MATRONYMICS: Generational Female Names

Did Your Ancestors Work the Earth?

Radio and Family History: Did Your Ancestors Tune in?

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**In This Issue**

As you read this, we should be starting to feel the increasing warmth of the sun on our faces as the spring equinox is quickly approaching (at least for those of us here in the Northern Hemisphere). If not, we hope our cover image will offer some implied warmth! Winter and weather aside, you can still enjoy your genealogy pursuits, and this issue of Your Genealogy Today contains what will hopefully be an enjoyable read. Our cover story is from a new author, UK-based Simon Keable-Elliott who travels to Tahiti to uncover the past of a grandfather he never knew; Jennifer Holik reminds us to honor our WWII ancestors by recording their stories and collaborating with others to keep their memories alive; Sandy Hack looks at a Find A Grave record and how it led to a father and son’s desperate journey; Canadian Robb Gorr continues with his fascination of naming conventions, specifically generational female names; David A. Norris looks at how the radio of bygone days may have played a role in the daily lives of our ancestors; Margaret Moen explores her grandfather’s WWI diary and suggests how we might be able to better illustrate our WWI ancestors’ lives; Sue Lisk looks at ways to harvest important context for ancestors who worked the earth; Lisa A. Alzo suggests we take some time to reflect on planning for what will happen to all those family treasures, as well as your precious genealogy research; finally, don’t miss our columns: Advice from the Pros, DNA & Genealogy, Genealogy and the Law, and The Back Page. Enjoy!

— Edward Zapletal, Publisher
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**Family in the Time of Plague**
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**Finding Robert Keable**
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Honoring World War II
Service Together

Jennifer Holik stresses the importance of recording your military ancestor’s story and collaborating with other researchers and organizations to keep the memories alive.

Seventy years have passed since the world witnessed the end of World War II. Sadly, this was not the final conflict our families would see. Since 1945, men and women have been deployed to Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan, and other places around the world. Some come home while others do not. All those who participated in war are changed by their experiences. All the families who sent someone to war were changed. Those changes even trickled down to future generations, whether we realize it or not. What we learn from World War II research and writing the stories, can be applied to any war or conflict.

In August 2016, I announced, through my business, The World War II Research and Writing Center, a new educational program, Honoring World War II Service Together. Because of the large network I have built in Europe, of researchers, re-enactors, tour guides, and grave adopters, my initial focus was to help bridge the gap between American genealogists and family members of military personnel, and researchers overseas, and vice versa. I had several program goals in mind which included the following. (Please note the term soldier in this article refers to soldiers, sailors, or Marines.)

- Provide education and resources for research on World War II soldiers and civilians to researchers
- Help people discover, write, and preserve the stories of Americans involved in World War II
- Help American researchers work with European researchers and foundations to preserve the history of our soldiers and civilians
- Help foundations and researchers in Europe, work with American researchers, museums, and organizations to preserve the history of service men and women who liberated their countries
- Help organizations develop memorial programs and projects to preserve the history and stories of Americans who took part in the war effort

The audiences I had in mind were:

- Families of World War II service men and women and civilian employees
- European grave adopters
Some Background – The Differences between American and European Researchers, and Records Access

On both sides of the pond, we have the belief that “everything should be online”. This is so far from reality in the US, but it is a myth that is spread around. In the US, our military records are not held in only one repository. Main records are held in our National Archives facilities, and the rest are scattered around our large country. Records access here is generally not free. In many cases, you will pay for copies on top of a researcher’s fees if you are unable to travel to do your own research.

In Europe, many countries have digitized their archives and often offer the information to the public for free. The countries are smaller than the US, records are held in fewer locations, and many people will do their own research rather than hire a researcher.

In Europe, many countries have digitized their archives and often offer the information to the public for free. The countries are smaller than the US, records are held in fewer locations, and many people will do their own research rather than hire a researcher.

On both sides of the pond, we still have inaccurate information spreading today about the 1973 NPRC fire that destroyed approximately 80 percent of the Army and Air Corps records. NPRC does not tell you, unless you scroll to the end of their page, about the fire, that there are other records to help you reconstruct service history. People continue to believe that nothing is possible if one ever received the “all the records burned” letter after making a request. Many also believe you still have to be the veteran or next of kin to access service files (Official Military Personnel Files, OMFP). This is also untrue if the soldier died or was discharged by today’s date 62 years ago. If you would like to learn how to reconstruct service, please see my books listed at the end of this article.

Europeans also seem to feel they owe a debt to our American soldiers for liberating their countries. It is their duty to research their adopted soldiers and liberators. To pay for such information is not ideal and many do not look favorably upon researchers who do this for a living. Many will say they will find it for free online. Unfortunately, you aren’t going to find much in most cases.

Information European Researchers Seek

Many researchers in Europe are grave adopters and have adopted a soldier’s grave, or name on a Wall of the Missing. Adoption means the individual or family is honoring a grave at one of the American Battle Monument Commission (ABMC) World War I or World War II cemeteries. They honor the grave or name by attending memorial ceremonies or laying flowers at the grave on special dates. These dates may be the soldier’s birthday, death date, Memorial Day, Liberation Day, or Veterans Day. Grave adopters seek information on the soldier’s service, their life, family, death, and most importantly, they wish to locate at least one photograph of the soldier. Most attempt to locate family members to help with the research and they consider their adopted soldier a member of their own family. Most Americans do not know such programs exist or that there...
are researchers seeking information.

