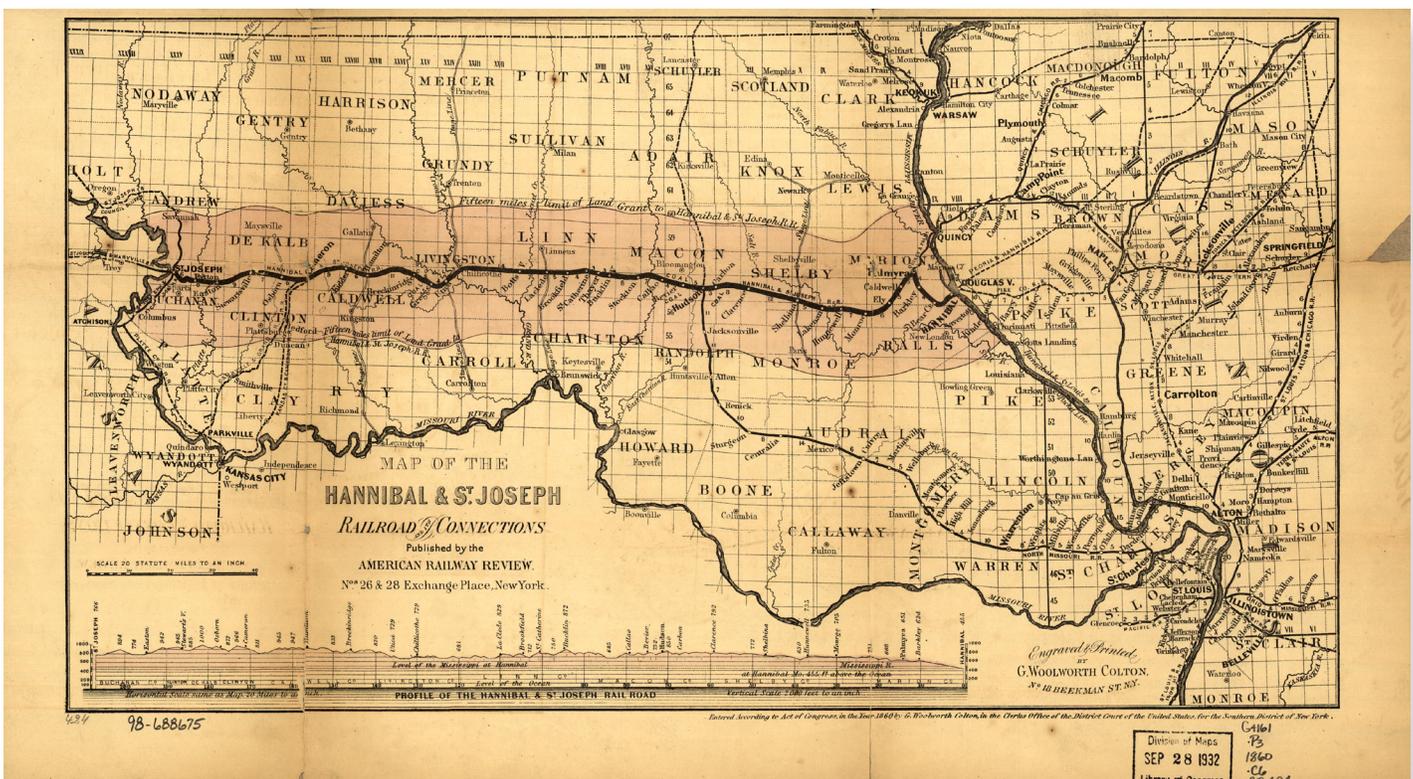
Interestingly, the family Bible lists her as Ellah Izora Gillett. It would not be difficult to read the name "Izora" as "Leora" from the Bible record. Her granddaughter, Ella Izora Taylor, my mother, was named after her grandmother. Family members have always recognized both as "Izora." However, the "official" record for Ella Taylor in Chicago, Cook County, Illinois, has her middle name as "Idora."

Though Prosper Gillett's family could not be found in the 1850 U.S. census, there are two records that contain his name after that time period. The first is a mortgage from Sally C. Van Deventer to Prosper Gillett

"Ellah Izora Gillett," entry in family Bible, 1850.

drawn on 20 May 1853 in the city of Buffalo, Erie County, New York.<sup>19</sup> Both are listed as residents of Buffalo. Prosper paid \$2000 at the time of the agreement which was entered in the court record on 17 December 1853. The document does not indicate that the payment was partial, nor does it show any notations that the mortgage was satisfied.

Evidently, Prosper did not follow through with whatever additional payments were due. There is an advertisement for a "Mortgage Sale" listed in the *Buffalo Daily Republic* on 29 May 1858. The premises described in the mortgage were to be sold at public auction in the Spaulding Exchange in Buffalo on 26 July 1858 at 10 o'clock forenoon.<sup>20</sup>

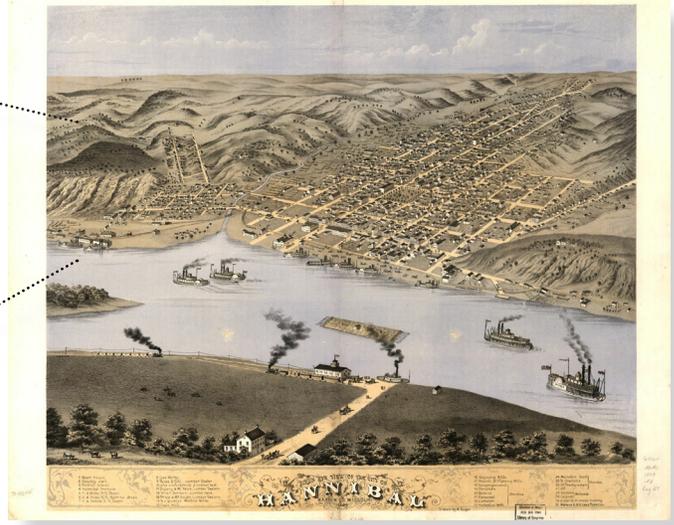
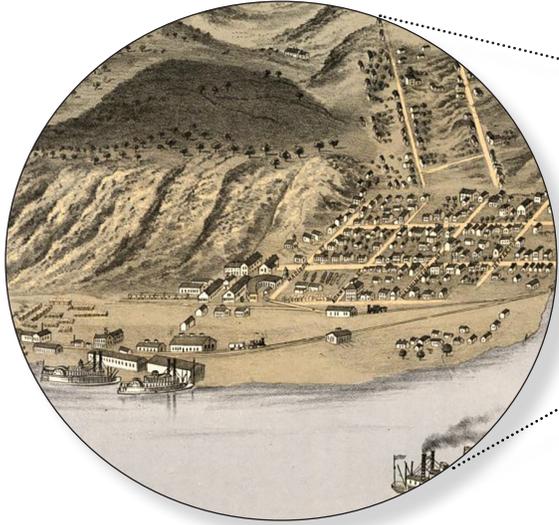


Hannibal and Saint Joseph Railroad, Colton G. Woolworth, (New York: American Railway Review, ca. 1860); digital image, Library of Congress.

<sup>18</sup> The specific citation for this record has been lost.

<sup>19</sup> "New York Land Records, 1638-1975," digital image, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org> : accessed 27 October 2018), Erie Deeds, 1851-1855, Vol 126, Page 477, 3/8.

<sup>20</sup> The Buffalo Daily Republic (Buffalo, New York, United States of America : 29 May 1858, Saturday, Page 4.



Ruger, A., "Bird's eye view of the city of Hannibal, Marion Co., Missouri," [N.P., 1869], map, Library of Congress. Hannibal, located on the west bank of the Mississippi River, was the terminus for the St. Joe and Hannibal Railroad. As shown in this 1869 map, the town begins at the river and goes up a gentle hill. In the left center of the picture, a collection of buildings can be seen. These are the St. Joe railroad depot and the shops.

**Prosper becomes a railroad man**

Between 1850 and 1860, Prosper moved his family to Missouri and began a career in the railroad industry. His newspaper obituary indicates the family moved to Hannibal, Marion County, Missouri, in 1859. His daughter Ella's 88th birthday celebration, reported in the local paper in 1938, claims the same year.<sup>21</sup> No other records have been found to more accurately identify the date or time this move occurred.

Prosper helped build a railroad across Missouri from Hannibal to St. Joseph. He and his family were found in different localities in both the 1860 and 1870 census records. Both places are along the Hannibal and Saint Joseph Railroad. According to Wikipedia:

The Hannibal and St. Joseph Railroad was the first railroad to cross Missouri starting in Hannibal in the northeast and going to St. Joseph, Missouri, in the northwest. It is said to have carried the first letter to the Pony Express on 3 April 1860, from a train pulled behind the locomotive Missouri. The line connected the second and third largest cities in the state of Missouri prior to the American Civil War.<sup>22</sup>

**1860 U.S. Census**

**Census Date: 1 June 1860**

**Enumeration Date: 28 July 1860**

**Stewartsville, DeKalb County, Missouri**

In 1860, Prosper Gillett was the head of household living in a rented home in Stewartsville, DeKalb County,

Missouri, with his wife and three daughters.<sup>23</sup> The presence of six unrelated adults in the household implies that they were taking in boarders. Prosper was enumerated as a foreman on the railroad.

Prosper was in Missouri at the start of the Civil War. Because the Hannibal and St. Joseph railroad carried the U.S. mail, the trains became a target for Southern sympathizers. It is not clear where the family was living

P. Gillett	43	om	Foreman St. J. RR	350
D. Blanch	41	t	Housekeeper	1
Emmaret	20	t	"	1
Lois, D.	16	t	"	1
Ella, J.	10	t	"	1
Patrick Sheridan	35	om	Promoter St. J. RR	1
Patrick Castillo	35	m	" " " "	800
John	24	om	" " " "	100
Roady Ryan	22	m	Day laborer	20
Michael Hartman	33	m	" " " "	20
John Carl	18	m	" " " "	20

1860 US census, showing P. Gillett family.

<sup>21</sup> *The Herald-Press (Saint Joseph, MI)*, 25 June 1938, p. 8; digital image, *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com> : accessed 25 October 2018)

<sup>22</sup> "Hannibal and St. Joseph Railroad," *Wikipedia* ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hannibal\\_and\\_St.\\_Joseph\\_Railroad](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hannibal_and_St._Joseph_Railroad) : accessed 12 October 2018.)

<sup>23</sup> 1860 U.S. census, DeKalb County, Missouri, Washington Township, Stewartsville, page 95 (penned), dwelling 637, family 637, P. Gillett; digital image, *ProQuest HeritageQuestOnline* (access through participating libraries: accessed 7 March 2010), citing NARA microfilm M653, roll 618.

at the time, but on 3 March 1862 a P. Gillett and an I. Gillett signed an oath to "... support, protect, and defend the Constitution and Government of the United States against all enemies, whether domestic or foreign..."<sup>24</sup> Both men were in Osborn, Clinton County, Missouri, and signed the same day. P. Gillett is presumed to be Prosper, and I. Gillett may have been Prosper's brother, Isaac Newton Gillett. As such, this is the only signature found which was likely written by Prosper himself.

*Certificato:*  
 Subscribed and sworn to before me this  
 12<sup>th</sup> day of March  
 A. D. 1862, as witness my hand



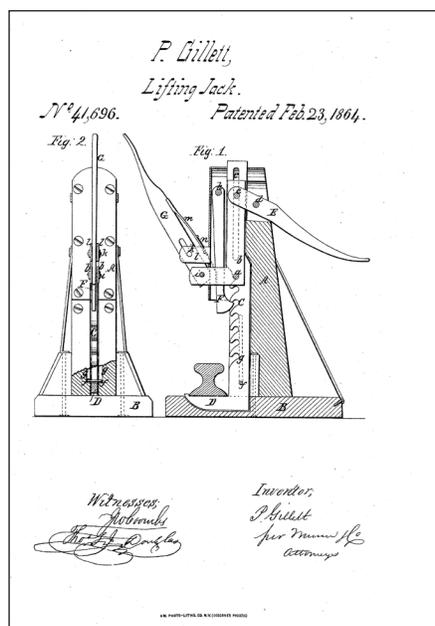
Signature of P. Gillett on his government oath, 1862.

Because other Gillett and Selleck family members settled in Hannibal, Marion County, Missouri, it's reasonable to conclude that Prosper and family did also. Other research identifies several Selleck relatives in that area. Delia Ann (Selleck) Gillett's mother, Polly (Herrick) Selleck, is found in the city directories. Two of Delia Ann's brothers, Mortimer G. and Myron M. Selleck, are also found there.

In 1864, Prosper Gillett obtained a patent for a railroad-track-lifting jack. The Commissioner of Patents' report to Congress contained the following information:

No. 41,696.—Prosper Gillett, Hannibal, Mo.—*Railroad Track Raiser*.—February 23, 1864.—The invention consists of a combination of levers with a toothed rack provided with a suitable toe to be applied to the track, the said levers being so arranged in relation to each other and to the toothed rack that by the action of one lever the toothed rack can be released and dropped to its original position.<sup>25</sup>

This digital image of the patent drawing is on the United States Patent and Trademark Office website.<sup>26</sup>



Hannibal Post Office, 1884, Wikimedia Commons

Two years later, in a departure from his work for the railroad, Prosper (listed as P. Gillott in the 1866 Hannibal directory) was a news and stationery dealer in the Hannibal Post Office on the corner of Third and Broadway.<sup>27</sup>

#### 1870 U.S. Census

**Census Date: 1 June 1870**

**Enumeration Date: 9 August 1870**

#### Paris, Monroe County, Missouri

In 1870, Delia and Prosper were enumerated in Paris, Monroe County, Missouri, forty-four miles southwest of Hannibal, where he was a walking boss for the railroad.<sup>28</sup> Prosper is credited with real estate valued at \$800 and personal estate valued at \$250. The children are not listed with them, and they are not found in online indexes. Further research revealed that two of the girls were married by 1870. Lois Olive married John Warren Hayward on 12 July 1862, and Ella Izora married Daniel Hale Taylor Sr. on 9 June 1870.

By 1871, Prosper and Delia had returned to Hannibal. In January of that year, Prosper took out two promissory notes, one for \$50 and another for \$400.

<sup>24</sup> Provost Marshall, Oath of Allegiance for P. Gillett; Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City, Missouri, Provost Marshall, Reel F1326.

<sup>25</sup> *Report of the Commissioner of Patents for the Year Ending 1864; Arts and Manufactures, Volume 1* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1866); digital image, *GoogleBooks* (<https://books.google.com> : accessed 28 June 2009), p. 303.

<sup>26</sup> "USPTO Patent Full-Text and Image Database," *United States Patent and Trademark Office*, database (<https://www.uspto.gov> : accessed 28 June 2009), "P. Gillett, Lifting Jack," patent file no. 41,696 (1864), original file location not cited.

<sup>27</sup> *Hannibal City Directory for 1866* (Hannibal: Winchell, Ebert & Marsh, Printers, 1866), 19, 107; digital image, *Hannibal Free Public Library* (<http://www.hannibal.lib.mo.us> : accessed 15 November 2017).

<sup>28</sup> 1870 U.S. census, Monroe County, Missouri, Paris PO, page 569 (stamped), dwelling 248, family 249, Prosper Gillett; digital image, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 8 March 2010), citing NARA microfilm publication M593, roll 792.

In order to secure his debt to M. G. Selleck, Delia and Prosper put up their house as collateral. The mortgage was transferred to Charles J. Vanborough, a clerk in the J. G. Easton Bank. The Gillett family paid it off in 1873.<sup>29</sup> On 18 April 1874, Delia and Prosper Gillett sold their house to Charles J. Vanborough for \$800.<sup>30</sup> For several years after the sale, the Gillett's lived in the house, possibly renting. M. G. Selleck was probably Delia Ann's brother, Mortimer G. Selleck.

The Hannibal city directories allow us to track the Gillett's residences and occupations. The same directories also list several of Prosper and Delia Ann's extended

family. Their oldest daughter, Emmarett, was married to Benjamin F. Fields. Delia Ann's two younger brothers, Myron M. and Mortimer G. Selleck, are found living in Hannibal as well.



Railroad Map of Paris, Monroe County GenWeb, The Hannibal and Missouri Central Railroad went through Paris and Prosper.

Year	Listing
1871–72 <sup>31</sup>	Gillett, P., railroader, Grace Selleck MM, brakeman, near Locust Selleck, MG, real estate agent, res Centre extension
1873–74 <sup>32</sup>	Gillett, Prosper, carpenter, res n e corner Center and Griffith Selleck, Mortimer G., real estate and Insurance agent, nw corner N Main and Broadway, res Center opposite Collins. Selleck, Myron, laborer, res e of Spruce n of Willow Sellick, Mrs. P., res Prosper Gillett.
1875–76 <sup>33</sup>	Gillett Prosper I, carpenter, res ns Grace e Griffith Selleck Mortimer G, baggage master M K & T, T W & W, and Q A & St L Rys, res ns Grace w Collins Selleck Myron M, brakeman, res ns Walnut w Griffith
1877–78 <sup>34</sup>	No Prosper Gillett. Fields Benjamin F printer, res s Grace w Division Selleck Myron M baggageman M K & T, res ns Spruce w Vine Selleck Mortimer G depot baggage master, res ns Grace e Summit Selleck Polly Mrs. Res W L Rose [Rose Wm L contractor, res ns Collier e Glasscock]
1877–78 <sup>35</sup>	No Prosper Gillett. Fields Benjamin F printer, res s Grace w Division Selleck Myron M baggageman M K & T, res ns Spruce w Vine Selleck Mortimer G depot baggage master, res ns Grace e Summit Selleck Polly Mrs. Res W L Rose [Rose Wm L contractor, res ns Collier e Glasscock]

<sup>29</sup> Marion County Missouri Deeds, Vol. 56: 420; FHL film #980,271, Marion County Missouri Deeds, Vol. 61: 520-21; FHL film #980,273. Marion County Missouri Deeds, Vol. 63: 441; FHL film #980,274.

<sup>30</sup> Marion County Missouri Deeds, Vol. 70: 23; FHL film #980,277.

<sup>31</sup> History of Hannibal and City Directory, 1871–72 (Hannibal, Mo: The Winchell, Ebert & Marsh Printing Co, 1871), 72; digital image, Hannibal Free Public Library (<http://www.hannibal.lib.mo.us> : accessed 7 March 2010).