There are communities in Europe who erect monuments to our fallen, or a specific Division or Unit which liberated their village or city. There are also World War II re-enactors who provide living history education of battles or Divisions in the war. Re-enactors set up camp sites, stage battles, and educate in the schools. Communities and re-enactors seek information on individual soldiers and the Divisions and battles. They attempt to piece together the entire picture and place soldiers into historical context for accuracy.

Finally, there are tour guides who connect with veterans and family members, American museum staff, students, and other interested parties. Tours are often taken around major battlefields, larger cities, or where important turning points in the war occurred. Tour guides also take family members to the places their soldier fought and sometimes died. Tour guides are historians who seek historical accuracy.

**How Can Genealogists Help Bridge the Gap?**

There are a couple things to consider when trying to work with European researchers or foundations.

Most European grave adopters know nothing about genealogy and barely use Ancestry.com. Some explanation may be necessary to help researchers understand how to locate information about an individual. The main goal is to find a photo of the soldier and some information.

There may a language barrier. In the UK, we have no language barrier. In the Netherlands, most people speak English well or well-enough to communicate with Americans. In France and Belgium and Luxembourg, it can be hit or miss. Using Google Translate can help in cases where language is a barrier. Often, people communicate on Facebook where there is a translation available.

There are already foundations set up to research and preserve the military information. I’ve seen many genealogists and societies jump on the bandwagon as soon as they hear someone needs help and either set up a new Facebook group or start inundating the researcher or foundation with too much information. Please think before you start another Facebook group. Why? Most Americans have no idea these foundations already exist and have procedures in place to request or receive information. If we start groups, it will only add to the confusion and potentially, the information could not end up where we intend.

The foundations are run by volunteers in most cases, just like genealogy societies, but often with fewer people. Too much information can overwhelm them quickly. What should you do instead?

You know how genealogists are taught when they visit a library or archive, they are not to give the librarian or archivist their entire family history? The same concept applies when working with overseas foundations and museums focused on World War II. Most of these groups are unfamiliar with genealogy. They also have no need, in most cases, for your entire family history. Before you get all excited and bombard these researchers and groups with information, see if their website tells you what specific information they would like to have. If it
would you like to learn more?

Learn how to research any branch of the military during World War II, even if the records burned in the 1973 NPRC fire. Order a copy of one of my books by clicking the ‘BOOKS’ tab on my website at wwiiresearchandwritingcenter.com:

- Stories from the World War II Battlefield: Volume 1 Reconstructing Army, Air Corps, and National Guard Service.
- Stories from the World War II Battlefield: Volume 2 Navigating Navy, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, and Merchant Marine Service.
- Stories from the World War II Battlefield: Volume 3 Writing the Stories of War.

You can also read educational articles at my website, wwiiresearchandwritingcenter.com, view military record examples, explore many resources for research, and learn about writing the stories.

Tips for submitting information
- Focus on soldier and his immediate family
- Source all facts and documents provided
- Write a short story

Benefits of Bridging the Gap and Connecting Researchers

World War II for many American genealogists, is still “too close” to research. I’ve heard reasons for this include:

- The family knows almost nothing
- The majority of records are not online
- We have had that wretched fire to deal with

However, our remaining World War II veterans are dying by the hundreds daily. Within five years, there will likely be none alive. The children and descendants of these soldiers have been left with many stories of war, which are often inconsistent or completely wrong based on what military records show. They have unanswered questions and a lot of pain which needs to be healed.

Overseas we have many people trying to repay a debt to America by preserving the memories of our fallen. These individuals have done, in many cases, a tremendous amount of research and have information on our American soldiers that many families dream they had. Want to make a genealogist happy? Connect with a European researcher who has documents and photographs about your soldier to share.

The Impact of World War II on Today’s Families

The one big thing that has emerged from this project, is the impact of the research and writing we do about our World War II relative or adopted soldier, can have a profound effect on healing old wounds. The connection with other researchers also provide a way to pass the lessons of war down through our families. We can take these lessons and apply them to wars that came after.

Connecting with each other also opens the door to creating bigger stories than we could alone, about our soldiers. It allows us to have a connection to a family overseas that is usually more than willing to welcome you into their home, show you the grave at the cemetery, and take you where the soldier fought and died. It allows us to walk where our soldiers walked and experience something of their service.

Finally, the stories will be told. Voices will no longer be silenced. Those missing from our family lines will be added. Individuals, families, and communities will begin to heal, share the experiences and lessons. We will see we are all more similar than different and a strong connection with each other will be formed. And resolution, answers to questions, and healing will take place for not only our soldiers, but our families and ourselves.

Jennifer Holik is a Chicago-based genealogist and military historian specializing in World War II US records, research, and writing.
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Adopting A Group Mentality

More and more of you are recognizing the power of DNA testing in your genealogical efforts evidenced by the swelling numbers at the DNA testing companies. As in other areas of our lives, like dessert and vacation hours, more is always better. More people tested means we have more opportunities to connect with cousins that just might lead us to leap over our brick walls as if they were mere bumps in the road. However, one glance at our DNA match list tells us that while more may be better, it can also be overwhelming, as in the case of more bills to pay and more weeds to pull. Have you considered, for example, the hundreds of thousands of people that DON’T match you, and what that might mean? How can you/should you use that information?

One way to make the very most of your DNA testing experience is to channel that excess of DNA matches, and non-matches, into a productive source. That source is a DNA project. Currently hosted most prominently at Family Tree DNA, but also in small supply in other areas like individual family organizations, and the website www.WorldFamilies.net, DNA projects are a great way to enhance your genetic genealogy experience.

DNA projects come in four main flavors: location, haplogroup, YDNA surname, and autosomal

Location Groups
Location groups gather together individuals with heritage from a particular area. For example, there is a project for the Cumberland Gap and for those who believe they come from Swedish Nobility.

Haplogroup Projects
A haplogroup is a deep ancestral group reported for both mitochondrial and YDNA testing. These projects are usually focused less on genealogical efforts, but mostly on identifying deep ancestral origins. These projects are especially helpful for individuals who want to pursue additional YDNA testing to more accurately define their deep ancestral groups as group administrators are generally very knowledgeable and can provide guidance through the maze of YDNA testing options.

Surname Projects
One of the greatest benefits of YDNA surname, projects is their ability to show you the individuals in the database who share your surname but who you are NOT related to. A quick review of these individuals might help deter you from an investigation into a possible connection between your line and another based on some hint of genealogical connection obtained from a fragment of your paper research as the DNA clearly tells you there is no connection. These YDNA projects also reveal the actual YDNA values that you share, and don’t share, with those that you are related to, which can often times lead to further hints about your paternal line connections.

Autosomal Groups
A relatively new and still growing segment of DNA projects are those dedicated to autosomal DNA studies. My favorite is a very well organized project focused on those with ancestry in Iowa (http://iowadnaproject.wordpress.com). This project begins to organize members who may not otherwise find each other and mold them into a cohesive group with the purpose of better understanding the genetics of the state and connecting families through genetics.

Whatever your goals, even if you haven’t tested at Family Tree DNA, click on that Projects tab on their homepage and review your available options. Look for surnames and locations of interest and review the project websites. You can email the group administrator for more information and in minutes be well on your way to taking the next step in your genetic genealogy efforts.
Sometimes routine genealogy research can turn up the unexpected, even for a branch of a family that lost contact more than a half century before. Take my second great uncle Harry Hyatt and his wife Rachel Sherman Hyatt, immigrants to New Haven, CT in 1908. Before coming to America, the Hyatts and the Carmans had lived in the small town of Fastov in present-day Ukraine, where Rachel and Harry were married. It was a jolt to see her brother Leo’s grave marker thousands of miles from every other member of her family.

A Colorado Mystery
Rachel’s parents, Nathan and Dobrish Sherman, and her siblings mostly remained in the New Haven area. However, youngest brother Leopold died at age 19 and was buried in 1917, alone in Colorado. This was unusual a century ago when train travel was time consuming and expensive. The voyage of nearly 2,000 miles would have taken at least 3 days, in a time when families rarely ventured much further than their local bus or trolley line! As a recent immigrant to America, Nathan worked as a poultry dealer and lived modestly in the same neighborhood his entire life. How did his son Leo end up alone in Colorado?

This question was answered by documents and letters shared by a generous genealogist to Ancestry.com’s Public Member Stories. (Original source was University of Denver Penrose Library archives.) A Western Union telegram on 1 September 1917 and other documents from Denver revealed that Leo had succumbed to tuberculosis. Nathan, who had already lost his wife Dobrish in 1911, was given a heartbreaking choice:

Nathan chose to have his son buried in Denver.
The Deadly “White Plague”

Try to imagine living and raising a family during a time when tuberculosis, influenza and other infectious diseases together caused more than 50 percent of all deaths. Tuberculosis (also known as consumption, and the white plague) was the leading cause of death in the nineteenth century and was still a deadly disease in the early 20th century. The 1901 Tenement House Law was enacted in New York City to reform overcrowding, light, water supply and ventilation in tenement houses. Laws were also passed in many communities to prohibit spitting in public places, but there was little that people could do to protect themselves.

Infectious Mycobacterium tuberculosis bacteria were spread through the air, with no known cure, until the introduction of antibiotics in the 1940s. Patients were typically treated in a sanatorium, where it was believed that fresh air, bed rest, and healthy food would aid in recovery. This was often effective in early-stage illness, but was of little help in advanced cases.

By 1911, most states each had a handful of TB sanatoriums, as did the Canadian provinces. The greatest number were concentrated in New York, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania. About 1 out of every 170 Americans lived in a sanatorium by this time and 1 million people were infected. Colorado had about 20 sanatoriums, which was a large number per capita for a mostly rural state with just 800,000 residents (compared to New York, with about 70 sanatoriums for a population of 9 million).

When Leopold first fell ill in 1916, there were about a dozen TB sanatoriums in the state of Connecticut. Most only accepted patients with “incipient” (early-stage) TB, or who were able to pay for a stay costing about $10 per week. This was a hardship for poor and working-class families for whom that was equivalent to nearly a week’s wages.\(^1\)

One of the closest TB institutions to Leo’s New Haven home was Gaylord Farm in Wallingford, CT. Gaylord opened in 1904 with the help of a $25,000 grant from the state, for treatment of curable cases only. By 1918, Gaylord had its own 150,000-gallon reservoir and dairy cows to serve 100 patients in a pleasant environment. Gaylord was proud to report no deaths during the previous year among all of its patients under treatment.\(^2\)

Gaylord’s most famous patient was Nobel-Prize playwright Eugene O’Neill, who as a young man spent 6 months as a patient in 1913, before being discharged as “cured”. O’Neill’s play “Long Day’s Journey Into Night” was based on his early family life and experience as a TB patient.\(^3\)

Leopold’s Bleak Prognosis

Unfortunately, Leopold’s illness was at an “advanced” stage, which left him with few options. After a couple of months at a dismal sanatorium in Shelton, CT, Leo’s father brought him back home and

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\(^1\) Tuberculosis Directory Containing a List of Institutions, 1911, Wm. Fell Co., Philadelphia.