<sup>32</sup> Burch & Polk's Hannibal City Directory 1873–74 (Detroit: Burch & Polk, 1873), 106, 196; digital image, Hannibal Free Public Library (<http://www.hannibal.lib.mo.us> : accessed 7 March 2010).

<sup>33</sup> Hallock & Haley's New Hannibal City Directory for 1875–6 (Hannibal: The Winchell & Ebert Printing and Lithographing Co, 1875), 87, 130; digital image, Hannibal Free Public Library (<http://www.hannibal.lib.mo.us> : accessed 7 March 2010).

<sup>34</sup> 1877–1878 Hannibal City Directory (Hearne & Smith, 1877), 65, 125; digital image, Hannibal Free Public Library (<http://www.hannibal.lib.mo.us> : accessed 7 March 2010).

<sup>35</sup> 1877–1878 Hannibal City Directory (Hearne & Smith, 1877), 65, 125; digital image, Hannibal Free Public Library (<http://www.hannibal.lib.mo.us> : accessed 7 March 2010).

**1880 Census****Census Date: 1 June 1880****Enumeration Date: 3 June 1880****Hannibal, Marion County, Missouri**

Prosper and Delia Ann Gillett were enumerated in the 1880 census on 3rd Street, Hannibal.<sup>36</sup> The occupation of "Entertainment" is unusual. There were no children in the household, but they were once again taking in boarders.

Gillett Prosper	W.M. 63		1	Entertainment
Delia Ann	W.F. 61	wife	1	180
Burg Andrew	W.M. 40	Boarder	1	Plumber
Jawell Fred	W.M. 10	Boarder	1	Repairs Gas Meters
Frister John	W.M. 22	Boarder	1	Carpenter
Gates Samuel	B.M. 20	Servant	1	Servant

The Hannibal city directories continue to record the residences of Prosper and some of his extended family. Delia Ann Selleck Gillett died in Hannibal on 1 July 1897.<sup>37</sup>

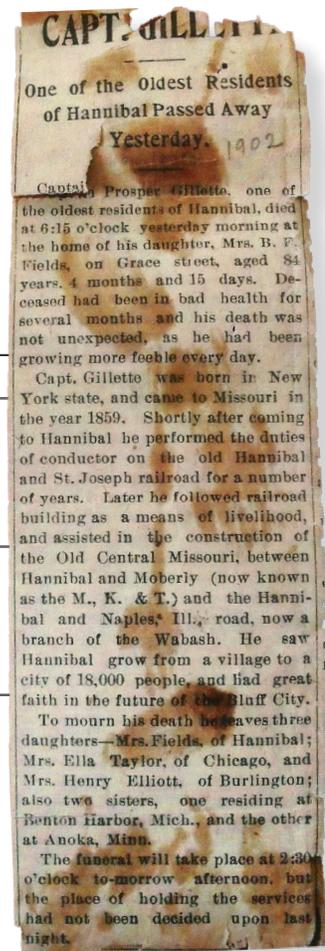
1881–82 <sup>38</sup>	Gillett Prosper, res 918 B'way
1885–86 <sup>39</sup>	Gillett Prosper, retired, res 1215 Bird Fields Ben F., letter carrier, res 223 Grace Selleck M. G. res 202 Grace Selleck Myron, res 116 Willow
1888 <sup>40</sup>	Gillett Prosper, carpenter, r. 300 Chestnut Fields Benjamin F. printer Standard Printing Co r 223 Grace Selleck Miran M. teamster, r. 116 Willow Selleck Mortimer G, county assessor, r 102 Grace

**1900 U.S. Census****Census Date: 1 June 1900****Enumeration Date: 9 June 1900****Hannibal Ward 6, Marion, Missouri**

In 1900, a widowed Prosper Gillett was living with his daughter Emmarett (Emma) and her husband, Benjamin Fields, in Hannibal. Even though Prosper was 82 years old, his occupation was given as carpenter, and he had worked for two months of the year.<sup>41</sup>

**Death of Prosper Gillett**

Two years later, a local newspaper obituary describes the life of Captain Gillett and lists his family members. As mentioned earlier, Prosper's occupation as a packet boat captain is not stated. However, he is recognized as "Captain" in the newspaper headline and text. The article refers to his two surviving sisters. The name of the newspaper is not known, but the clipping of the obituary has a pencil-written year number 1902 on it. Indexes indicate the death date was 28 January 1902.



1902 Obituary Hannibal, Missouri Newspaper (Publisher unknown)

<sup>36</sup> 1880 U.S. census, Marion County, Missouri, 2nd Ward of Hannibal, page 12D (penned), dwelling 80, family 98, Prosper Gillett; digital image, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 15 November 2017), citing NARA microfilm publication T9, roll 702.

<sup>37</sup> Hurley and Hagood, page 26.

<sup>38</sup> *Simmons & McConnell's Hannibal City Directory 1881-82* (Hannibal: Hannibal Printing Company, 1881), 68; digital image, *Hannibal Free Public Library* (<http://www.hannibal.lib.mo.us>: accessed 7 March 2010).

<sup>39</sup> *Stone, Davidson & Co.'s Hannibal City Directory* (Hannibal: 1885), 93, 101, 192; digital image, *Hannibal Free Public Library* (<http://www.hannibal.lib.mo.us>: accessed 7 March 2010).

<sup>40</sup> *Stone's Hannibal City Directory* (Hannibal: H. N. Stone & Co., 1888), 99, 106, 191; digital image, *Hannibal Free Public Library* (<http://www.hannibal.lib.mo.us>: accessed 7 March 2010).

<sup>41</sup> 1900 U.S. census, Marion County, Missouri, Hannibal City, North half of sixth ward, ED 106, sheet 8B (penned), dwelling 171, family 176, Benjamin Fields; digital image, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 8 November 2017), citing NARA microfilm publication T623, roll 875.

**CAPT. GILLETT**

**One of the Oldest Residents of Hannibal Passed Away Yesterday**

Captain Prosper Gillett, one of the oldest residents of Hannibal, died at 6:15 o'clock yesterday morning at the home of his daughter, Mrs. B. F. Fields, on Grace street, aged 84 years, 4 months and 15 days. Deceased had been in bad health for several months and his death was not unexpected, as he had been growing more feeble every day.

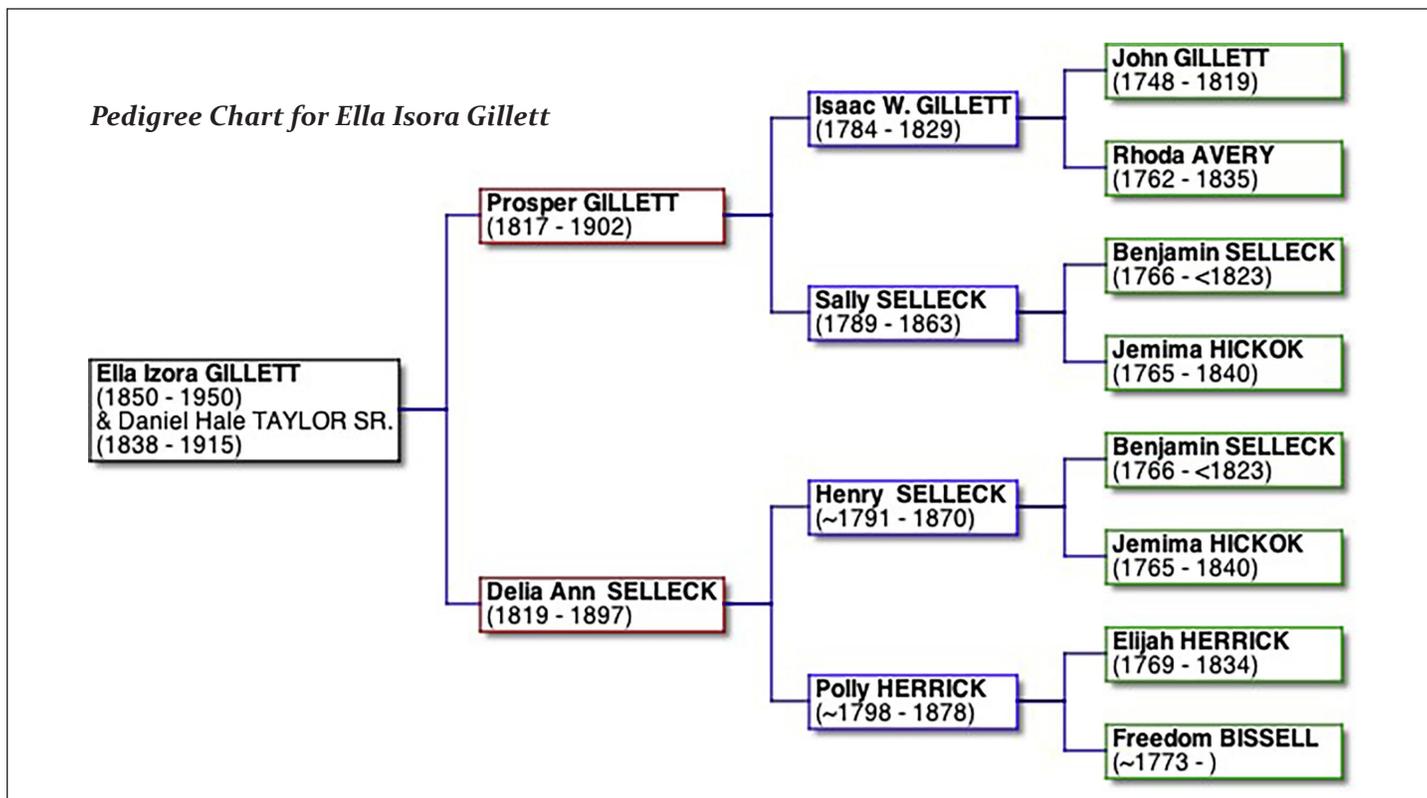
Capt. Gillett was born in New York state and came to Missouri in the year 1859. Shortly after coming to Hannibal he performed the duties of conductor on the old Hannibal and St. Joseph railroad for a number of years. Later he followed railroad building as a means of livelihood, and assisted in the construction of the Old Central Missouri, between Hannibal and Moberly (now known as the M., K. & T.) and the Hannibal and Naples, Ill., road, now a branch of the Wabash. He saw Hannibal grow from a village to a city of 18,000 people and had great faith in the future of the Bluff City.

To mourn his death he leaves three daughters—Mrs. Fields, of Hannibal; Mrs. Ella Taylor, of Chicago, and Mrs. Henry Elliott, of Burlington; also two sisters, one residing at Benton Harbor, Mich., and the other in Anoka, Minn.

The funeral will take place at 2:30 o'clock tomorrow afternoon, but the place of holding the services had not been decided upon last night.<sup>42</sup>



“Two Ellas,” from the collection of Gerry and Connie Lenzen. Ella Izora Taylor and Ella Izora (Gillett) Taylor, about 1923.



<sup>42</sup> “Capt. Gillett: One of the Oldest Residents of Hannibal Passed Away Yesterday,” 29 January 1902, unidentified newspaper (Hannibal, Missouri), page unknown.

Both Prosper Gillett and Delia Ann Selleck Gillett are buried in Mt. Olivet Cemetery in the rolling hills south of Hannibal. The burial register at the Mt. Olivet Cemetery lists their names. A 1989 map lists them in Section 2, Block 82. Unfortunately, no one has ever placed markers on their graves. Some notes indicate additional Gillette and Selleck burials are in the same block.

#### *Author Postscript*

The original research question asked if there was a preponderance of evidence to support Ella's 1850 birth on a packet boat. The 1840 census lists two persons employed in the navigation of canals, lakes, and rivers, one male and one female—Prosper and likely his wife Delia. The family has not been found on the 1850 U.S. census nor the 1855 New York state census, which could support the hypothesis that they were traveling or on the canal. Prosper owned property from 1853 to 1858 in Buffalo, New York, which sits at the end of the Erie Canal. The Gillett family Bible lists their children and where and when they were born. Ella Izora Gillett Taylor was alive in 1902 when Prosper died and was likely told stories of her birth.

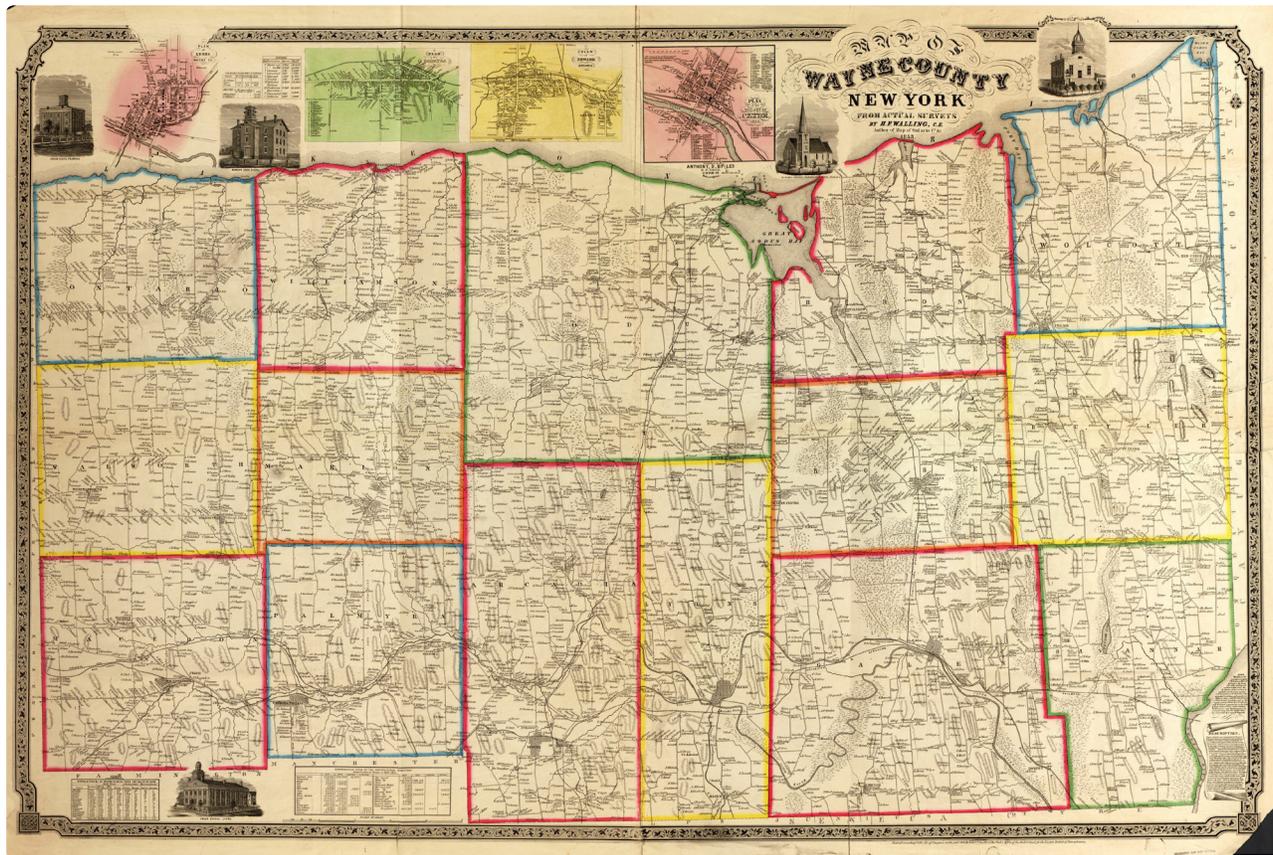
I can therefore conclude that Ella probably was born on her father's packet boat based on family lore, obituaries, and the location and activity of Prosper over



*Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Hannibal, Missouri.*

time. A remaining task is to search for more information about his packet boat time on the Erie Canal. The records are probably available in the New York State Archives in Albany.

Prosper and Delia Ann (Selleck) Gillett were the great-great-grandparents of Gerry Lenzen, the author. Their daughter, Ella Izora Gillett, who married Daniel Hale Taylor Sr., was Gerry's great-grandmother. Their son, Daniel Hale Taylor Jr., who married Vallie Blanche Hall, was Gerry's grandfather. Daniel Jr.'s daughter, Ella Izora Taylor, who married Sylvester Otto Lenzen, was Gerry's mother.



*Wayne County Townships, New York.*

# A Message from Father to Son: Michael (Nicholas) Balicki (1865–1948) to Joseph John Balicki (1918–1983)

Judith Leppert

August 29, 1941

My dear Son—

In a day or so you will leave for school thus opening a new chapter in your career.

It is my opinion, that under normal conditions, your success would be assured because you have a fine mind, a good personality, a splendid sense of honesty and fair play and first rate health. However, you are living in a time which calls for super ability and courage.

I am sure you have and will develop [sic] those attributes.

Captain Paul's history should be stimulating and encouraging—He developed the ability to overcome what might have seemed impossible problems. I know that if you face them you too will fight them through—

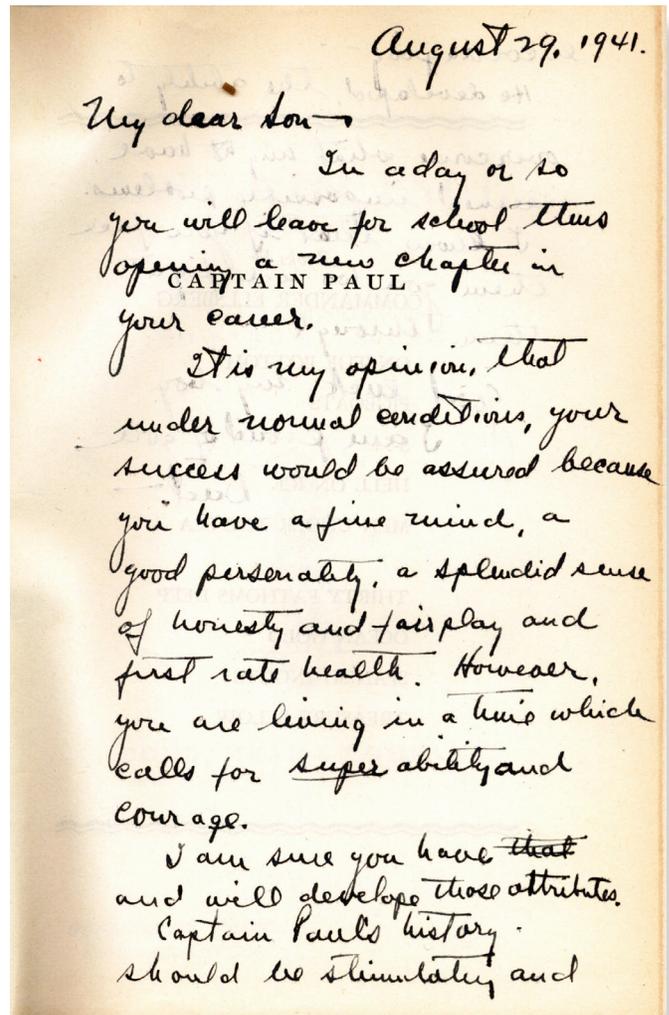
Good luck my boy

I am proud of you

Dad

In my volunteer position at the Genealogical Forum of Oregon (GFO), I often process donated books. One came my way titled *Captain Paul* written by Commander Edward Ellsberg and published by Dodd, Mead & Company in 1941. As you may guess, the book is about Captain John Paul Jones and is written by Rear Admiral Edward Ellsberg. What caught my attention was the letter inscribed before the title page, written to “Son” and signed “Dad.” The date, 29 August 1941, is telling. Imagine a young man about to go off to school in that era, and you get the gist of the father’s meaning.