\(^2\) Meriden Morning Record, 13 Nov 1918.

began the battle to get more care for his son. With help from his New Haven doctor, Leo applied to be admitted to the National Jewish Hospital for Consumptives in Denver, CO. With his application, he submitted a $50 cash guarantee from Louis Ullman. The Ullman family, early immigrants to America in the 1840s, were to become major benefactors for a variety of charitable causes over the years.\textsuperscript{iv} The $50 gift to Leo was generous — equivalent to over $1,000 in today’s money.

Leopold’s application to the Denver hospital was turned down with the disposition, “Case rejected on account of advanced condition of disease of applicant.”

Nathan was not about to give up on his son, and with the backing of their New Haven doctor, Nathan and Leo began their journey to Colorado.

Why Colorado?
The trail of TB sufferers to the state of Colorado was no accident. By the turn of the 20th century, Colorado had positioned itself as the prime destination of “health seekers”. TB was seen as a disease of poor, crowded urban areas. Publicity pieces and articles by medical doctors proclaimed the Colorado altitude, dry air, and abundant sunshine to be the healthiest environment for those with TB — promising the best chance for a cure. This claim was not quite true; until the advent of antibiotics, the best possible result was for the disease to go into remission.

An example of Colorado’s national publicity campaign was a 1908 souvenir book published by the International Congress on Tuberculosis. Its 200 pages contained articles by medical doctors touting the various health benefits of living in Colorado, and descriptions of institutions treating tuberculosis in the state, primarily in the Colorado Springs and Denver areas. The title page had a Chamber of Commerce feel: “Colorado for Health, Colorado for Wealth, Colorado for Happiness.” It also did not hurt that train travel was becoming more convenient, with a national rail system linking hundreds of cities and towns throughout the country. By this time, the state of Colorado anticipated an economic benefit from encouraging new residents.

Nathan and a seriously ill Leo made the journey to Colorado by train in July 1917. Most likely, they would have taken a train from New Haven to New York City, and then changed trains to continue on to Chicago. A third train would have brought them to Denver, all-in-all, a difficult journey as they could not have afforded to pay for a sleeper car. Leo immediately applied to be treated by the Jewish Consumptives’ Relief Society (JCRS) and was examined by their doctor, who concluded that his illness was “far advanced” and recommended immediate treatment. While waiting to be admitted to the JCRS sanatorium, Leo stayed at a boarding house in Denver’s West Colfax neighborhood for 5 days, after which he was admitted “as an emergency case”.

“He who saves one life is considered as if he preserved the whole world.”

— motto of the JCRS

The JCRS Sanatorium was one of the largest and best known in

\textsuperscript{iv} Ullman boys made good. Sunday Herald, 25 May 1952.
the state of Colorado. It was dedicated to treating tuberculosis patients who did not have the means to pay for their care. Fortunately for Leo — and this was not typical of TB institutions — it accepted patients in all stages of the disease.

“A special feature of the [JCRS] sanatorium is its care of emergency cases. . . These cases are admitted immediately without any formality.”

Opened in 1904 on 20 acres with a view of the mountains, the sanatorium grew its own vegetables, and kept 300 chickens and a herd of cows to provide eggs and milk for the patients. It had a library, post office, barber shop and its own monthly magazine.

Founder and director Dr. Charles Spivak dedicated his life to his TB patients. It was at his insistence that the JCRS accepted patients in all stages of the disease, free of charge.

Spivak himself came to Colorado for the health of his wife, who may have had TB. It was common for medical doctors to come to Colorado to practice because they — or a family member — had the disease. A 1908 survey by Dr. A. C. Magruder concluded that nearly one-third of doctors came to Colorado for TB in themselves or family members.

Each Sunday, Dr. Spivak would visit the patients. In an oral history interview, his daughter, Deena Spivak Strauss, described his focus on welcoming and treating patients as individuals. The JCRS left “a basket of fruit and bouquet of flowers for every patient that came to the hospital.”

Leo’s stay at the JCRS Sanatorium was to last just 6 weeks; he passed away “peacefully” according to the superintendent, Dr. Marshak. An inventory of Leo’s belongings consisted of mostly clothing, letters, and $2.66 cash. Nathan instructed the sanatorium to donate the cash to charity, and wired $50 to pay for his son’s burial expenses. The century-old Golden Hill Cemetery in Lakewood, CO is the resting place of many tuberculosis sufferers, including Leo, and is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

It is difficult to comprehend the loss of 150,000 lives to this terrifying disease in a single year. Many of us have a family member who lost his or her life to TB; most died in the prime of their lives. Nathan’s loss must have been unbearable. A photo of Nathan on the Find A Grave website revealed a religious, dignified man with an overwhelmingly sad expression.

The Cherman and Hyatt families remained close. In 1920, Harry Hyatt was driving a bakery

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vi Colorado state organization of the International congress on tuberculosis. (1908). Denver, pg 16.
vi1 1982 Oral History interview. University of Denver Special Collections.
wagon and wife Rachel was raising 5 daughters in their New Haven home. By the time of the 1930 New Haven census, Nathan Cherman was living with daughter Rachel and her family, remaining with them for 27 years, until his death. His age was reported as 108 in this 1957 New Haven Register obituary, but was probably 100 based on other records.