At first, I was frustrated that no more direct identification accompanied the book. But then on the inside cover, I saw an address label with a name: J. J. Balicki. I went on a search for that name and found an obituary in the Historical Oregonian Archive (an online database free to Multnomah County residents with their library card). It mentioned that a Joseph J. Balicki died in 1983 and that he was born in New Britain, Connecticut. (It didn’t mention the date!) To begin with, I thought the man in question was the father who wrote the letter. But with more research, I realized it was instead the son to



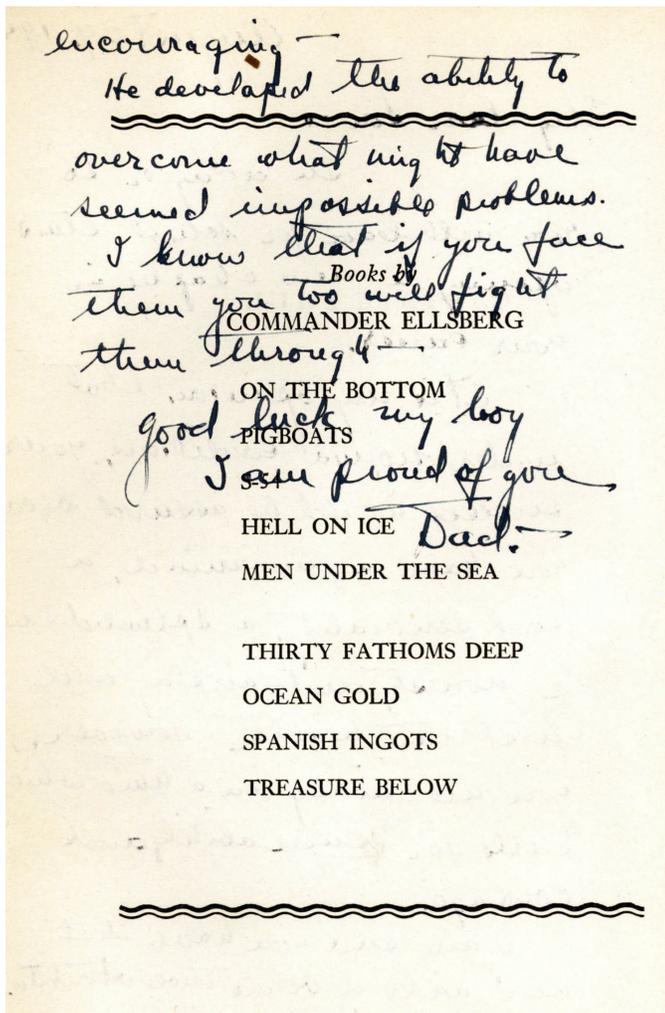
Page one of the letter from the book, held by Genealogical Forum of Oregon, 2018.

whom the letter was addressed. The notice named his wife, BettyJane, and two daughters. His brothers were Casmier and Walter; his sister was Mary.

The address of J. J.'s home (2135 Southeast Bybee Boulevard, Portland, Oregon), which I knew from the label in the book, is in my own neighborhood, Westmoreland. I mentioned the story at the neighborhood cafe when next I went to breakfast. “I believe I dated a girl from that address, but the name doesn’t seem quite right,” reminisced one of the restaurant regulars and

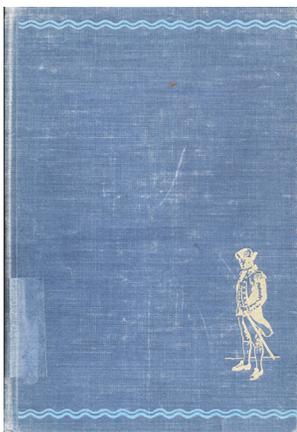


Inside cover of the GFO's copy of *Captain Paul*, by Cmdr. Edward Ellsberg.



Page two of the letter from the book, held by Genealogical Forum of Oregon, 2018.

a Cleveland High School graduate like me. Well, that comment set me off on a search.



Cover of the GFO's copy of Captain Paul, by Cmdr. Edward Ellsberg.

I first looked at Ancestry.com and realized I didn't know enough about Mr. Balicki. There were too many men with the same name. I tried to narrow the search by location, but I didn't have his birthdate. Though I found census and other records, I couldn't be sure they were for the correct person. Then I turned to another subscription database we have at the GFO, Fold3. There, I found enough information to rule

out others with the same name and to locate Joseph more definitively.

Censuses now made sense. Joseph was on the 1920 census in New Britain, with father Michael, mother Johanna, and several older siblings. The 1930 census in New Britain showed him with his father, Nicholas, and his mother, Joan. I knew I had the right family when I saw the brother Casmier with the family. Both mother and father were born in Poland. I found Joseph J. Balicki in the 1940 census. He was residing in the barracks in Vancouver, Clark County, Washington; a single man, aged 22, from New Britain, Hartford, Connecticut. Army records revealed that he enlisted 15 December 1939 and was released 15 May 1945 as a Sergeant. So perhaps the military introduced him to the Pacific Northwest. The records suggest that the school and career mentioned in the letter refer to training in the military as the U.S. prepared to enter World War II.

Also, on the 1940 census, I found J. J. Balicki's Portland house owned by another family, the DeMonnins. That could explain why my friend said he dated a woman from that home whose name was not Balicki. One of the daughters was Betty, age 19. Wow! That could be J. J.'s wife. A search of marriage records confirmed that Joseph John Balicki and BettyJane E. DeMonnin married on 12 August 1945. So, they married and eventually moved to the wife's family home.

With no more census information, I reviewed other data. The GFO has Portland, Oregon, city directories going back to 1874. I searched for Balicki and found "Joseph J (Betty J) chauffeur PP&LCo h. 2135 SE Bybee Blvd." in 1953. Just as exciting was "Balicki Casmier J. (Edith A) machinist HysterCo h. 3712 NE Jessup." So, Joseph's brother also left Connecticut for Portland. I looked for the former occupant of the Bybee Boulevard house. Was he still alive? "Demonnin Charles P. (Edith M) h. 2505 NE Weidler."

Next, I consulted Portlandmaps.com, a free website which can be used to find information about a Portland address. I discovered an Oil Burner Permit Application for 10 December 1947 for the Bybee address, which was installed for J. Balicki by the J. J. Sandberg Company. I don't know when the Balicki's moved into the house, but they were there in 1947.

Joseph worked for 35 years as a chauffeur for Pacific Power & Light Company. He remained in Portland for the rest of his life. He died 24 August 1983, aged 65, in Clackamas County, Oregon, and is buried at Willamette National Cemetery.

**EDITOR'S NOTE—A CAUTIONARY TALE:**

As soon as I saw the title of this article, I knew the GFO had more records about the family. The Balicki Personal Papers are part of the library's manuscripts collection. They were donated by BettyJane E. DeMonnin Balicki! It is probable the book was donated at the same time as the papers. The following biographical sketch of BettyJane is included with the collection. It was written by her daughter Debby Ortega after a visit to the library in 2017.

*BettyJane E. DeMonnin Balicki was born May 29, 1920, the second of five children born to parents Charles Percy DeMonnin and Edith May Bayliss DeMonnin. She married Joseph John Balicki August 12, 1945. They had two daughters, Deborah Lynne and Rebecca Lee. Betty always had an interest in family history and incorporated information about the family in everyday conversations. She made history exciting. Those ancestors became "alive" – they weren't just names, they were people with occupations, children, and stories of their own. One ancestor was one of the founding families of Tillamook, Oregon, that had ships that sank, one was held captive in the Pacific islands and was tattooed from head to toe, another was a blacksmith who built the first building in Portland, Oregon, at 1st & Washington, the ancestor that arrived on the Mayflower was the first person to be hanged in Plymouth Plantation, many were written about in publications. She was wise enough to ask questions of the generations before her - grandmother, mother, father, aunts, and uncles – and record the information. She accumulated a wealth of information well before the ability to search the internet by traveling to ancestor's home states, counties, and cities .... even a trip to England. She was a member of the Gene-*



*Balicki-DeMonnin Wedding, 1945, Portland, Oregon, courtesy of Debby Ortega.*

*alogical Forum of Oregon and the Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers. She collected the information to prove membership to the Mayflower Society and Daughters of the American Revolution but died before she could complete the process. Her daughter, Deborah, has continued her mother's research and used that information to apply for membership in the Mayflower Society and DAR and became a member of Sons & Daughters of Oregon Pioneers. BettyJane died April 16, 1989, and was buried with her husband at Willamette National Cemetery.*

Happy that we had contact information for the Balicki family, I wrote to Debby with an offer to return the book and to ask for photos. At first, she was excited by the news. But after a short time, she contacted me to say that the letter could not have been written by her grandfather, Michael. He was a Polish immigrant who did not speak English, let alone read or write it. And the date on the letter? In 1941, her father Joseph was in the service in Africa. She noted that the book probably belonged to the family and that her mother put address labels in all of her books. However, she was impressed with the research that was done and did indeed provide some photos.

All of us have spent time researching a family, only to learn that it was the wrong one. In this case, Judith Leppert was intrigued enough to research a family that was not related to her. Though she likely will never know the identity of the author or recipient of the letter in the book, she has shared methods and resources that all of us can use in our pursuit of family history.



*Joseph Balicki (in uniform) with his parents on either side, 1945, courtesy of Debby Ortega.*

## Finding Margaret

The search for the daughter of  
Adalgisa “Della” Dodi (1891-1974) of  
Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon

*Cheri Emahiser*

Editor’s Note: After nearly six years, Adalgisa “Della” Dodi gave up her fight to raise her daughter, Margaret Leon. The 1918 order that granted custody of Margaret to George H. and Hazel Dammeier was the last court record. Chapters 1 and 2 (*The Bulletin*, September and December 2018) provided details of the divorce and custody battle between Della and Victor Leon. In Chapter 3, Cheri Emahiser concludes her Aunt Margaret’s story using other records, including censuses, newspapers, and personal reminiscences.



*Margaret Leon*

### Chapter 3

**M**argaret Leon’s early years played out in a very public fashion. Court records revealed the details of her parents’ messy divorce and the struggle that her immigrant mother, my grandmother, went through trying to retain custody. However, once Judge McGinn granted custody to the Dammeiers, those records stopped.

When I first started looking for Margaret, I didn’t even know her last name. Once I learned the surname was Leon, I found a promising Social Security Death Index record for a Margaret Leon.<sup>1</sup> It gave dates of birth and death and provided a location to search for a death record. My granduncle, Silvio Dodi, had told me that Margaret might have moved from Portland to California. The woman in the death index lived well into her nineties in Newport Beach, Orange County, California. Could this possibly be my aunt? I sent off a check with a request for the death certificate hoping to learn more. I was delighted to receive the document and see her father’s name listed as Victor Leon. I had the correct Margaret, as well as the name and address of the informant who had provided Margaret’s personal information at the time of her death.<sup>2</sup>

I wrote to the informant, Barbara Hinkle, and weeks later held my breath while opening a letter from California. How I hoped I held the key to Margaret’s life in my trembling hands. Did I have cousins in California? Did they know about their family in Oregon? The letter was to be the first of many exchanges; emails, letters, and photographs followed. Margaret’s longtime friend and confidante graciously chronicled the life that Margaret had revealed to her.

Barbara wrote to me about Della visiting Margaret on at least one occasion at the Dammeier home, the Lion Farm. The 1918 court order awarding Margaret’s custody to the Dammeiers allowed Della to visit there. Margaret remembered her mother being very standoffish and inattentive. I suspect Della was intimidated by the Dammeier estate and the heartache brought on by finally seeing her daughter. Seeing her, but not being able to take her home, must have been emotionally overwhelming and perhaps even paralyzing. Margaret may have appeared standoffish in return. She told Barbara that she did not go into the living room to see her mother during the visit. Instead, she hung back in the hallway. Evidently, my grandmother did not feel comfortable retrieving Margaret from her hiding place.

<sup>1</sup> “U.S. Social Security Death Index, 1935-2014,” database, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), entry for Margaret L. Leon.

<sup>2</sup> Orange County California Department of Public Health, death certificate 3052004/70776 (2004), Margaret L. Leon.

My Uncle Dodi said that he visited Margaret at least twice. He was a man who exuded joy wherever he went. I am sure Margaret loved his smiling face and his silly jokes and tricks, just as I did. Barbara said that Margaret “liked him very much.”<sup>3</sup>

Uncle Dodi tried to find Margaret some years later, after he had learned she was living in California. He went to the Dammeier home and pleaded with a caretaker to give him Margaret’s address. Dodi was elated when the caretaker agreed to do so. Sadly, sometime during the caretaker’s walk and his entry into the home, he changed his mind. He returned to Dodi empty handed. Crestfallen, Dodi left the property knowing he would likely never set eyes on Margaret again.



Silvio Dodi

By the 1920 census enumeration, Margaret, age 10, was listed as Margaret Dammeier, daughter of George and Hazel Dammeier.<sup>4</sup> Grandma Della’s last name in the census had also changed. She had married Edward B. Wood and was residing in Portland with her husband and their daughter Lela, age one.<sup>5</sup>

In 1935, while she was attending college, Margaret’s father, Victor Leon, whom she evidently adored, became very ill and died.<sup>6</sup> “Later, she thought that her mother was dead,” Barbara told me, “so she never tried to find her. And Margaret was very proud and felt rejected.”<sup>7</sup>

Margaret Leon became a college graduate. While at Loma Linda College in California, she purportedly attended a dean’s reception clad in nothing but a fur coat. Her friend Barbara wrote: “She was overjoyed that after the reception, she went riding with another girl and a couple of boys in only the fur coat. Oh, she may have worn gloves.”<sup>8</sup>

Perhaps a sensation seeker, obviously defiant, she wasn’t a devotee of the Seventh Day Adventist faith, as was her foster mother, Hazel. Barbara wrote, “Margaret was very anti-religion.”<sup>9</sup>



Margaret Leon Dammeier, undated photo, collection of Cheri Emahiser.



Wendell W. White, Margaret’s first husband and Stan’s father, undated photo, collection of Cheri Emahiser.

<sup>3</sup> Barbara Hinkle to Cheri Emahiser, letter, 31 August 2009.

<sup>4</sup> 1920 U.S. census, Clackamas County, Oregon, population schedule, Harmony, entry for Margaret L Dammeier, digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<https://www.ancestry.com>: accessed 9 October 2018).

<sup>5</sup> 1920 U.S. census, Multnomah County, Oregon, population schedule, Portland, entry for Della Wood, digital image, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com>: accessed 9 October 2018).

<sup>6</sup> Victor Leon died 26 May 1935 in Clackamas County, Oregon. “Oregon Death Index 1931-1941”, digital images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 9 October 2018), Victor Leon.

<sup>7</sup> Barbara Hinkle to Cheri Emahiser, letter, 31 August 2009.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*



Margaret Dammeier White and her baby, Stan, undated photo, collection of Cheri Emahiser.



George W. Dammeier on the right and his prize dairy cow, undated photo, collection of Cheri Emahiser.

Grandma Della would have loved knowing her daughter graduated from college. Dodi and Grandma never knew Margaret made a career in California as a dietician, or that she retired from a medical facility in Laguna Hills at age 65. They didn't know her as a vivacious, intelligent woman who married five times to four different men, or of her being single at the time of her death. Della didn't know she had a grandson, Stan, born 15 August 1940, who was diagnosed with Addison's disease as a teenager. This resulted in his spending more than a few years in the children's hospital in Los Angeles. His poor health prevented him from attending college or working.

There were years when Margaret, the socialite, attended many parties with the husband who worked for a local newspaper. They were invited to social events in Newport Beach. Numerous pictures depict her in ball gowns at parties. One picture shows her looking very beautiful and at ease standing next to Bess Myerson, the former beauty queen, television personality, and New York politician.



Margaret and Bess Myerson, undated photo, collection of Cheri Emahiser.

Yet, according to her friend Barbara, "most of her life, she was a hardworking, nose-to-the-grindstone career woman, frugal."<sup>10</sup> Margaret may have adopted her work ethic from her foster father, George Dammeier, the prosperous businessman, builder, developer, successful dairy farmer, and breeder of prize dairy cattle. As Fred Lockley wrote:

Probably no resident of the Columbia River valley has done more in a practical way to raise the standard of dairy cattle in this section of the country than has George H. Dammeier, of Portland, owner of Lion farm, which is known throughout the Pacific region for its splendid pure-bred Jersey cattle.<sup>11</sup>

At some point, the Dammeiers followed Margaret to California and purchased a Los Angeles residence.<sup>12</sup> By the time of their move, Margaret had married and divorced and was a single working mother. Barbara told me that Margaret and her son, Stan, moved into the Los Angeles home with the Dammeiers, and Mrs. Dammeier looked after Stan while Margaret worked. Later, Margaret returned the favor,

<sup>10</sup> Barbara Hinkle to Cheri Emahiser, letter, 15 September 2011.

<sup>11</sup> Fred Lockley, *History of the Columbia River Valley from The Dalles to the Sea, Volume II*, page 740.