**Man believed oldest in area dies at 108**

“Nathan Cherman, who lived at 121 DeWitt Street, came to New Haven in 1908. He was a retail poultry dealer until his retirement about 15 years later… Although he had not been able to walk too well this past year or so, his son David says, he has always been active and alert.

A few years ago, a life insurance company gave Mr. Cherman a check for a policy he had purchased in 1914. He outlived the policy, according to a representative of the insurance company.”

**TOOLS FOR YOUR TB GENEALOGY RESEARCH**

Directory of tuberculosis institutions and associations in the US and Canada, 1911
http://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/008888014

PBS American Experience: The Forgotten Plague, 2015 (full-length video)
www.pbs.org/wgbh/americaneexperience/films/plague/player

www.faculty.virginia.edu/blueridgesanatorium/

A guide to the JCRS patient records, University of Denver Penrose Library
(10,000 patient records archived)
http://findingaids.cjh.org/?pId=365605

Note: although few TB sanatoriums retained patient records, some records may be available through Individual State Archives.

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A daughter named after her mother can be a confusing prospect in a family. When a son is born and given the same name as his father, then for the next generation or more, they are designated separately as “senior” and “junior”, or “the elder” and “the younger”, or possibly “pere” and “fils”. But the same does not happen when a daughter is born and given the same name as her mother.

Up to and including the nineteenth century, family members were referred to as senior or junior who were not necessarily father and son. An older family member with the same name, such as a grandfather or uncle, could be referred to as senior, while the younger family member was the junior. In my own family history there was a Nicholas Haskins Jr. (1770-ca1846) whose father was not named Nicholas. Instead, it was his grandfather who lived nearby in the same area who was the senior Nicholas.

Like “senior” and “junior”, terms such as “the elder” and “the younger” weren’t always definitive as they were relative to a person’s age at any given period of their life. My ancestor “John Holliday the younger” mentioned in land records in 1742 is the same person as “John Holliday the elder” who wrote his will fifty-one years later.

There are a few rare examples of daughters using the terms “junior” or “the younger” to separate them from their older parents. Most of these, like Anna Eleanor Roosevelt Jr. (1906-1975), only daughter of former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, or Carolina Herrera Jr. (born in 1969), daughter of the famed fashion designer, occur in the twentieth century.

The ancient Romans may have had the best solution. Since all daughters in a family were named only by a female variation of the nomen gentilici um or family name, there had to be some way to separate multiple daughters born to the same family. For example, all daughters of the Livius family were called Livia. A first daughter might be called Livia Major or “Big Livia” as opposed to a younger daughter called Livia Minor or “Little Livia”. If there were more than two daughters, sometimes their names would reflect their birth order such as Livia Prima (the first Livia), Livia Secunda (the second Livia) or Livia Tertia (the third Livia). Or sometimes an ending would be applied like –illa or –ina to create diminutive versions of the names like Livilla and Livina.

In later centuries, daughters were given some nickname, usually a diminutive of their mother’s name, in order to avoid the confusion. Maggie, Meg or Peggy for Margaret, and Lizzie, Betty or Beth for Elizabeth, were just some of the alternative nicknames used. Minnie and Teenie are non-name-related diminutives that were also common nicknames given to little girls regardless of a similar name with a parent or grandparent.

You may have already guessed that part of my genealogical
obsession is a fascination with names. I am intrigued by naming patterns, and by cultural and family traditions, and I am fascinated by unusual and unique names. My interest was piqued, then, when, during my own research, I noticed what appeared to be a naming tradition about which I had not previously known. My great-great-grandmother’s sister Lucy Ann Squires (born ca1842 in Leeds Co. ON) had been named after her mother Lucy Butterfield Squires (ca1809-1864). I noticed a few other members of the same family, as well as some of my other branches, all using the addition of Ann to names that were carried by some elder family member, usually a mother or grandmother. I had Margaret Ann Hudson (1853-1925) who had been named after her paternal grandmother Margaret McLaren Hudson (1804-1965) and Hester Ann Olmstead (born ca1835 in Grenville Co. ON), named after her mother Hester Breakenridge Olmstead (ca1803-1851), but I

really knew I had stumbled across another naming tradition when I considered unusual names like Judah Ann Hill (born 1815 in St. Lawrence Co. NY) who had been named after her maternal grandmother Judah Carey Haskins (1745-1793).

I wondered if the addition of Ann to junior family members bearing the same name was more widespread than just my own area of research. Curiously, I began to check early census records for more widespread examples and there were plenty to find in the 1800s and early 1900s. There were commonly used names like Sarah Ann Baenin (born 1817 in Brooklyn, NY), the daughter of Sarah Schenk Baenin, Sarah Ann Beck (born 1875 in Waterloo Co. ON), the daughter of Sarah Burkholder Beck, and Sarah Ann Armstrong (born 1898 in Huron Co. ON), a daughter of Sarah Johnston Armstrong. There was Chloe Ann Bagley (1842-1854) of Hartland VT, named after her maternal grandmother Chloe Peabody Rogers, and Amelia Ann Lemon (1808-1889) of Clark Co. IN, named after her paternal grandmother Amelia, wife of James Lemon.

I also found the use of Ann in uncommon names like Lucretia Ann Boynton (born 1832 in Cheshire Co. NH), the daughter of David and Lucretia Boynton, and in unwieldy names such as Temperance Ann Paul (born 1816 in Strafford Co. NH), who was the daughter of Temperance Ellison Paul, and in unnecessarily phonetic names like Hannah Ann Hutchison (born 1856 in Cumberland Co. NJ), the daughter of Thomas and Hannah Hutchinson.

I even found the use of Ann as far away as England where my great-great-grandmother Elizabeth Turner Holliday (1836-1873) and her older sister Mary Turner Stevens (1820-1863) of Surrey County, both named daughters Deborah Ann, in tribute to their youngest sister Deborah Turner (1842-1874) who had sailed away to Australia at age eighteen.

I was sure that if this naming tradition about the use of Ann in female names was as common and as widespread as I had found, then something probably had been written about it. So I searched for information, but was not able to find even a reference to such a tradition. That was when I decided to document this naming tradition myself. To generalize my theory, then, my research noted that in the nineteenth century and through into the early twentieth century there was a British-American tradition of adding the name Ann to a commonly used first name in order to denote a more junior member of the family with the same personal name.

This theory, like other naming traditions, may also be applied to genealogical research. In my family, there is a mystery as to the identity of one of my ancestors. The first wife of John Squires, a native of America who had settled in Yonge Township in Leeds County, Ontario about 1805, remains unidentified despite many efforts to learn even her first name. I have not been able to locate any vital records of their marriage or children’s births that would identify her name and she is not recorded by name in any early census or land records nor has any burial record yet been discovered. As a result, there have been many theories as to what
her name might have been. There were daughters named Elizabeth and Rachel and those names were frequently used among the descendants of John Squires and so a circumstantial case could be proposed that either of these names belonged to his wife.

But there was also a daughter named Rebecca Ann Squires (1822-1903), as well as two granddaughters named Rebecca Ann Smith (1818-1906) and Rebecca Ann Edmunds (1834-1932). If there was a naming tradition about the addition of Ann to junior family members, could their names be clues to the identity of John Squires’ wife? Was her name Rebecca and these three descendants were named in her memory? It seems a very plausible possibility and I have certainly continued to search for any records of a John Squires with a wife named Rebecca who might possibly be my ancestor’s.

It remains to be stated that not every name with an Ann added is indicative of this pattern. Ann has always been, and remains, a very popular female name and it is frequently used as a second name because of its euphonious ability to blend with almost any other. But, for those researchers who recognize and use naming patterns and traditions in their genealogical research, now there is one more tradition, commonly used during a specific period and among a specific portion of the population. This one is a pattern distinctly unique to female names and denotes a generational use of the same first name; it is the addition of Ann.

ROBBIE GORR is an amateur genealogist and local historian, with forty years of experience researching and writing about his favorite hobby.

Rebecca Ann Smith (1818-1906), pictured here with her husband William Jones, may carry the clue to her grandmother’s identity in her name.
Finding Robert Keable

Simon Keable-Elliott researches the Island of Tahiti to uncover the storied life of a grandfather he never knew

Robert Keable was a priest and notorious novelist. He was also my grandfather. His bestselling novel *Simon Called Peter*, written in 1921, was banned in Boston and mentioned in *The Great Gatsby*. He died in Tahiti in 1927 when my father was only three. His mistress, my grandmother, died giving birth to my father who was then brought up by family friends in England. My father never really talked about his father, but when I started to research his life 20 years ago, he gave me a small folder.

First Steps

It was like opening a treasure trove; with copies of wills, photographs of my grandfather and grandmother in Tahiti, letters and a small scrapbook with copies of obituaries published in the *Times* and other newspapers. From the obituaries, I got a tantalising glimpse of my grandfather’s incredible life. Born and educated in England, he trained as a priest, travelled to Zanzibar as a missionary, married, became a parish priest in South Africa, was appointed chaplain to the South African Native Labour Corps (SANLC) during the First World War, left the priesthood, became a teacher in England, wrote his successful book, became a full time writer and moved to Tahiti. His first will told me about his education because, although he left his money in England in trust to his English wife for her lifetime and to his son until he reached 21, the remainder was for a scholarship for students from his school (Whitgift) to his university college (Magdalene, Cambridge). And, from his second will I discovered I had an uncle as he left all his land and money in Tahiti to a son, Henry, and his Tahitian wife, Ina Salmon. There were a number of photographs taken in Tahiti and a few letters, one written by James Norman Hall announcing...
my grandfather's death. And that was all I knew.

My first steps were to try to find and read everything my grandfather had written. He was a prolific writer and alongside his seven novels, he wrote a number of religious books, a couple of travelogues on Zanzibar and Tahiti, two collections of short stories and a book about life during the First World War. I got a reader's pass for the British Library and trawling through their catalogues, I found articles he had written for the Atlantic, Asia magazine and The Radio Times. Slowly, I was beginning to piece together his life when I discovered I was not alone. In the same year, my father was contacted by two very different people. Hugh Cecil, a very eminent historian, was looking to write a chapter on Robert Keable in his book, later published as The Flower of Battle: How Britain Wrote the Great War; and Dr. Douglas, a Glaswegian academic, wrote to confess that back in the early 1960s, he had started to write a book on Robert Keable. Over the next two years, Dr. Douglas slowly passed on all the information he had gathered, which included a number of letters from Robert Keable’s contemporaries (at university and theological college) saying what they knew.

Although entertaining, ultimately these letters have proved to be the most unreliable sources of information and as I tried to draw up a timeline of my grandfather’s life, I realized that many of the stories and dates (admittedly recalled forty years after the events) are inaccurate or even untrue.