<sup>12</sup> They probably moved between 1940 and 1942. 1940 U.S. census, Multnomah County, Oregon, Portland, Precinct 182, Sheet 3-B, line 77-78, George and Hazel Dammeier; digital image, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org> : accessed 15 January 2019). Also, *Los Angeles, California, City Directory, 1942*, page 607, Dammeier, Geo (Hazel) (Los Angeles: Association of North American Directory Publishers, 1942); digital image 311 of 757, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 15 January 2019).

looking after the Dammeiers until they passed away.<sup>13</sup>

Stan never married. He lived with his mother until the end of his life. Stan loved to cook. Margaret did not! She washed the dishes and sewed her own tailored clothes for herself and shirts for Stan. They loved to entertain small parties of four or five in their small townhome.<sup>14</sup>

Even though the Dammeiers raised her as a ward of the state, this elite, prominent couple provided Margaret with the experience of wealth, social status, and a college degree. But despite their immense wealth, Barbara wrote that when the Dammeiers died, “all they left to Margaret was the Los Angeles home, which had been turned into a duplex,



Margaret out with possibly a different spouse, collection of Cheri Emahiser



One of the husbands, Margaret, and Stan, undated photo, collection of Cheri Emahiser.

and the garage which had been turned into 2 or 4 apartments.” Margaret and Stan, who were living in a small townhouse in Newport Beach, worked at keeping the apartments rented and did all the refurbishing and maintenance themselves. When the property was severely damaged by an earthquake, Stan, though in ill health, took on the task of rebuilding. That enormous job may have contributed to his death from a stroke in 1995.<sup>15</sup> The complex was sold the year he died. The one item Margaret kept was a brass hat rack that had hung in the entry at the Lion Farm. She kept it her entire life.<sup>16</sup>

Margaret knew her mother’s name was Adalgisa and that she was born in Italy; the information is on Margaret’s death record. Adalgisa means “noble hostage.” Indeed, during the bitter and protracted court custody battle, Della was a hostage of gender inequality, her time, her race, and her poverty. The man standing by Della’s side, both emotionally and likely financially during the custody fight, was Edward Wood; a man eighteen years her senior. Margaret didn’t know about Della and Ed’s marriage or the birth of her two half-sisters, first Lela and then my mother, Frances Marie. She never learned her mother raised her sisters during the depression, as a young widow, while keeping a garden, an immaculate house, and working as a janitor at the schoolhouse in Gervais, Oregon.

My research uncovered other facts Margaret might have been thrilled to learn. Margaret was a descendant of Italian nobility with ancestors going back to the 16th century. She could have told stories of her famous relative, Giovanni Maria Bononcini, who was born in 1642 and was a court musician in Modena.<sup>17</sup> She could have marveled at the Dodi family crest and learned how she was a member of a notable family from the municipality of Zocca, where the Dodi home in the village of Montalbano remains standing.

Margaret’s life might have been quite different had she known these things. What if Margaret had known how hard Della had fought for her? Instead, according to Barbara, Victor told Margaret that her mother disappeared (an apparent lie), and that it was because of her

13 “California, Death Index, 1940-1997,” database, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> ; accessed 9 October 2018), George H. Dammeier died in Los Angeles County, California, on 19 July 1944, Hazel Marie Dammeier died in Los Angeles County, California, on 11 April 1955.

14 Barbara Hinkle to Cheri Emahiser, letter, 31 August 2009.

15 “California, Death Index, 1940-1997,” database, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> ; accessed 9 October 2018), entry for Stan G. Leon.

16 Barbara Hinkle to Cheri Emahiser, letter, 31 August 2009.

17 “Giovanni Maria Bononcini,” *Wikipedia*, 20 March 2018 ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Giovanni\\_Maria\\_Bononcini](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Giovanni_Maria_Bononcini) ; accessed 9 October 2018).

mother that Margaret was sent to an orphanage and later to live with strangers. Margaret surely felt abandoned. Did she blame herself? Children often feel it was something they did, or did not do, that caused a family breakup. Margaret's tumultuous childhood had to have caused emotional damage. If Margaret grew up believing Della didn't want her, she may have further convinced herself that no one would ever find her worthy of their enduring love. Her five marriages are indicative of significant struggles in her marital relationships.

The scar of losing her mother at such an early age may have deepened when she realized she would always be a foster child. She might have felt the love the Dammeiers provided her was provisional and simply not deep enough to propel them to take the difficult steps to adopt her as their daughter. Obviously, the Dammeiers were satisfied with the façade of being Margaret's legal parents. Margaret's friend wrote: "She called Mr. Dammeier 'Bom.' She made up the name for him; he would not let her call him father or daddy."<sup>18</sup>

What if instead, Margaret had grown up knowing her mother's love. What if, as a young adult, Margaret had been able to build a bond with her mother, sisters,



*Margaret and her (possibly) fourth spouse, collection of Cheri Emahiser.*

and other Oregon relatives? Perhaps she would have been better able to create long-term, loving relationships.

Barbara Hinkle also wrote to me of caring for Margaret in the final months of her life, and how Margaret was under hospice care for six months. Barbara had promised Margaret's devoted son, Stan, that she would look after Margaret after his passing. Consequently, Barbara cared for her in Margaret's Newport Beach home for many months. However, toward the end of Margaret's life, the two of them decided Margaret should leave her home. Barbara wrote:

About three weeks prior to her death, she and I made arrangements for assisted living. I did feel she needed to

have round the clock care. I thought it best to spend time with her rather than nursing her. I read books to her, she especially liked one on the life of Katherine Hepburn.

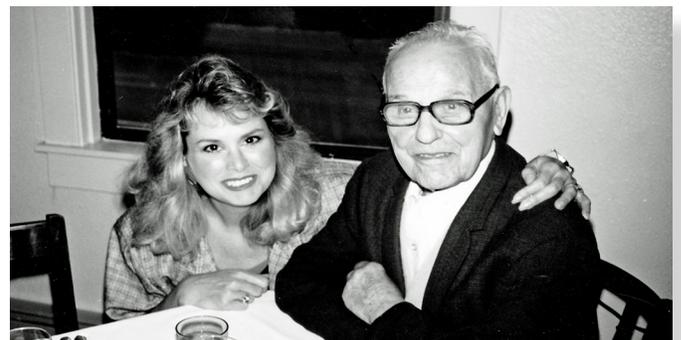
They [Margaret and Stan] were both wonderful friends. Very intelligent, very kind, good sense of humor. Well liked.<sup>19</sup>

Margaret Leon died 22 September 2004 at age 94.<sup>20</sup> Like her son, Stan, Margaret was buried at sea.

I often wonder if I walked by Aunt Margaret's home some years ago as I strolled the sidewalks of Newport Beach when I was a young woman. Maybe I even saw Margaret working in the gorgeous garden depicted in the pictures of her lovely home. If only I had come to know her then. Now, I can only regretfully imagine the relationship the two of us, as a family, might have shared.



*Uncle Silvio and Adalgisa "Della" Dodi, undated photo, collection of Cheri Emahiser.*



*Cheri Emahiser and her granduncle Silvio Dodi on his 99th birthday, 29 April 1987, six months before his death, undated photo, collection of Cheri Emahiser.*

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

<sup>19</sup> Barbara Hinkle to Cheri Emahiser, letter, date unknown.

<sup>20</sup> "U.S. Social Security Death Index, 1935-2014," database, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 7 July 2018), entry for Margaret L. Leon.

# So, Salvatore and Anna *are* my Great-Grandparents: Finding Salvatore Castricone (1845–Unknown) and Anna De Bererdinis (1845–Unknown) of Popoli, Pescara, Abruzzo, Italy

Joan Castricano Galles

For twenty years or more, I thought Giustino Castricone from Popoli, Italy, was my great-grandfather, the father of Gregorio Castricone, my grandfather. I found this information by visiting a Family History Center, where an expert on Italian genealogy showed me how to read the various birth documents. Once we found the first Gregorio Castricone, born around 1882, we assumed he was my grandfather. We then looked for everyone born at that address who had the same parents, Giustino Castricone and Raffaela D'Angelo. I searched all the birth records from Popoli up to the early 1900s and found several siblings.

Recently, I began looking through old photo books that belonged to my father, John Castricano. I found a photo of an Aunt Maria in Popoli, which he took while attending a Castricone family wedding in Capestrano, Italy, in 1975. The photo was labeled Maria Castricone Venti, and it was noted that she was a sister of my grandfather Gregorio.



The author's great-aunt Maria Castricone Venti in Popoli, Italy, 1975 image by John Castricano.

Gregorio Castricone Italy, Pescara, Civil Registration (State Archive), 1809-1929	birth: 16 April 1882	Popoli, Pescara, Italy	father: Giustino Castricone mother: Raffaela D'Angelo
Gregorio Castricone Italy, Pescara, Civil Registration (State Archive), 1809-1929	birth: 16 April 1882	Popoli, Pescara, Italy	father: Giustino Castricone mother: Raffaela D'Angelo
Gregorio Castricone Italy, Pescara, Civil Registration (State Archive), 1809-1929	birth: 3 April 1883	Popoli, Pescara, Italy	father: Salvatore Castricone mother: Anna De Berardinis
Gregorio Castricone Italy, Pescara, Civil Registration (State Archive), 1809-1929	birth: 3 April 1883	Popoli, Pescara, Italy	father: Salvatore Castricone mother: Anna De Berardinis

FamilySearch, partial results for Gregorio Castricone, birthplace Popoli, Italy, between 1882 and 1883.

I reviewed the list of my grandfather's siblings that I had compiled at the Family History Center and found no Maria in my records of Guistino Castricone's family. Did I miss her? Or did I have the wrong family?

I went to the FamilySearch website and found birth records for a Maria Castricone whose parents were Salvatore Castricone and Anna De Berardinis. I also found there were a number of Gregorio Castricones born in the 1880s in Popoli. One of them had the same parents as Maria.

### The Search Continued

I decided to review other records about the family. I had a secondary record for the marriage date and location of my grandparents, Gregorio Castricone and Maria d'Attilio. The information came from my father's birth certificate. He reported that his parents were married in Fort William, Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada, in 1908. But I had never seen the marriage record.

**Domion of Canada**  
PROVINCE OF ONTARIO  
To Wit: **In the Matter of Registering a Birth which has not been registered.**

**Declaration**

Form 1 **OFFICIAL RETURN OF BIRTH**  
BY PARENT OR GUARDIAN

Family Name Castricone of J. Gregorio Castricone  
(Name in full)

Given Name John

Date of Birth February 3, 1910 of the City of Vancouver

Where Born St. Francis, San Mateo in the County of British Columbia Labour

Country Ontario Rainy DO SOLEMNLY DECLARE that:

Place of Parents' Marriage Fort William

When Married July 20, 1908 (1) I am the father (or mother) of the person whose name appears in the Official Return of a Birth therein set forth.

Full Name of Father Gregorio Castricone

Address of Father at Time of Birth St. Francis P.O. Box (2) I have personal knowledge of the matters therein set forth, and the same are true in substance and in fact.

Occupation at Time of Birth Labourer

Maternal Name of Mother Mary Dattilo

Name of Physician in Attendance

Name of Person Reporting Information Sam Gallo

Address 1720 Howard Ave., Van. B.C.

Date of Return June July 11, 1927 **901344** *BK 59*

AND I MAKE this solemn declaration conscientiously believing it to be true and knowing that it is of the same force and effect as if made under oath and by virtue of THE CANADA EVIDENCE ACT.

Declared before me at the City of Vancouver County of Vancouver Gregorio Castricone  
(Signature of father or mother of child)

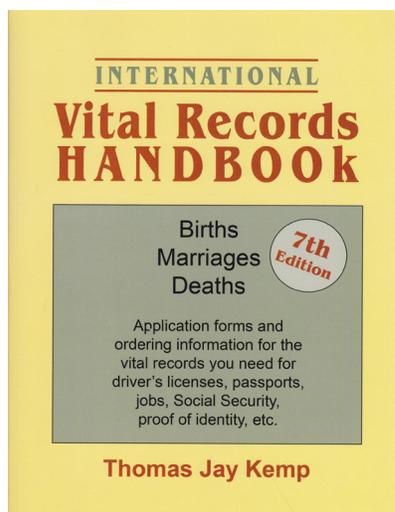
this 11<sup>th</sup> day of July 1927

Signature J. D. Downey **903212**  
(Notary Public, Commissioner, etc., or Justice of the Peace)

CASTRICANO, John

FamilySearch, 1910 birth record for Maria Castricone.

Meanwhile, as I was working on this problem, the Genealogical Forum of Oregon (GFO) received a new book, *International Vital Records for the World*. In the Ontario, Canada, section I learned that marriages that took place over eighty years ago would be at the Archive of Ontario. I called the phone number in the book but could not reach them. I looked for Ontario, Canada, records online, found the archive email address, and sent a message outlining the information I sought.



Another New Book at the GFO!

Thirty minutes later they replied that the 1908 Ontario, Canada, marriage documents were available on FamilySearch. I recalled that Keith Pyeatt, the leader of the Italian Interest Group at the GFO, had recently shown the group how to use FamilySearch maps to locate the list of available documents for an area.

Using his tips, I located the records for Canada and then Ontario. Next, I narrowed the search to marriage records for that era. There was nothing under a secular listing but scrolling down to the very end of the list, I found a collection titled *Roman Catholic Marriages for Ontario*. This produced a list of all the towns for which there were online documents. I clicked Thunder Bay, and then Fort William. Up popped three church listings. The second church was St. Patrick's Cathedral, and there, in alphabetical order, were the names of my grandfather, Gregorio Castricone and grandmother, Maria D'Attilio, along with the image of the record showing their marriage date of 30 July 1908.

B		C	
Basso, F. A. & Tome M. A.	3 7	Cordello Luigi	15
Bellamy Albert	6 2	Cover Nikola	21
Bisari Micheline	7	Crimmy Frank	25
Bryluch Piotr	20	Czornik Ksawery	43
Byra Janyta	45	Czyrk Tom	52
Balye Nikola	47	Caruso Felomeno	71
Byzowski Michael	69	Cate Joseph Adam	67
Brossmunt Joseph L.	87	Campagnano Vincenzo	60
		Chunnam Patrick J.	74
		Castricone Gregorio	73
		Carbott Ernest	41
		Coughlin Edward	12

FamilySearch, St. Patrick's Cathedral Index, Fort William, Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada.

Salvatore Castricone and Anna De Bererdinis were listed as the parents of Gregorio. I knew this was the correct couple because my grandmother's parents, Dominic D'Attilio and Maria Giovanna Giuliani, were also listed. Maria was my godmother.

So, the longstanding mistake had been corrected. I had discovered the identity of my great-grandparents.

Knowing this information has led to the recent discovery of living family members. Through the Ancestry website, I located a second cousin once removed who is the great-granddaughter of my grandfather Gregorio's brother, Anthonio. Aside from my brother and his family, she is one of only two people from my father's side of the family that I have located in this country.

The hunt for my great-grandparents is a good example of revisiting and reviewing the information you have collected. If something is nagging at you, check it out. I felt that either my father hadn't met an actual aunt, or my own documentation was not correct. Ultimately, I found documents that proved the Maria in the photo was the daughter of Salvatore and Anna, which then revealed I had the wrong parents for Gregorio all these years. But now, with more experience, I feel I can confidently continue to research my family, assured that I have the right paternal ancestors.



Hedwig Ihaksi Wentila, Aino Pollari (holding Joan Castricano), Aini Haksi, Mary Castricano, Lily Hooper, John Castricano, Aili Castricano and Grandfather Gregorio Castricone (Castricano), undated photo provided by Joan Castricano Galles.

REGISTER OF MARRIAGES. 73	
BRIDEGROOM.	
His name.....	Gregorio Castricone - Castricone
Age.....	27
Residence when married.....	West Fort William
Place of birth.....	Polzella
Bachelor or widower, (B. or W.)....	B.
Occupation.....	Labrea
Religious denomination of bride and groom.....	R. C.
Names of parents.....	Salvatore Castricone - Anna di Berardina
BRIDE.	
Her name.....	Maria D'Attilio
Age.....	16
Residence when married.....	West Fort William
Place of birth.....	Napoli
Spinster or widow, (S. or W.)....	S.
Religious denomination of bride.....	R. C.
Names of parents.....	Spencer D'Attilio - Maria J. Laine
Whether married by license or banns, (L. or B.).....	B. disp. 1 B.
SIGNATURES:	
Of bridegroom.....	Gregorio Castricone
Of bride.....	Maria D'Attilio
Of witnesses.....	Antonio D'Attilio
Residence.....	West Fort William
Residence.....	Cordelia Dani
Residence.....	Fort William
I Certify the above-named parties were married by me at <u>Fort William</u> in the _____ in the Province of Ontario, this <u>thirtieth</u> day of <u>July</u> A. D., one thousand <u>nine</u> hundred and <u>eight</u> (Signature) <u>Th. Cairns, J.</u>	
<small>(Rank or office, and name of church, parish, congregation, &amp;c., and place.)</small>	
<small>Church or denomination or body.....</small>	

St. Patrick's (Fort William, Province of Ontario, Canada), marriage register, 1908, Gregorio Castricone and Maria D'Attilio; digital image, FamilySearch.

## GFO Special Interest Groups

<https://gfo.org/learn/special-interest-groups/>

### African American

4th Saturdays, 12:30-2:30 p.m.

Led by Janice Sellers. [African\\_American@gfo.org](mailto:African_American@gfo.org)

### Beginning Family Tree Maker

Quarterly in Jan., Apr., July, and Oct., 1-3 p.m.

Led by Laurel Smith. [FTM@gfo.org](mailto:FTM@gfo.org)

### British Group

4th Saturdays in Jan., Mar., May, Sept., 1-3 p.m.

Led by Duane Funk.

[UK@gfo.org](mailto:UK@gfo.org)

### DNA - Beginners

4th Saturday in Feb., May, Aug., & Nov., 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Led by Emily Aulicino. [DNA\\_EA@gfo.org](mailto:DNA_EA@gfo.org)

### DNA - Advanced

4th Saturday in Jan., Apr., July, and Oct., 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Led by Emily Aulicino. [dna@gfo.org](mailto:dna@gfo.org)

### DNA - Q & A

1st and 3rd Wednesdays, Sept.-June, 1-3 p.m.

Led by Lisa McCullough. [dna\\_qa@gfo.org](mailto:dna_qa@gfo.org)

### Family Tree Maker Users' Group

3rd Sundays, 1-3 p.m., Feb., Mar., May, June, Aug., Sept., Nov., Dec.

Led by Joyce Grant-Worley. [FTM@gfo.org](mailto:FTM@gfo.org)

### French Canada Group

3rd Sundays, 3:30-5 p.m.

Led by Bob LaMarche. [FrCan@gfo.org](mailto:FrCan@gfo.org)

## A Värmland man ends up owning a dairy in Oregon: Olof Olsson Gulstrom (1854–1931)

*Darrell D. Gulstrom*

For almost 40 years I have been doing research on my Swedish family line. Thirty-five years ago, my cousin Rick Gulstrom and I were trying to find information at our local Family History Center. This was before the Internet, and we had no clue what we were doing. Rick's sister's mother-in-law, Marsha Anderson, heard what we were trying to do and went to the Family History Center in McCall, Idaho, to help us with our research. About six months later I received a notebook three inches thick. To say the least, my jaw hit the floor.

In January 2018, I went to the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy (SLIG). One of the courses they offered was a Swedish/Finnish class, and Elisabeth Thorsell was one of the instructors. I wanted to discover what Marsha had done all those years ago and what new resources were available online. I learned many things, but the most exciting was that the records of the Swedish National Archives (*Riksarkivet*) were now digitized; almost 100 million documents are online and free to research. These records allowed me to build my grandfather's story.

My great-grandfather Olof Olsson Gulstrom lived to the age of 77. Even though I never met him, his story has always interested me. As I looked through the records of his life, they showed the persistence he must have had to achieve success in a new country.



*Gulstrom Dairy in Tillamook, Oregon, photo from the collection of the Tillamook County Pioneer Museum.*



*Great-great-grandfather Olof Olsson (1832–1926) Collection of Darrell Gulstrom*

Olof Olsson (his surname in America was Gulstrom) was born on 26 September 1854 in Gullsby, Lysvik, Värmland, Sweden. At the time of his birth, his parents, Olof Olsson (1832–1926) and Stina Lisa Nilsson (1828–1911), were not married. As I researched the church records, I noticed that there were many children born out of wedlock in Sweden.

According to parish records, Olof and Stina married on 26 December 1854, three months after their son's birth. As a result, on their clerical survey record, the word *Oäkta* (illegitimate) was crossed out. That suggests that Olof Olsson was the biological father of his son, Olof. It is interesting that in the clerical survey, Stina was listed first, then after they were married Olof was listed as head of household.

Olof had seven brothers and sisters, all born at the farm in Gullsby: Nils (1857–1903); Maria (1862–1937); Per (1864–1936); Kristina (1866–unknown); Lars (1868–1871); Matilda (1871–unknown); and Lars (1875–1875). [Editor's note: In some cultures, it is common to name a child after a deceased sibling.]

Olof was 27 years old when he left his father's farm in Värmland due to a lack of work. I have been told he spent time in the military, but I have yet to find any evidence of that. The *utflyttning* (Swedish church books commonly known as the "moving-out" record) for his local parish states that he left Lysvik on 6 July 1883. Other records indicate that he left in 1881. He traveled to Bjuråker, Gävleborg, Sweden, where he got a job with my great-grandmother's father, Olof Jonsson, who had a 4,000-acre farm in Gävleborg, Sweden. Olof Jonsson had five daughters, including Anna Greta Olofsdotter (1854–1924). Anna was born in Franshammar, Hassela, Gävleborg, Sweden, and her family had moved to Vakås, Bjuråker, Gävleborg, Sweden, in 1856. The story is that



*Gulstrom Family, from left to right: Albert (on Olof's lap), Olof, Olof Emil, Alfred (on Anna's lap), and Anna, 1891. Collection of Darrell Gulstrom.*

my great-grandfather had to marry one of the daughters, and that Olof Jonsson would give them property for their own farm. Olof and Anna married on 22 September 1883.

Before Olof married Anna, they had a son named Olof Emil, who was born in 1882. The child died of diphtheria on 28 June 1884. Olof and Anna had five more children together, including Olof Emil, born 28 January 1885 in Bjuråker. Four other children were born in Tillamook County, Oregon: Albert Leonard (1887–1945); Alfred Henry (1890–1949); Erick Arthur (1893–1947); and Anna H. (1896–1918).

According to the moving-out record, Olof and Anna left Bjuråker parish on 19 March 1887. Anna's entire immediate family came to America, including her parents and siblings. A couple of families had emigrated as early as 1882. One settled in Ida County, Iowa, and another in Tillamook County, Oregon. Two of Anna's sisters married Swedish men in Ida County, Iowa, and Anna's sister Helena married Gus Wicklund in Tillamook; he had also emigrated from Gävleborg. The men were waiting for their brides to arrive.

Olof and Anna left Göteborg, Sweden, on 3 June 1887. According to the passenger list, their destination was Walla Walla, Washington. They arrived in New York City on 19 June 1887. They then went up the St. Lawrence River and disembarked at Oswego, New York. So far, I have found no evidence that they stopped in Walla Walla. My grandfather Albert Gulstrom was born in Tillamook on 26 December 1887.

On 17 January 1894, Olof Olsson, who by now had started to use the Gulstrom surname, was naturalized

in Tillamook County. On 7 July 1894, he received a land patent from the U.S. government for 160 acres about a mile east of where the Tillamook Cheese Factory is now located.

In 1985, I received a family picture from my cousin in Sweden, and I could never figure out where it was taken. When I found out about the land grant, I realized that the picture was taken on that property. Olof earned money by logging the property, and this enabled him to buy a dairy in 1900. It was located at Goodspeed Road and Highway 101, a mile south of the present day Tillamook Cheese Factory.

Olof operated the dairy successfully until he retired, sometime between 1925 and 1930. He bought a house in Tillamook, and his son Olof Emil took over the operation of the dairy and ran it until 1950. Anna Greta passed away on 8 December 1924, and Olof passed away on 3 December 1931. They are both buried at the IOOF (Independent Order of Oddfellows) Cemetery in Tillamook.

Resources: The Swedish parish records are from the Swedish National Archives ([www.sok.riksarkivet.se](http://www.sok.riksarkivet.se)). Some of those records, plus many of the records from the United States, can be found on Ancestry.com.

The author Darrell Gulstrom lives in Beaverton, Washington County, Oregon.

Reprinted by permission from *Swedish American Genealogical Quarterly*.

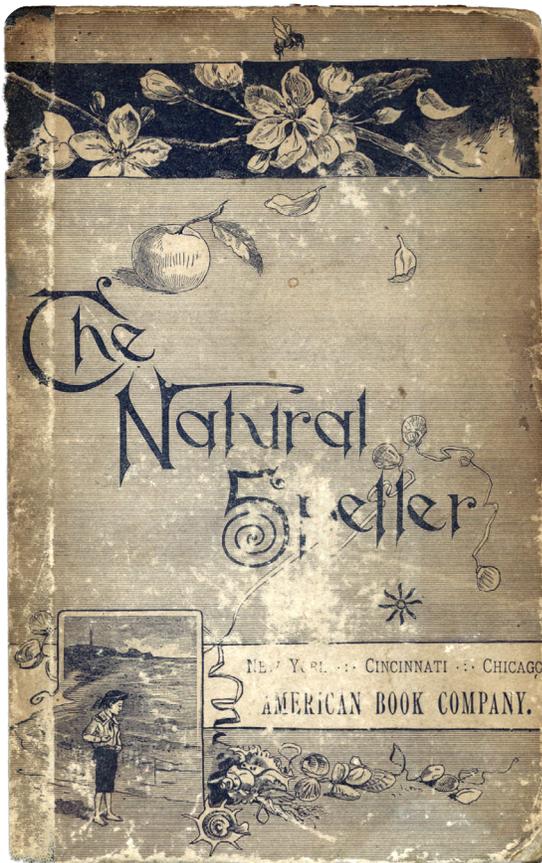


*Family composite photo created in 1920 in Tillamook, Oregon. From left to right, back row: Alice, Lulu, Olof Emil, Baby Jim, Joseph Buffum, Margery, Anna, Erick, Kathryn, Bernice (my grandmother). Front row: Alfred, Olof, Irene, Anna, Albert (my grandfather) If you look in the back at Joseph Buffum and Anna you will notice something a little odd. Joseph Buffum died in 1913 of tuberculosis and Anna died in 1918 during the flu epidemic. The photographer inserted a negative taken earlier into this photo. Collection of Darrell Gulstrom.*

# Tracing the Andrew Göttl (1844-1917) and Mary Kögel (1844-1913) Family from Apetlon, Hungary, to Saint Paul, Marion County, Oregon

*Nanci Remington*

In the fall of 2016, the Genealogical Forum of Oregon (GFO) received a collection of materials focused on French-Canadian research. Included were two school books from the late 1800s. *The Natural Speller and Word Book* and *Second Reader* both had handwritten names, locations, and dates sprinkled throughout. The inside back cover of one book had several lines written in German.



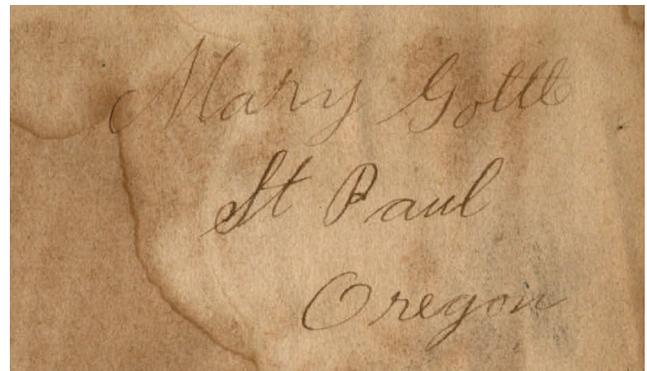
*The Natural Speller, from the collection of Cathy Wyrick.*

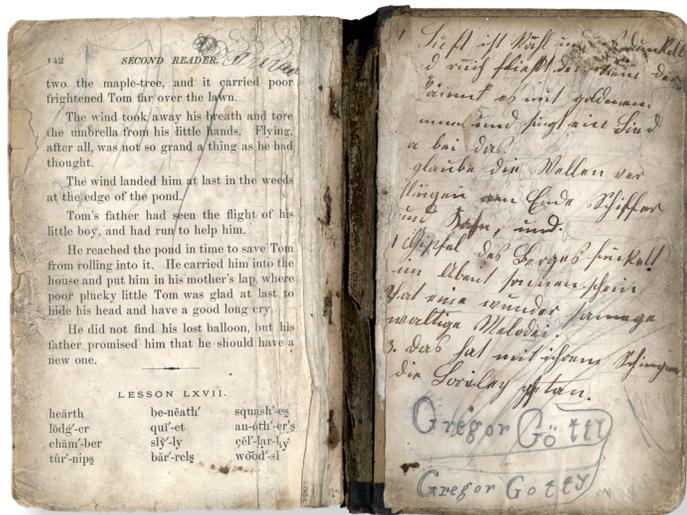


*“Andrew & Mary Goeldl & Cousin & Wife,” Göttl Family Pictures, courtesy of Saint Paul Mission Historical Society*

Harold Hinds Jr., a volunteer with the GFO library, found the names scattered in the books and decided to research the family. The clues he started with were:

*Mary Goltl, St Paul, Oregon [inside cover]  
M Kögel, Gregor Göttl, Freeport, Minn., Nort [?] Amerika  
1881, 1883, J Fritz Goltl, Mary Goltl  
[stamped twice—title pages of the reader]  
Gregor Göttl, Gregor Gotty [back cover below narrative]*





Second Reader, from the collection of Cathy Wyrick.

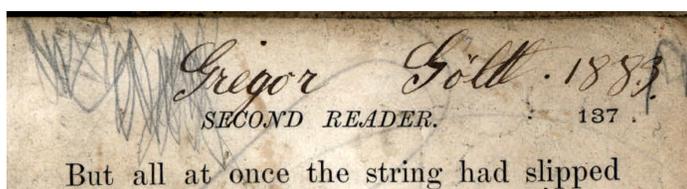
As Harold began, he asked GFO Librarian Steve Turner to translate some of the German text in one of the books. Steve determined that the writing was part of the poem “Die Lorelei” by Heinrich Heine and concluded that it may have been used as handwriting practice. No help there.

Not to be deterred, Harold soon found the family in Saint Paul, Marion County, Oregon, as early as 1895. There were earlier records of them in Minnesota where some of the children were born and others applied for naturalization. Eventually, Harold was able to follow the family records back to Hungary.

None of this research was without challenges. First was the spelling of the name. Variations of the surname included Göttl (as written in the book), Goltl, Goeldl, Götel, Goelde, and Goldl. There were additional transcription errors that included Godde and Geltl.

The father of the children in the book was variously listed as Andr, Andrew, Andreas, and András. His father was C., Christ, Christianus, Kerestyin, and (on Find A Grave) Christina.

The various records reported that the family emigrated from Hungary, or sometimes Austria, and spoke German. The 1880 passenger list of the ship *Suevia* gave a residence that was transcribed as Abedlon, Ungarn. The second word is German for Hungary, the first a town that does not exist. At least there was a passenger list!

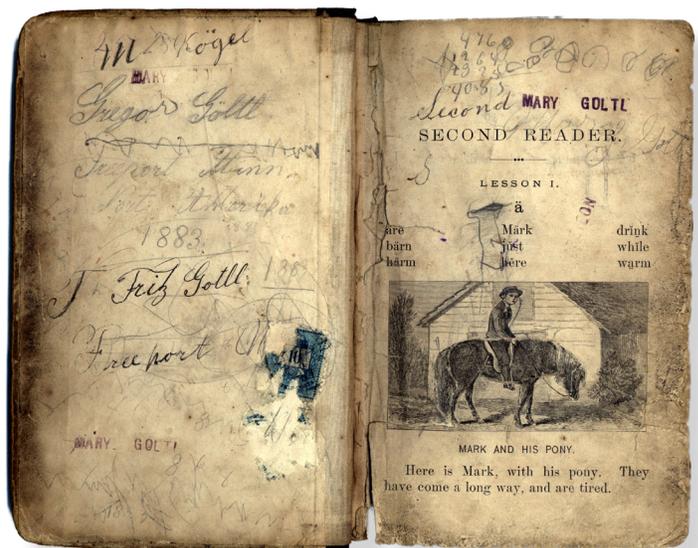


RESOURCES

So, throughout this research, it became important to look at the locations where the family lived, the records that were available at the time they lived there and, as much as possible, the original documents—not the indexed data that was found in search results. Some of the resources used are listed below. Note that they were not consulted in this order, and it sometimes took several resources to find one piece of information. For example, both Internet and print sources helped find the name of the town of origin.

**FamilySearch**—The Wiki gave information about data sources for Oregon, Minnesota, and Hungary. Because census records showed the family emigrated in 1880, it helped to know there was an 1885 Minnesota state census and an 1895 census for Marion County, Oregon. The Wiki tells when the states began keeping vital records and suggests alternative sources such as church or cemetery records. Some of these records are online but have not been indexed, including births for the years the family was in Minnesota. The FamilySearch catalog proved especially helpful with the Hungarian research. A search for towns and regions led to a variety of databases.

**JewishGen**—This site has a gazetteer that helps find towns that may have changed names. This is very common in much of central Europe, especially following major conflicts such as World Wars I and II. Using this reference, it was possible to scan for towns with similar spellings, and the name of the town of origin was narrowed to Apetlon, once in Hungary but now in Austria.



Second Reader, from the collection of Cathy Wyrick.

Nomen Parentum, eorum Conditio & Religio.	Locus Domicilii cum Nro. Domus.	Nomen Patrinorum, eorum Conditio & Religio.	Nomen Baptisantis.
Andreas Göttl colonus & uxor Maria Kögl. Mj.	Ar. B.	Georgius Weisz colonus & uxoris Francisca Gartner. Mj.	Koch.

1874 Baptism of Andreas, son of Andreas Göttl and Mary Kögl, "Hungary, Catholic Church Records, 1636-1895," FamilySearch.

**Wikipedia**—This is a good place to find the history of an area. The entry for Apetlon gives Bánfalu and Mosonbánfalva as alternate names. When the town was part of Hungary, it was in the county Moson (now Győr-Moson-Sopron). Today the town is in Austria in the state of Burgenland. Apetlon was originally settled by Germans from Swabia, and today it is a wine-growing region. Exploring Wikipedia, Google, and Google images led to websites for the town and the parish church, which is still active.

**Rootsweb Message Boards**—Searching for the town name led to posts that provided more history of the area. After arriving at the Burgenland board (Localities > Central Europe > Austria > Provinces > Burgenland) it may be browsed or searched for surnames.

**Books**—*Germanic Genealogy* by Edward R Brandt, et al. (available at the GFO library) is one of several books that guide researchers to the appropriate repositories for records. The book addresses the factors needed to be successful when looking at records created in Hungary (German Ungarn), including the fact they may not be in Hungary but rather in one of the succeeding countries.

Harold purchased the book *Genealogical Gazetteer of the Kingdom of Hungary* by Jordan Auslander. This

book helped confirm the spelling of the town and is a great source for finding names from regions that were part of Hungary in the past 140 years. A search of the GFO catalog gives several other resources for Hungary as well as books for Minnesota and Marion County, Oregon.

**Networking**—Because of time spent at the GFO, Harold was able to reach out to others for their ideas and expertise, including Steve for some translation. Gerry Lenzen proved to be a valuable contact for the St. Paul Mission Historical Society. Several research assistants provided guidance and support.