Hugh Cecil and Tim Couzens, a South African biographer with whom he worked, had an advantage over me as they could travel. As a teacher in England with a young family, I could not. They found the church in Lesotho where my grandfather preached, and then visited Tahiti where they found my grandfather’s grave and the house he built. They also traced my step-uncle to France and interviewed him.

I began my research just as the internet was taking off and it was American newspaper archives which proved the most informative. I found articles on my grandfather, describing his trip to America in January 1925 at the same time as Warner Brothers were making a silent movie of one of his novels – Recompense – and the Klaw Theatre on Broadway was showing a play of his novel, Simon Called Peter. I became fascinated by this since my father was born – and my grandmother had died – barely 6 weeks before my grandfather’s visit. Why did my grandfather leave my dad only six weeks after his birth?

For the next few years, I concentrated on researching those ten weeks of my grandfather’s life, finding out all about his trip on the RMS Orca and his time in New York. A photocopy of the manifest of alien passengers dated 13th January 1925, at www.findmypast.co.uk, confirmed the voyage. There was also a cutting from the New York Times two days later announcing both that,

“Robert Keable, a former English Episcopal clergyman who wrote Simon Called Peter arrived on the Royal Mail steamer Orca”,

and that

“Three passenger steamships arrived twenty-four hours late from European ports due to the terrific storms which have prevailed on the Atlantic for the past month. The captains agreed that the hurricane last Thursday Jan 8, was about the worst day they had ever experienced in any part of the world.”

I spent three years on and off, while continuing my day job, writing an (unpublished) novel about that journey, having become a bit of an expert on the ship, the making of silent movies and America in the mid 1920s.

More Recent Research

Having got a novel out of my system, I returned to researching my grandfather’s life about five years ago. Since my grandfather had been a priest, the Church Times archives, available through www.ukpressonline.co.uk, were a great source, giving me details of when he and his father were ordained, as well as...
postings, book reviews and even details of some sermons he preached. The UK censuses from 1851 to 1911, available at www.ukcensusonline.com, allowed me to track the life of Robert Keable’s father from a 16-year-old tallow melter in south London to a 56-year-old priest. The internet also provided useful background on the First World War. My grandmother, Jolie, was an 18-year-old driver for the Canadian Forestry Corps and my grandfather was chaplain to the SANLC.

My grandfather is mentioned in AC Benson’s diaries as a prolific letter writer. My ‘Holy Grail’ was to find letters he had written. I drew up a list of everyone famous he might have known. British and American universities have acquired the archives of many literary figures and British companies, and fortunately they all seem to have excellent online databases, easily found via intelligent Google searches. I found letters to a theatre impresario, who knew him from school, as well as to his American publishers E.P. Dutton and G.P. Putnam, and for a small fee, purchased photocopies of letters, book contacts and the like. But the most exciting discovery came when I was looking for the archives of his British publisher and found the letters of Michael Sadler, who I knew was a personal friend of my grandfather. Imagine my elation when I discovered that Temple University in Philadelphia had a collection of over 100 letters written by my grandfather from 1922 to 1927 to Sadler at www.worldcat.org/title/constable-correspondence-1921-1939/oclc/727944267. From these letters, I have been able to fill in many of the gaps in his life and to learn about his time in Tahiti.

Trip to Tahiti
In the summer of 2016, I had the chance to travel to Tahiti and gave myself a week to find out as much as I could. I began at the end of his life and a few hours after I flew in, I visited my grandfather’s grave at the Uranie Cemetery in the capital Papeete. The gravestone had not weathered well and it was almost impossible to read the epitaph, but I still shed a tear.

The following morning, I set out to find the location of the first house my grandparents had rented on the island back in 1923. I knew it was close to Papeete because my grandfather had written to Michael Sadler,

“It will amuse you to hear that I seem to have fallen on my feet. I have got a house 12 ½ kilometres out of Papeete which was once Gauguin’s.”

I also had photographs of my grandparents on the beach in front of the house from my father’s folder. H.G. Metcalf, in a book published in the 1960s called That Summer in Tahiti wrote,
“Gauguin’s house had been in Punaauia. The house was no longer there, but in 1957 there was a small local schoolhouse on the site. This school has a sign on it which reads, “Ecole Punaauia, 2+2=4.”

Armed with this sketchy information, I set off in my rented car on the island’s only road and after knocking on a few doors, I found a kind French woman who took me to the site of the 2 + 2 = 4 school which still existed – rebuilt a number of times. A long sandy path running down the side of the school led me to the beach, and I found the exact spot where my grandparents had been photographed outside Gauguin’s house ninety years before.

On my last day in the capital, I went to both the Hotel de Ville and the national archives (‘Service du Patrimoine Archivistique et Audiovisuel’). I had hoped the French would have insisted on records being kept on all foreign residents on the island, but in the end, I only managed to get a copy of Robert Keable’s death certificate and his Tahitian son’s birth certificate. Still, after paying for photocopies of the certificates, the helpful lady asked me if my grandfather was famous and I agreed he might have been. So she took me into her office and found references to him in two grand books *Tahitiens: répertoire biographique de la Polynésie française* and *Bibliographie de Tahiti Et de la Polynésie Française*, which she kindly photocopied for me.