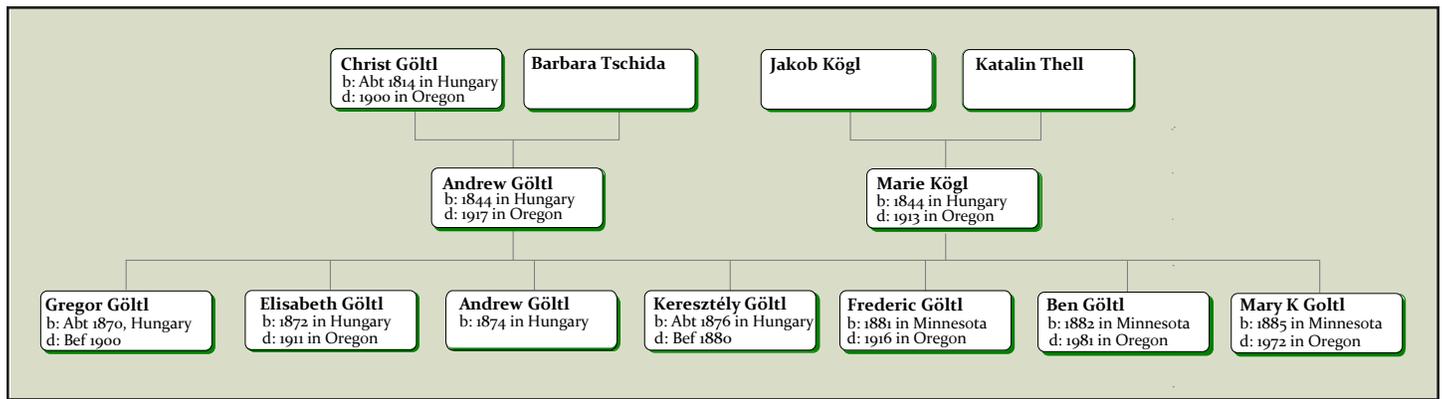


Göttl Family Picture, undated, courtesy of Saint Paul Mission Historical Society

**Focus groups**—When research becomes concentrated in a specific location, there are sometimes groups that specialize in that place. In the case of the Göttl family, there is a website called The Burgenland Bunch which focuses entirely on researching the state of Burgenland, Austria. This includes the town of Apetlon. The site is a treasure trove of information about the area, including its history, archives, and sources. There are message boards and links to other sites.

GOLDL, Mary - b Hungary, 4'6", 120#, dark, St.Paul, Prot., f, 51.
" , Andrew - b Hungary, 5'7", 145#, dark, St.Paul, laborer, Catholic, voter, m, 21.
" , J. - b MN, 4', 70#, dark, St.Paul, Catholic, m, 13.
" , B. - b MN, 4', 75#, dark, St.Paul, Catholic, m, 11.
" , Mary - b MN, 3', 50#, dark, St.Paul, f, 9.
" , C. - b Hungary, 5'6", 154#, dark, St.Paul, laborer, Catholic, m, 81.
" , Andrew - b Hungary, 5'3", 165#, dark, St.Paul, laborer, Catholic, voter, m, 51.

Oregon Marion County 1895 census, Volume 2, Willamette Valley Genealogical Society (accessed 24 Aug 2018 at the GFO library), p. 210, entry for Goldl, Mary.



Göttl Family Group

**Ancestry.com**—We all know it and love it, but there are definite tricks to getting the best results. For this family, the searches had to be done with various spellings, wildcards (asterisks such as go\*l, gol\*, goe\*), or with only first names and a date or location specified. By working back in time, it was possible to locate the 1895 Marion County census (surprise—Andrew’s father was with the family—the first record found of him in this country), the 1885 Minnesota census (one of the searches using no surname) and the passenger list.

In these various records, Harold found other Göttl and Kögl families, as well as neighbors who were also from Hungary. He collected these names as part of the FAN club (friends, family, associates, and neighbors) in case they were needed for further research or were later discovered to be siblings or cousins.

Once the names and a few sources were added to a family tree on [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com), record hints started to appear. Some of these proved the key to adding more generations. The hints led to Göttl baptisms in Bánfalu, Moson, Hungary, from the database called “Hungary, Select Catholic Church Records, 1636-1895.” Searching directly in the database led to even more results. There was a note that the records were Hungarian and for best results researchers should search using Hungarian words and location names. This was a case where using



Andrew Goeldl, undated photo courtesy of the Saint Paul Mission Historical Society

the umlaut (the two dots over the letter “o” in Göttl) proved helpful—sometimes it interferes with the number of results. The database description indicated that the source for the records was FamilySearch. Returning to that site, it was possible to use the catalog to get to the original images that were not available on Ancestry.

There are several avenues left for further research on this family. They include:

- More exploration in records from Bánfalu—church records could contain information about Andrew and Mary’s marriage or a paper from Mary stating that the children would be raised Catholic (she was listed as Protestant on the 1895 Oregon census). Many are indexed on FamilySearch; some are online but not indexed.
- Burial records—church records for Saint Paul Cemetery may have more information about Christ Goedle. Because he died in 1900, there is likely no death certificate.
- Death certificates—especially for Mary and Andrew, since they died after Oregon began requiring death registrations in 1903.
- Naturalization records

The research on this family started from an unlikely source. However, the search techniques can be used for any family and are especially helpful for so-called “brick wall” problems. Find out everything you can about where the family lived. Check with local societies and museums. For example, searching the online catalog of the Saint Paul Mission Historical Society led to photos of the family.

Whatever the location, find out what was happening when the family or individual lived there. Consider what records might be available and work to discover where those records are located. Be creative and persistent when searching online—browse the records instead of

relying on indexes. Look at the original images whenever possible.

After you have the names on the family group sheet, you can go back to these same sources to write the stories of their lives. The Göttl family likely emigrated for economic opportunity. They settled in farming communities made up of other immigrants and were listed as laborers on the censuses. But by 1900 they owned their own home, and in 1910, Andrew Göttl gave his occupation as mayor of Saint Paul.

And my favorite entry in those school books? When a young Gregor Göttl wrote his name in German and followed it with what may have been a child's idea of an Anglicized surname—Gotty.

#### SOURCES MENTIONED ABOVE:

- Ancestry.com—<https://www.ancestry.com> (world edition available at the GFO library)
- The Burgenland Bunch—<http://www.the-burgenland-bunch.org/homepage.htm>
- FamilySearch—<https://www.familysearch.org/search>
  - » Wiki—[https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Main\\_Page](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Main_Page)
  - » Catalog—<https://www.familysearch.org/catalog/search>
- GFO Library Catalog—<https://gfo-ind.narvi.opalsinfo.net/bin/home>
- Google Search and Google Images
- JewishGen Gazetteer—<https://www.jewishgen.org/Communities/loctown.asp>
- Rootsweb Message Boards—<https://www.ancestry.com/boards/>
- Saint Paul Mission Historical Society—<http://spmhs.com>
- Wikipedia—[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main\\_Page](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page)

#### OTHER SOURCES USED FOR RESEARCH:

- Apetlon Information (use a translator)—<http://www.wikiwand.com/de/Apetlon>
- Apetlon Town Site—<http://www.gemeinde-apetlon.at/html/gemeinde.html>
- Find A Grave—<https://www.findagrave.com/>



*C. Goeldl grave, undated. Courtesy of Saint Paul Mission Historical Society*

- Historic Oregon Newspapers—<https://oregonnews.uoregon.edu/>
- Hungarian Village Finder—<http://www.hungarianvillagefinder.com/>
- Iron Range Research Center (Minnesota genealogical database)  
<http://www.ironrangeresearchcenter.org/>
- Minnesota Genealogical Society—<https://mngs.org/>
- Pfarrkirche zur Hl. Margaretha (the parish church site)—<http://www.pfarre-apetlon.at/kirche/>
- Stearns (Minnesota) History Museum—<http://stearns-museum.org/>



*Göttl home, undated, courtesy of Saint Paul Mission Historical Society*

## USING WILDCARDS TO IMPROVE ONLINE SEARCH RESULTS

Researching the Göttl and Kögel families was complicated because of the many different ways the names were spelled in the records. Many factors contribute to spelling variations, including the preconceptions of the recorder, the accents of the people giving the information, regional variations, the language within the records, the Anglicization of names in the United States, the handwriting of the period (did the capital S look like a capital P), as well as transcription and indexing errors.

Many search engines allow users to work around these challenges with the use of wildcards. The most common of these are the asterisk (\*) and the question mark (?). These wildcard characters replace letters in a search box. The asterisk represents zero to multiple letters, and the question mark replaces a single letter. In most cases, you need to use at least three letters of the name along with the wildcard.

Some examples:

- To see variations of Smith, replace the vowel with a question mark: Sm?th. This leads to results that were indexed as Smith, Smyth, Smeth or even Smythe.
- To cover double letters as in Matthew (Mathew) or Phillip (Philip), try Mat\*hew or Phil\*ip.
- Ann\* will find Ann, Anne, Anna, and Annabelle.
- Use multiple wildcards within a single word. To see variations of Hansen, try H?ns?n, which leads to Hanson or Hansen, Hinsen or Hinson, Henson or Hensen.
- To improve results for Stevens, search for St\*ns, which could find Stevens, Stephens, Stearns or Stebbins.
- Did the family name use an umlaut? Sometimes the ö was spelled oe. To cover both, use a wildcard. Some of the searches for Göttl included go\*l, gol\*, and goe\*.
- Chvátal—try ch\*l, chv\*, \*tal.
- It is possible to use multiple wildcards within a name. To see variations of Tillitson, try T\*l\*ts\*, which leads to Tillotson, Tilotson, Tollotson, and Topliztsky.

- Sometimes you will want to use wildcards in both first and last names. Laurel Smith gives the example of her great-grandfather Adolph Kaufmann. Adol\* K\*f\*m\*n has become part of her routine. On Ancestry, she selects “exact” for both names. This finds both spellings Adolph and Adolf as well as the Kaufman surname with one or two f’s and one or two n’s, as well as the occasional oddball such as Kupferman. It does not, however, find the occasional Coffman—for obvious reasons.

Wildcard searches work best when you have narrowed your search by location and time period. Think about how a name sounded and include a single letter for each sound that was unlikely to be mistaken. Insert an asterisk or a question mark for the vowels and for the silent or easily misunderstood consonants.

To learn more about using wildcards with a particular search engine, check their help menu. Or do a Google search. Doing so led to the following articles (all accessed 27 August 2018):

- *Searching with Wildcards in FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/blog/en/searching-wildcards-familysearch-2/>)
- *Ancestry Search: Improved Wildcard Flexibility* (<https://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/2010/01/04/ancestry-search-improved-wildcard-flexibility/>)—check the comment section for some detailed explanations
- *Maximize Search Returns with Wildcards* (<https://blog.findmypast.com/maximize-search-returns-with-wildcards-1708219213.html>)
- Plus some videos:
- *Soundex, Wildcards and Other Search Options – Ancestry* (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cOPS2gXndts>)
- *FamilySearch—Searching with Wildcards* (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sP6Hg8c-Pno>)

# The Family Bible of Jesse Upson Jr. (1789-1863): of Morris County, New Jersey, and Knox County, Ohio

*Nanci Remington*

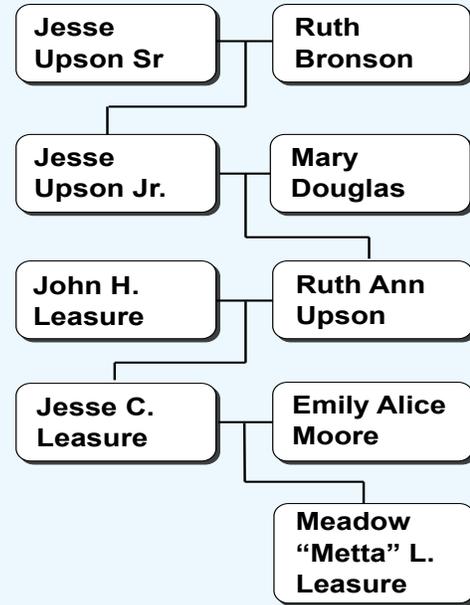
The information from this Bible was taken from a transcription that found its way to the Genealogical Forum of Oregon. By the time you read it, there will have been at least three iterations of the information: the original entries in the Bible, the first typed transcription, and the transcription for this article. At any point, errors could have been made. Additionally, many of the entries in the Bible predate the noted purchase date. We do not have copies of the original pages. There are no locations given for any of the events. Most of the entries are not sorted by family group. Yet even with all these cautions, this is information that may not be found any other place, and it forms the basis of a family tree. It is a great starting point to explore how one family grew and migrated across the country.

The transcription begins with a note that the Bible was purchased by Jesse Upson in 1855. There were several men named Jesse Upson recorded, but the most likely candidate would be Jesse Upson Jr. who, according to the Bible, was born 3 May 1789 and died 31 January 1863. Though many of the dates in the Bible can be substantiated in other records, Jesse's death date does not appear to be one of them.



*Miss Metta Leasure, Iowa City Press-Citizen, 1909*

## ANCESTORS OF MEADOW "METTA" L. LEASURE



Some research reveals that Jesse Upson Jr. was born in Mendham, Morris County, New Jersey. His parents were Jesse Upson and Ruth Bronson. According to his Revolutionary War pension file, Jesse (Sr.) had moved to New Jersey from Litchfield County, Connecticut, after serving in the war. He moved to LaGrange County, Indiana, shortly before his death. Jesse was the son of Benjamin Upson and Mary Blakeslee. The Bible does not list earlier generations.

The transcription notes that information came from a descendant, Mrs. Louis Leroy Quigley (Metta Leasure). The path from Jesse to Metta leads from coast to coast.

Jesse Upson Jr. left New Jersey, and on 27 May 1819 he married Mary Douglas in Coshocton County, Ohio. Jesse and Mary had three children, the youngest a daughter named Ruth Ann, who was born in 1825. In 1848, Ruth Ann married John H. Leasure in Richland County, Ohio. They had seven children in Ohio and then moved to Green Township, Iowa County, Iowa, where they were living in 1870. Following family tradition, one of their sons was named Jesse.

Jesse C. Leasure was born on 5 May 1850. At the age of 20, he was living with his family in Iowa. Two years later, he married Emily Alice Moore. Together they had four children. Daughter Meadow L. "Metta" Leasure was born 14 January 1883.

Though born in Williamsburg, Iowa County, Iowa, Metta grew up in Iowa City. She personified the spirit that kept the family moving west. According to an article dated 15 April 1909 in the *Iowa City Press-Citizen*:

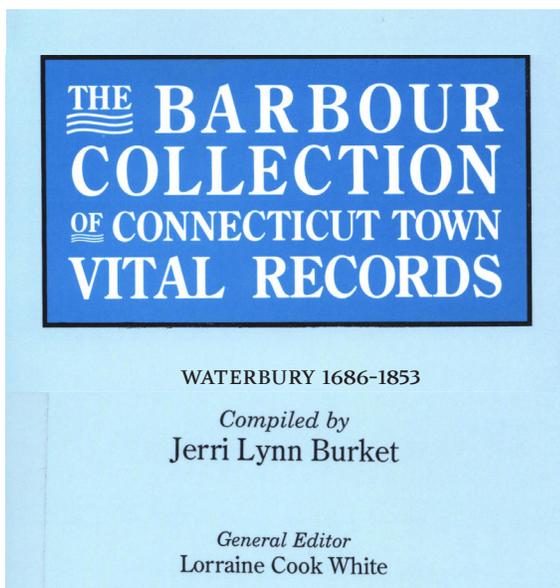
Miss Metta Leasure, daughter of Co. J. C. Leasure, left last night for Houser Lake, Mont., a camp of engineers about 16 miles from Helena. There she will join her girlhood sweetheart, Louis LeRoy Quigley, formerly of Iowa City, a graduate of the high school and S.U.I. .... The young people decided they would not delay the happy event any longer, and the bride, courageous in her love, declared that she would not await the young man's return to Hawkeye civilization, but would make the 2,000-mile journey alone—as far as he is concerned.

Metta married Louis LeRoy Quigley on 16 April 1909 in Helena. They remained in Montana until at least 1930, but by 1933 they were listed in the city directory in Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon, and their son Louis was attending Washington High School. Metta died 14 May 1945 and is buried at River View Cemetery in Portland.

#### RESOURCES:

The dates are those recorded in the Bible.

- Early records for the Upson family can be found in the Barbour Collection. According to the Connecticut State Library: "The Barbour Collection of Connecticut Vital Records is an index to and transcription of most towns' vital (birth, marriage, death) records from the inception of the town to about the year 1850. There are two parts to the collection; a statewide surname index and a bound volume for each town." (<http://libguides.ctstatelibrary.org/hg/vitalrecords/Barbour>) The GFO library has the index on microfilm and the bound volumes on the shelves.



- Jesse Upson's Revolutionary War Pension File was accessed through HeritageQuest, a database available through the Multnomah County Library.
- Census records and a few vital records were accessed through FamilySearch.
- The 1909 article from Iowa City Press-Citizen was found through Newspapers.com.
- The GFO has Portland city directories and Washington High School yearbooks on the shelves.

#### TRANSCRIPTION:

We do not have copies of the original pages, and the following has been retyped from an earlier typed transcription. Spelling and most punctuation were retained from the original copy, but the formatting has been changed for publication.

#### *Jesse Upson Bible*

*Submitted by his descendant, Mrs. Louis Leroy Quigley (Metta Leasure) #213944, member of Multnomah Chapter, D.A.R., Portland, Oregon. According to a note on the front page of this Bible, it was purchased by Jesse Upson on February 1st, 1855, for \$2.50. The Bible was published by Merriam Moore & Co. in 1850 at Troy, New York.*

#### *Family Record*

##### *Marriages:*

- Jesse Upson and Ruth Bronson, June 26th, 1788.*
- Jesse Upson and Mary Dayton Sept. 22nd, 1807.*
- Jesse Upson, Jr. and Mary Douglas May 27, 1819.*
- George Herbert Leasure & Mollie Z. Hall Oct. 30, 1897. (Son of John Leasure & Ruth Ann Upson).*

##### *Births:*

- Benjamin Upson Aug. 4, 1720.*
- Mary (wife of Benjamin) Upson, Jan. 22, 1726.*
- Ruth Bronson Feb. 21, 1759.*
- Ruel Upson June 12, 1744.*
- Susannah Upson Jan. 22, 1746.*
- Louis Upson May 12, 1748.*
- Joseph Upson May 5, 1750.*
- Benjamin Upson Jr. July 3d, 1752.*
- Jesse Upson May 27, 1756.*
- Noah Upson Sept. 26, 1759.*
- Ashbel Upson April 27, 1762.*
- Mary Upson June 22, 1765.*
- Sarah Upson July 28, 1768.*
- Mary Dayton Nov. 27, 1783.*
- Jesse Upson Jr. May 3, 1789.*

William Upson Feb. 12, 1793.  
 Nancy Upson Feb. 7, 1796.  
 Ruth Upson June 26, 1808.  
 Jonathan B. Upson. Mch. 13, 1810.  
 Mary D. Upson Dec. 13, 1811.  
 Elizabeth R. Upson Mch. 5, 1814.  
 Benjamin F. Upson Dec. 24, 1816.  
 Cornelia Upson Jan. 23, 1819.  
 Julia Ann Upson Nov. 29, 1823.  
 Margaret Upson Dec. 17, 1819.  
 Jesse B. Upson Mch. 12, 1823.  
 Ruth Ann Upson Feb. 7, 1825.  
 John H. Leasure (husband of Ruth Ann)  
 Jan. 20, 1829.

Children of this union follow:

Harriet A. Leasure Dec. 29, 1848.  
 Jesse C. Leasure Oct. 5, 1850.  
 Harvey E. Leasure Nov. 29, 1852.  
 John W. Leasure Mar. 30, 1855.  
 Alfred D.C. Leasure Dec. 21, 1857.  
 Geo. Herbert Leasure June 6, 1861.  
 Harry Leasure Nov. 2, 1867.

Mollie Z. Hall (wife of Geo. Herbert) May 21, 1868.  
 Iris Elaine Leasure (daughter of Geo. & Mollie)  
 July 30, 1899.  
 Metta Leasure (daughter of Jesse C. & Emily  
 Alice Moore) Jan. 14, 1883.  
 Louis Leroy Quigley (husband of Metta L.)  
 Jan. 15, 1883.  
 Alice Jane Quigley (daughter of Metta & Louis  
 Quigley) June 11, 1912.  
 Louis Leroy Quigley Jr. (son of Metta & Louis  
 Quigley) Aug. 26, 1917.  
 William T. Walker, Jr., son of A.J. Quigley,  
 Mar. 20, 1933.  
 Charles Wesley Walker, son of A.J. Quigley,  
 Oct. 23, 1935.

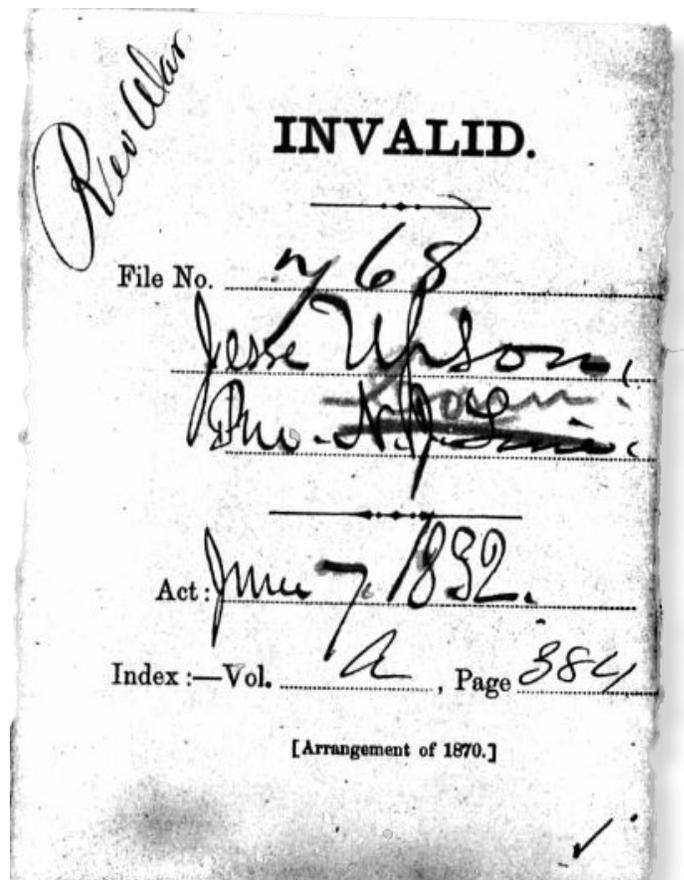
Deaths:

Ruth Upson March 21, 1802.  
 Mary Upson April 2, 1802.  
 Noah Upson March 21, 1806.  
 Mary (wife of Jesse Upson, Jr.) May 19, 1831.  
 Jesse Upson, Jr. Jan. 31, 1863.  
 William Upson April 6, 1866.  
 Ruth B. Searing Sept. 3, 1866.  
 Julia A. Peitch Dec. 7, 1869.  
 Nancy B. Kinney March 30, 1870.

Benjamin Upson Nov. 23, 1792.  
 Susannah Upson Nov. 26, 1817.  
 Louis Upson June 12, 1817.  
 Jesse B. Upson Mch. 11, 1826.  
 Jesse Upson August 1837.  
 Hattie Leasure June 3, 1868.  
 Harry C. Leasure Feb. 11, 1869.  
 John W. Leasure May 5, 1879.  
 Ruth Ann Leasure May 4, 1896.  
 Jesse C. Leasure May 18, 1910.  
 John H. Leasure July 10, 1914.  
 Iris Elaine Leasure Nov. 8, 1926.  
 Geo. H. Leasure Jan. 9, 1928.  
 Mollie Z. Leasure Sept. 15, 1928.

On the last page of this Bible, I find this note:

“Rebellion of the southern states and commencement of Civil War, in the spring of the year one thousand eight hundred and sixty-one, soon after the inauguration of Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States.”



Jesse Upson, Revolutionary War file, 1832.

TOOLS FOR GENEALOGY

# Genealogy Seminars

Nanci Remington

When I ask people why they attend seminars, the most common response I get is that they are fun. It is rare that you get a chance to mingle with so many others who are passionate about genealogy.

At seminars, beginners often end up seated next to professionals. You may have lunch with someone who turns out to be a distant cousin. You could run into a friend, and find they, too, are searching for records for the same remote village in Northern Ireland.



*Today! All Surplus Books Half Off!*

And nowadays, everyone is talking about DNA. Ask around and you may be introduced to people who are happy to help.

Seminars provide benefits beyond your local society's meetings. They often include:

- A nationally-recognized speaker who has expertise in the chosen topics
- A day or two of presentations, classes, or other events
- Vendors who offer a variety of books and other genealogical materials
- Time to talk with other researchers



*Genealogical Forum of Oregon (GFO) Fall Seminar, 2018.*

Conferences go a step further with keynote speakers, break-out sessions, and a larger variety of vendors. They draw from a national audience and often attract hundreds of attendees.

## REASONS TO ATTEND A SEMINAR

High-quality speakers bring excellent information. This becomes obvious when you realize how many experienced researchers are present in the audience. Some of them have been doing research for decades but know they will learn something new or see something from a different perspective. Though time is limited, there may be a chance to ask questions of the speaker.

Attendees also love to spend their break time browsing the books and other offerings available from vendors and societies; things you won't find in typical bookstores.

Beyond these obvious reasons to attend, there are some that may not have occurred to you. Seminars are put on by local societies for their members and non-members from the area. By charging a reasonable fee, the societies can host and support speakers who dedicate their time to the field of genealogy. The proceeds help provide the society a stable means of promoting genealogy in the future.



*Genealogical Forum of Oregon, Irish Seminar, 2016*



*Seminar attendees consider the books available to purchase from Heritage Quest Research Library of Sumner, Washington.*

## FINDING SEMINARS

The best way to find a seminar is to join a local genealogical society. Most societies help promote offerings from other organizations through their various communication outlets. Even if you are not a member, check to see if you can be added to an email list.

Conference Keeper (<https://conferencekeeper.org/calendar/>) provides a good online listing of genealogy events, including seminars and conferences. Events for many countries are posted, but your search can be narrowed by state. On a recent visit to the site, there were quite a few listings for Oregon and Washington, but it was not comprehensive. However, it does have more listings than other calendars that I reviewed.

If you are interested in a topic such as DNA or German research, do a Google search to see what appears. There are many genealogy associations that have annual meetings, seminars, or conferences. Be sure to include the year with your search terms—this helps weed out events that have already take place.

If there is a topic or speaker that interests you, let your local society know. Most are very responsive to the needs and wishes of their members. But know that the speakers are booked one to two years in advance, so you may have to wait for your favorite presenter.

## TIPS FOR ATTENDING

The venues for seminars vary widely depending on the cost and what is available in each city or town. Amenities such as Wi-Fi and eating areas, and seemingly the

most important requirement—easy parking vary greatly. That sometimes means a few items you rely on may not be available. Most organizations will send an email a few days ahead to let you know the lay of the land. But as you prepare for your day of learning, consider the following:

- Tables may or may not be available, so if note-taking is part of your learning style, be prepared with a clipboard or a laptop computer. If you have special needs and require table seating, contact the organizers to let them know.
- What is a comfortable chair? If you think cushions are a must, take one with you. If you need to stand for part of the time, make sure to grab a seat in the back.
- If you have special hearing or vision needs, let the organizers know so they can reserve the best spot for you.
- Too hot or too cold? Always dress in layers.
- Be considerate of others and avoid wearing scented products such as perfume or cologne.
- Bring water and other beverages in containers that seal shut.

Finally, even if you don't recognize a single face in the room, take the time to move around and start conversations. Time is built into the schedule to allow for socializing. Need a conversation starter? Just look at the name tag and ask, "Is that name Scandinavian?" Or "Have you ever done research in Ohio?" There are many serendipity moments waiting to be had.



*Genealogical Forum of Oregon, Spring Seminar, 2017, with John Colletta*

# The NGS Family History Conference: You Never Know What You Will Learn!

Mary Nelson

This last May, with the help of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon, I attended the National Genealogical Society (NGS) Family History Conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The theme of the conference, which changes from year to year, was Paths to Your Past. I had never attended a national conference before, so I had no idea what to expect. I was delighted, and somewhat overwhelmed, by all that there was to see and learn.

In keeping with the theme and the location, the conference featured several presentations about the migration routes of our ancestors, especially to the states that border the Great Lakes. But the presentation topics covered far more than migration. There were more than 175 talks divided into ten different research tracks. They included methodology, military records, state research, occupations, as well as DNA. Attendees were free to choose any of the tracks or to move freely between them based on individual interests or research needs.

I spent the majority of my time at the four-day conference attending the presentations, each of which lasted about an hour. At first, I found the sheer number of talks available to be a bit overwhelming because multiple presentations were occurring at the same time! It was impossible to do it all. But by focusing on my own research needs, I was able to choose offerings that helped me with everything from researching my Slovakian grandmother



*National Genealogical Society (NGS) Family History Conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan, May 2018. Photo provided by the National Genealogical Society and taken by professional photographer John Corriveau.*

to finding military records for my great-grandfather who served in the Civil War. And, in every talk I attended, I learned that there are a great many online research sites that I could use, more than I ever imagined existed. Each of the speakers mentioned at least one site that was new to me, and I am still exploring them and making new discoveries all these months later.

The conference also included an Exhibition Hall where I was able to talk one-on-one with representatives from a variety of organizations and vendors. Present, of course, were Ancestry and MyHeritage, but there were also many genealogical societies and libraries local to the Great Lakes region, as well as major genealogical societies from all over the country. My personal favorite was the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society (NYGBS), which I was able to join while visiting their booth. This was a great discovery for me because many of my immigrant ancestors settled in Brooklyn, yet I have been able to find very little about them. Thanks to the connections I made in the Exhibition Hall, I now have a research trip to New York City planned for early 2019. Working with the NYGBS, I hope to track down my Irish ancestors, including a New York City policeman and his brother, who was a doctor and politician. In addition to the great personal connections I made in the Exhibition Hall, I also learned about future plans for genealogical products and websites by speaking with the many vendors.

If all that were not enough, there were also special events offered, such as tours of local repositories, luncheons with featured speakers, and prizes. The Gerald R. Ford Museum, right across the river from the conference hall, offered an evening with free admission, dessert, coffee, and singers! Most people tried to attend the Friday night banquet with documentary filmmaker and historian Ric Mixer, who shared stories about the



*The NGS Conferences offer a robust exhibit hall with vendor from across the nation. Photo provided by the National Genealogical Society and taken by professional photographer John Corriveau.*

mighty storms on the Great Lakes and the ships that went down because of them.

The next Family History Conference will be in May 2019 in Saint Charles, Missouri. In 2020, it will be in Salt Lake City, Utah. If you go, be prepared for a lot of walking! Everything is under one roof, but with so much going on, the conference I attended was spread out over three floors of the convention center. Because of this, I carried as little as possible. Fortunately, all I needed was a notepad and a pen. Registration to the conference included a 660-page digital syllabus with all of the information presented in each of the talks, as well as relevant websites and books or resources related to the topic. Printed copies of the syllabus were available for an additional fee. A hard copy of the 2018 syllabus is available in the GFO Library. You can learn a lot about the conference and the various talks by reviewing the syllabus, even for the presentations you don't attend.

I found the conference to be a wonderful experience, and I highly recommend it for beginning and experienced genealogists alike. By the end, I was too tired to sit and listen any more, but I had learned so much.

#### EDITOR'S NOTE:

**Registration is currently underway for the 2019 NGS Family History Conference, which will be held May 8-11 in St. Charles, Missouri.**

The theme is Journey of Discovery. You can find a complete list of the presenters, as well as information about registration, cost, and lodging at: <https://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/>

If you are planning to attend, the GFO may be able to provide a discounted registration. Contact [president@gfo.org](mailto:president@gfo.org) to inquire before registering.

NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
2019 FAMILY HISTORY CONFERENCE  
8-11 MAY 2019 | ST. CHARLES, MO

## Journey of Discovery



### GFO Special Interest Groups

<https://gfo.org/learn/special-interest-groups/>

#### Genealogy Problem Solvers

3rd Saturdays, 9:30–11:30 a.m.

Led by Katie Daly. [GPS@gfo.org](mailto:GPS@gfo.org)

#### German Group

1st Saturdays, 1–3 p.m.

Led by Mike Fernandez and Tia Cobb. [German@gfo.org](mailto:German@gfo.org)

#### Great Lakes Region

2nd Saturdays monthly (except Jul., Aug., Dec.),  
9:30–11:30 a.m.

Led by Lynn Rossing. [GreatLakes@gfo.org](mailto:GreatLakes@gfo.org)

#### Irish Group

3rd Wednesdays Feb., Apr., June, Aug., & Oct., 6–8 p.m.

Led by Karen Hubbard. [Irish@gfo.org](mailto:Irish@gfo.org)

#### Italian Group

See GFO calendar for meetings.

Led by Keith Pyeatt. [Italian@gfo.org](mailto:Italian@gfo.org)

#### Learn & Chat

1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.

Led by Jeanne Quan. [LearnandChat@gfo.org](mailto:LearnandChat@gfo.org)

#### Mexican Ancestry

2nd Fridays, 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

Led by Vincent Ramirez. [SW@gfo.org](mailto:SW@gfo.org)

#### Virginia Group

1st Saturdays, Sept.–June, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.

Led by Judi Scott and Carol Surrency.

[Virginia@gfo.org](mailto:Virginia@gfo.org)

#### Writers' Forum

2nd Saturdays, Sept.–May, 1–3 p.m.

Led by Peggy Baldwin. [Writers@gfo.org](mailto:Writers@gfo.org)

#### Always check the GFO

**calendar for date and time.**

<https://gfo.org/who-we-are/calendar.html>

## Book Review

# The Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy 4th Edition

Reviewed by Martha D. Kennedy-Lindley

Author: Val D. Greenwood  
Publisher: Genealogical Publishing Company  
Publication Date: 2017  
Pages: 778  
Price: \$49.95 plus \$5.95 shipping  
Order from: [Genealogical.com](http://Genealogical.com)  
GFO Call Number: RR 973 .How-To 2017 Gree

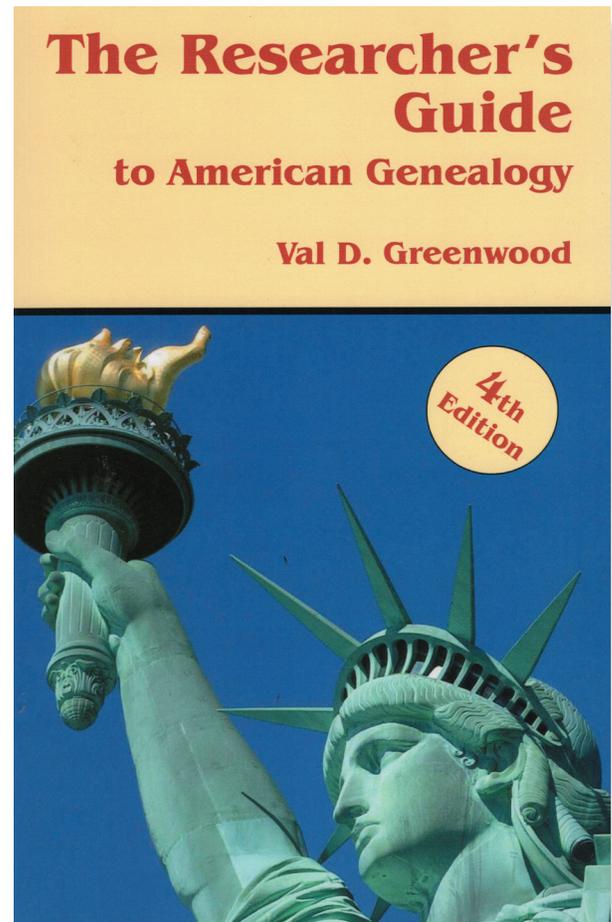
The long-awaited (17 years) 4th edition of this classic is a comprehensive guide to American genealogy for all researchers. It is updated and now contains, amongst other things, chapters devoted to using computers and the Internet. Also, there is a chapter covering the property rights of women.

The book is clearly divided into two parts. The first offers background information for research. Author Val D. Greenwood begins with the definition of genealogy and briefly discusses the use of family history interchangeably with genealogy. He also includes sections on naming practices, the standard of proof, libraries, and the National Archives. Part two is a detailed discussion of various records and ways to use them in research.

The author uses footnotes and includes illustrations and reproductions of documents to further explain his points. Examples of each federal census from 1790 through 1890 are provided, along with a quick reference to census content from 1790–1840.

The book is a paperback volume measuring six-by-nine inches and over one-and-a-half-inches thick—the smaller page size and number of pages forces the type size down to about 7-point (the publication you are reading is 11-point). The smaller print size is a drawback. In addition, the soft cover and glued pages could cause issues in a well-used copy.

Val D. Greenwood was born during the Great Depression and raised on a Utah family farm. He graduated



from Brigham Young University with a Bachelor of Science degree in journalism and later from the University of Idaho with a Juris Doctor degree. His first book, *The Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy*, was published in 1973, and subsequent editions are used as textbooks for students and teachers of American genealogical research. In addition, he has the 2018 Silver Tray Award presented by the Utah Genealogical Association “for publication efforts and contributions to the field of genealogy.”

This 4th edition was worth the wait, and it is among the best how-to/reference materials for genealogy. It is an excellent guide for the beginner, and it contains much useful information for the experienced researcher. Anyone doing genealogical research will benefit from having this volume in their library.

## Book Review

# Abstracts of the Debt Books of the Provincial Land Office of Maryland: Kent County. Volumes I-III

*Reviewed by Joan Galle*

Author: Vernon L. Skinner, Jr.  
 Publisher: Clearfield Company  
 Publication Date: 2018  
 Pages: Volume I: 366; Volume II: 377;  
 Volume III: 423  
 Price: \$43.50 each plus shipping  
 Order from: [Genealogical.com](http://Genealogical.com)  
 GFO Call Number: 975.25 Kent .Land Debt  
 1733-1769

In the Kent County, Maryland, Debt Books, Vernon Skinner has provided three fact-filled volumes that encompass the years 1733–1769. According to the publisher:

The Provincial Land Office of Maryland was responsible for distributing land from 1634 to 1777 on behalf of the Lord Proprietor. The Lord Proprietor's rent rolls and debt books—the means by which the Lord Proprietor kept track of the rents due him—both commence in 1715 (though some are no longer extant). The surviving rent rolls consist of entries for each tract of land patented, the name of the person for whom the land was originally surveyed, the present owner, acreage, and rent. Alienations, or subsequent sales and leases of the piece of land, are also included. The debt books' great value is that they enable the researcher to track land ownership over various years in cases of intestate estates, land inherited by women, and land that is not specified in a will.

The abstracts are organized first by county, then specific liber (book of public records), date, the name of the person paying the taxes, name of the tract of land, and the acreage.

For example, the entry for a John Ellis, found under Kent County, 27:1733:5 [Liber 27, Year 1733: 5<sup>th</sup> month], reads:

John Ellis - pt [part of] "Ellis Chance" 700 [acres]  
 "Saint Martins" 500 [acres]

*Abstracts of the*  
**DEBT BOOKS**  
*of the*  
**PROVINCIAL LAND OFFICE**  
**OF MARYLAND**

**Kent County**

**Volume I**

**Liber 27: 1733, 1734-A, 1734-B, 1734-C, 1734-D, 1735-1**  
**Liber 28: 1736, 1737**

**V. L. Skinner, Jr.**

Both the landowner's name and the name of the tract are listed in the index.

In addition to these extensive listings, there are other hidden, historical pearls in these pages. Some of the interesting information that can be gleaned from these lists includes Kent County's establishment of a Free School by 1735; the early establishment of the towns of Chesterton and Georgetown; and the fact that some people owned land or resided in other jurisdictions as far away as London, England.

Skinner has compiled more than 76 books of abstracts from Maryland records, many of which are available from online booksellers or in libraries.

These resource books will benefit those seeking information about land and land ownership in the 1700s in Maryland. They provide an excellent listing that can lead to further investigation.

## Book Review

# Warwick County, Virginia: Court Records in Transcription, 1782-1843

Reviewed by Joan Galles

Author: Richard Dunn, Editor  
Publisher: Clearfield Company  
Publication Date: 2018  
Pages: 547  
Price: \$55.00 plus shipping  
Order from: [Genealogical.com](http://Genealogical.com)  
GFO Call Number: 975.45 Warw .Court Reco  
1782-1843

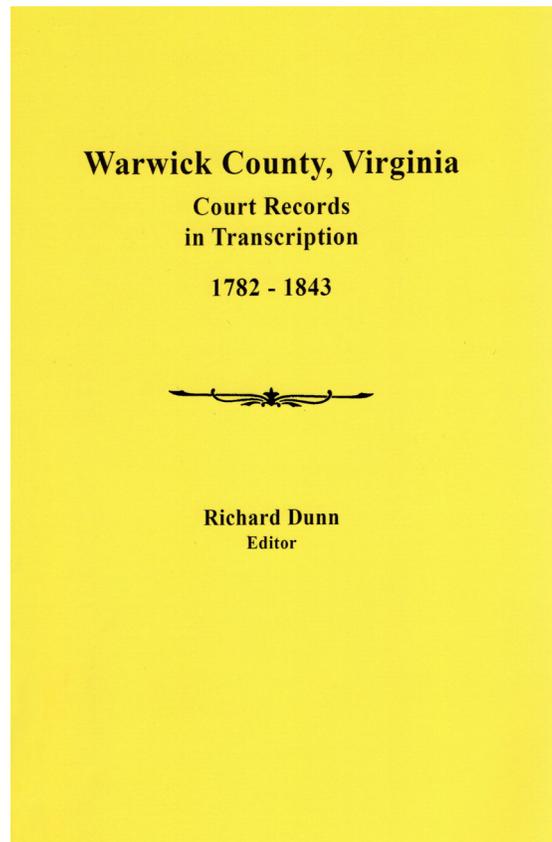
Richard Dunn's book is one of a series regarding the colonial records of Warwick County, Virginia. His books establish relationships and histories of thousands of family members with Virginia connections going back to 1634. Historians and genealogists, both familial and professional, will find this and his other books most interesting.

The author is associated with the Jones House Association of Williamsburg, Virginia. He is the author of *The Matthew Jones House and a Colonial History of the Matthew Jones Family* published in 2008.

This book provides transcriptions of court records between 1782-1865. These dates vary from the dates in the title. Records include deeds, wills, writs, and a variety of miscellaneous records. They have been compiled from original records at the Library of Virginia and two Special Collections from the Swem Library, College of William & Mary: Warwick County from *Virginia Counties* and the *Southall Papers, Warwick County 1833-1847*. All the entries are arranged by the repository and then chronologically. Dunn has endeavored to keep original phrasing, spelling, and in most cases punctuation. It is therefore important to read the Foreword, where he describes the notation practices.

Court records often contain material of interest to genealogists. For example, a docket record from October 1815 includes these parties involved in delinquent guardianships:

Eliz<sup>a</sup> Hansford Guardian of Mary Ann Crafford  
Chas. Moore & wife of Bourbon & Wm Jones  
Wm Garrow of Armistead & Ro Houghton  
Rich<sup>d</sup> Dunn of Henry & Carter Crafford



Ann Houghton of Nancy Houghton  
Thoms Mallicote of Geo. Mallicote's 5 children

Sometimes notes were added to court records, such as these attached to the 1822 will of Humphrey Wynne:

Elizabeth Wynne, the widow is dead. Died in 1824.  
1. Humphrey H. Wynne has arrived to full age. 2. Thomas I. Wynne has recently died underage, unmarried intestate without issue... 3. Elizabeth Wynne intermarried with John A Jones in 1827. She was then underage. They have had issue six children of whom four are dead and two are now living, viz Mary Jones, six years old, & Eliza Jones Frances Jones, two years old.

Typical of the period, many of the wills and inventories include the names of people held as slaves. Sometimes relationships and ages are included in the wills. Unfortunately, these names are not included in the index.

This book is not a narrative, though many sections read as such. Whether consulted for research or curiosity, this is a valuable reference book for those intrigued by Virginia history.

## Book Review

# They Came to Belize 1750–1810: Compiled from Records of Jamaica, the Mosquito Shore, and Belize at the British and Belize National Archives

Reviewed by

Shannon Leonetti and Jackie Farlinger-King

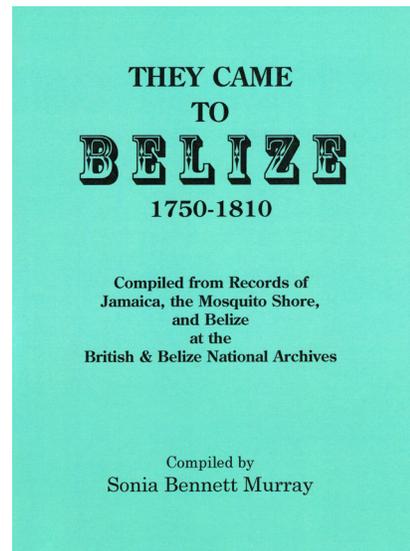
Compiler: Sonia Bennett Murray  
 Publisher: Genealogical Publishing Company  
 Publication Date: 2017  
 Pages: 452  
 Price: \$49.00 plus shipping  
 Order from: [Genealogical.com](http://Genealogical.com)  
 GFO Call Number: 972.82 .Migr Immi 1750-1810

Sonia Bennett Murray spent over twenty years extracting and transcribing records from various archives including the National Archives in Kew, England, the Liverpool Maritime Museum, the Bodleian Library, the Archives de los Indies in Seville, the Belize National Archives, and the National Heritage Library at Belmopan, Belize. The result is an achievement of the first order. *They Came to Belize* identifies over 7,500 persons who lived in or came to Belize (British Honduras) from the mid-18th century to the early 19th century. Its population grew to include Spanish, Scottish, English, Irish, and African immigrants.

The stories and legends of buccaneers, Spanish pirates, sea captains, and Amerindians are the stuff on which great movies and novels are based. The British wanted the few natural resources (primarily logwood and mahogany) that grew along the Mosquito Coast, and the Spanish were determined to conquer the land. The Spanish pirates seized all ships that they thought contained goods heading to or from Europe, and they attacked and slaughtered emigrants and natives along that same coast. It was brutal.

*They Came to Belize* itemizes scores of documents regarding the Amerindian, Indian slaves, American Loyalists, Spanish inspectors at the Bay, traders on the shore, militia lists, heads of household in Belize and Spain, the slave trade, and much more. Murray has added lengthy annotations to the compiled materials that shed light on the events and persons in the sketches and on those who became part of Central American history.

While *They Came to Belize* belongs on the bookshelf of anyone who entertains a serious interest in Caribbean



history and the genealogy of Belize, it is truly written for a much wider audience. For historians of the Americas, non-fiction writers, and novelists, it places individuals in Belize at a moment in time. Petitions to the British government, warrants, property ownership of all varieties (land and human) are disclosed. The researcher or novelist can learn family connections through wills and testaments of families.

Murray provides great examples of lasting familial links between Belize and Great Britain, such as the last will and testament of Bridge(t) Bourke, dated 1806 and proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury in 1809, in which she identifies Catherine Robinson, a widow, as her sister. There are also passages that help bring the period to life. For example, a Mr. Thomas Catto wrote, “I came into this country in 1765, bringing with me eight negro men, a craft and a years’ provisions.” He goes on to say that after being here nine or ten months, he applied for a piece of land and was given a “hunter” to help him scout out the right parcel. Evidently, he got too close to the “Work” of a local magistrate and was attacked by the said magistrate “who saluted me with blows and *knowcked* me down to the ground.” In another recounting, a ship captain came ashore at St. George’s Key where he was “suddenly attacked by the local magistrate” who confiscated his ship, which was owned by the British government.

The volume represents a substantial effort in gathering, editing, and presenting material which sheds light on an area of genealogy and history not commonly available elsewhere. It includes extensive acknowledgements, a surname index, and contents which may help researchers trace family members including those who were enslaved. This material is great history, and we would recommend it without hesitation to genealogists, historians, and novelists.

IN MEMORIAM

# Doris Free MacKellar Gressitt

12 February 1923–4 December 2018

**D**oris Free MacKellar Gressitt, of Purcellville, Loudoun County, Virginia, died 4 December 2018. She was born on 12 February 1923 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to the late William Alan MacKellar and Mary Stewart Speers.

A 1941 graduate of Lower Merion High School in Ardmore, Pennsylvania, Doris studied voice at the Bryn Mawr Conservatory under Dr. Joseph Barone. After raising a family, she resumed vocal studies under Saramae Hannon in Charleston, South Carolina, and later at Clark College in Vancouver, Washington, under David Murray. She sang in a chorale with the University of Portland and was a member of the Portland Opera Guild.

Doris married John Gressitt on 18 May 1946 at the Memorial Church of St. Paul in Philadelphia. Always active in church, she authored an Altar Guild manual while at the Church of the Holy Communion and was part of a team researching Old St. Andrews Episcopal Church, both in Charleston. She was a longtime associate of the Community of the Holy Spirit (New York



City). While living in Battle Ground, Clark County, Washington, she was active with the Friends of the Battle Ground Community Library.

In addition to her work with church history, Doris enjoyed genealogy. That led her to join the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Cameo Society, the Clan Campbell Society, Clan Sinclair USA, and the Southwest Washington State Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society. She was a longtime member of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon and frequented the library to do research. She would also visit cemeteries with her daughter. Together, they compiled data for the Gravel Point Cemetery which is available at the Clark County Genealogical Society.

Doris is survived by her daughter, Alexandra S. Gressitt; granddaughter, Carina A. Gressitt; and daughter-in-law, Gail M. Chase. Predeceasing her were her husband, John Gressitt; son, Stevan E. Gressitt, MD; sister, Mabel Stewart MacKellar; and brother-in-law, Francis G. Cain, Jr. She is buried at the historic Christ Church Cemetery in Weems, Lancaster County, Virginia.



## IN MEMORIAM

## James Preston Holt

14 October 1929–18 November 2018

Genealogical Forum of Oregon member Preston Holt died November 18, 2018. He was born James Preston Holt to parents Preston Holt and Laura Olbrich on October 14, 1929, along with his identical twin brother, John Earhart Holt. He was predeceased by his parents and older brother, Walter Wesley Holt.

Preston was a fifth-generation Oregonian and was very proud of his heritage. He spent long hours developing his genealogical records and has participated in DNA research. His immigrant ancestors arrived in Virginia and Massachusetts around 1620 and then migrated west as the county grew. Some of his ancestors crossed the United States as over-landers and some came by boat via the Panama Canal, with the first arriving in Oregon in 1845. He was a great-grandson of Rockey Preston Earhart who was the fourth Secretary of State of Oregon.

Preston and his twin attended Chapman Grade School and Lincoln High School in Portland, and both graduated from the University of Oregon where they were members of Chi Psi Fraternity.

Preston married Anita Katharine Anderson, a flight attendant with United Airlines, on May 5, 1962. They have two children, Richard Preston Holt and Laura Katharine (Michael) DeForge, and three grandchildren, Bailey Marie Holt, Maia Katharine DeForge, and Alexander James DeForge.

Having spent over two years in the Army, including one year in Korea, Preston returned to work at U.S. National Bank where he remained for 17 years. He then became a self-employed real estate broker. His business, OWL Investment Company, specialized in site location for national companies and small shopping center developers.

Volunteer work was ingrained in his heart, and after he retired he typically spent thirty hours a week volun-

teering, primarily with Lift Urban Portland (Northwest Portland Ministries), an interfaith coalition of twelve churches and synagogues in west Portland.

Preston was also active in his church, Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, and served in many capacities including treasurer, endowment committee, head usher, and as a long-term member of the outreach committee. He was involved with the Diocese of Oregon where he was also served as treasurer, trustee, and on various financial and investment committees.

Additionally, he was on the board and served as president and treasurer for the non-profit Northwest Pilot Project with 17 years of service over a span of 31 years. He was a scoutmaster for Boy Scout Troop 1 for five years; during his tenure, approximately 20 scouts achieved the rank of Eagle. He was a member of Multnomah Athletic Club, including its "50 Year Club," and he represented the club on basketball and volleyball teams.

Preston received several awards over the years. The Northwest Examiner awarded him its "faith in action" designation; Oasis named him a senior role model; Trinity gave him their "Holy Spirit" award; Life Urban Portland named him for its annual spotlight award; Friendly House acknowledged him with their Reverend Edd Crawford service award, and The Oregon Food Bank gave him a statewide volunteer excellence award.

Members of the GFO remember Preston's work with the data extraction committee, where he helped index the Oregon portion of the World War I draft registrations. He also was part of the Soundex committee for the Oregon portion of the 1910 U.S. Federal Census and assisted with the cemetery committee's effort to list persons buried in the Multnomah county pioneer cemeteries. His efforts were appreciated by all who knew him.



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## GFO CALENDAR: MARCH–APRIL 2019

### MARCH

Sat March 2	10:00am	Virginia Group
	1:00pm	German Group
Sun March 3	9:00am	Library Work Party - Manuscripts
<b>Mon March 4</b>		<b>Free to Non-members</b>
Wed March 6	10:00am	Learn & Chat
	1:00pm	DNA Q&A
		<b>Library open until 8 pm</b>
Fri March 8	11:30	Mexican Ancestry Group
Sat March 9	9:30am	Great Lakes Region SIG
	1:00pm	Writers' Forum
Sun March 10	9:00am	Library Work Party
Tue March 12	6:10pm	Board Meeting
Wed March 13		<b>Library open until 8 pm</b>
Sat March 16	9:30am	Genealogy Problem Solvers
	2:00	Membership Meeting
	2:15	Gen Talk—Following American Migrations
Sun March 17	9:00am	Library Work Party
	1:00pm	Family Tree Maker Users Group
	3:30pm	French Canada Group
Wed March 20	10:00am	Learn & Chat
	1:00pm	DNA Q&A
		<b>Library open until 8 pm</b>

**Sat March 23 through Sun March 31—GFO's Open House**  
 See the full schedule with details on page D.

### APRIL

<b>Mon April 1</b>		<b>Free to Non-members</b>
Wed April 3	10:00am	Learn & Chat
	1:00pm	DNA Q&A
		<b>Library open until 8:00 pm</b>
Sat April 6	10:00am	Virginia Group
	1:00 pm	German Group
Sun April 7	9:00am	Library work party - Manuscripts
Tue April 9	6:10pm	Board Meeting
<b>Wed April 10</b>		<b>Library open until 8 pm</b>
Fri April 12	11:30am	Mexican Ancestry Group
Sat April 13	9:30	Great Lakes Region SIG
	1:00	Writers' Forum
Sun April 14	9:00am	Library work party
Wed April 17	10:00am	Learn & Chat
	1:00pm	DNA Q&A
	6:00pm	Irish Group, <b>Open until 8:00 pm</b>
Sat April 20	9:30am	Genealogy Problem Solvers
	2:00	GenTalk—InDesign
Sun April 21	1:00pm	Family Tree Maker for Beginners
	3:30pm	French Canada Group
		<b>Library open until 8 pm</b>
Wed April 24		<b>Library Closed</b>
Sat April 27		
	10:00am	Spring Seminar—Tony Burroughs
Sun April 28	9:30am	Half-Day Seminar—Tony Burroughs

See pages E and F for information on the Spring Seminar.