Before my trip, I had been in touch with Vivienne Millet at the James Norman Hall Museum and I went to meet her the next day. James Norman Hall, who co-wrote *The Mutiny of the Bounty* with Charles Nordhoff, had been my grandfather’s secretary in the year before he died. I had found no reference to my grandfather in any of Hall’s books, but I was pleased to see a photograph of Hall on his honeymoon taken at my grand-father’s house (which he had lent them for two weeks) and Vivienne recognized Hall in one of the photographs I had from the 1920s. Vivienne seemed as...
intrigued by Robert Keable as I was, and over the next few days, she introduced me to Homer Morgan, an American who had lived on Tahiti for over 50 years, Jimmy Nordhoff (Charles Nordhoff's last remaining child) and Nancy Rutgers Hall (Hall’s daughter), all of whom helped shine a light on my grandfather's time in Tahiti. Later, I tracked down the wife of a nephew of Ina Salmon, my grandfather's Tahitian wife, and the daughter of Frank Stimson, a man Robert Keable knew well. Interviewing these people has given me so much background information on Tahiti in the 1920s.

The highlight of my trip however, was my stay at the house my grandfather had built. Roger and Juliette Gowen had bought the house in the 1960s and looked after it with loving care. I had a description of the house from an interview my grandfather had given the *Bedfordshire Times* in 1927 as well as passages from his novel *Numerous Treasure* which had been set in the house. It was amazing to find the house pretty much unchanged with the original imported redwood floor and slate roof. My grandfather had boasted of having a library with three or four thousand books and sure enough, in the bookcases were many books with Robert Keable’s bookplate proudly stuck on the first page. I spent two days at the house finding out about its history. About my grandfather’s Tahitian wife Ina who carried on, owning the house up until the 1950s and who had been a princess and the niece of the last queen of Tahiti. And about the tupapous, or ghost, that was supposed to haunt the house and which my grandfather had been seen trying to shoot in the middle of the night with his air rifle.

On the second day, I went across the road to meet the son of the man who had sold my grandfather the land. Star Mauu is the same age as my father and he had lived all his life in the house across the road from Robert Keable’s house. He remembered the months after my grandfather died when Ina Salmon used to bring cases of champagne up from Papeete and have wild parties all night. Robert Keable wrote of visiting the Mauu’s house and as I shook Star’s hand I realised I had finally met someone who had met my grandfather in Tahiti – if only as a two year old.
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Did Your Ancestors Tune In?

David A. Norris looks at how radio may have played a part in your ancestors’ lives

Many a family story revolves around radio. My grandmother remembered the first time she heard a radio during the mid-1920s. Owned by a neighbor, the radio was a battery-powered model (electricity was not yet available in their rural neighborhood). The sound could be heard only with headphones, so everyone had to share the headphones and take turns listening to the music and talk.

Harvesting family stories about radio is up to you, but there are plenty of published and online sources to supplement the memories provided by you and your relatives. Radio stations and on-air personalities can be researched online, and there are countless places to find recordings of vintage radio programs and news broadcasts. There are also lists of amateur radio operators that might mention radio hobbyists in your family.

Radio Stations Past and Present

Known as “wireless”, because the newfangled machines didn’t need the wires that connected telegraph and telephone sets, radio found a place on ships as early as the 1890s. Inventor Guglielmo Marconi patented a radio in 1897, and pioneered the first practical radio sets.

Until the early 1920s, radio was mostly limited to experimental, amateur, military, and maritime use. In the 2020s, many US radio stations will celebrate their centennials. Early commercial stations often began as amateur operations, and some of them broadcast regularly for some time before officially becoming licensed. Usually regarded as the first commercial station in the US KDKA, in Pittsburgh went on the air in 1920. There were 30 licensed radio stations in the US in 1921, but that number soared to over 618 by 1930 and 765 in 1940. Forty percent of US households owned a radio in 1930; by 1940, that figure was over 80 percent. As of 30 September 2016, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
reported 15,508 licensed commercial and educational radio stations in operation in the US.

For decades, commercial broadcasts predominantly used the AM radio band. AM waves can bounce off the ionosphere, giving the signals a long range. Stations with powerful transmitters can be picked up hundreds of miles away. The drawback is that AM broadcasts are subject to static, and sound quality is limited.

FM radio began growing in the late 1960s and the 1970s. FM transmission sends a clear signal that's not susceptible to static. Sound quality is much higher than with AM broadcasts, and FM stations can broadcast in stereo. In the case of FM, the drawback is a limited range. These radio waves go through the ionosphere instead of bouncing back down to earth, so signals are received in “line of sight” from a tall transmission tower.

Ask family members the first song they remember hearing on the radio. Even without a definitive answer, it will bring up a lot of memories and stories.

Shortwave radio uses frequencies above those of the “medium wave” band used by AM stations. Also subject to static, shortwave transmissions bounce off the ionosphere, but achieve ranges of thousands of miles. Shortwave transmissions are used by government-run international services (such as the Voice of America, BBC World Service, etc.), as well as amateur radio fans, and for nautical, aviation, and military purposes.

Since 1923, call letters of US radio stations east of the Mississippi have begun with the letter “W”, and those west of the Mississippi have begun with the letter “K”. There are a few exceptions, usually in the case of radio stations in operation before 1923. Station call signs nearly always have four letters, but a few (also generally founded as radio stations in the early 1920s) have three letters. Nearly all Canadian radio and TV stations began with “C” (a few in Newfoundland begin with “V”, the initial letter assigned to Newfoundland stations before that province
joined Canada in 1949). “X” is assigned as the first letter for Mexican radio and TV stations.

Recorded music has long been a mainstay of radio broadcasting, but in the early years of the industry, many performers didn’t want their recordings used by radio stations. For one thing, the sound quality of early records was poor. The rise of music recordings on radio also cut into record sales, and reduced the demand for live performances. Eventually radio stations paid music licensing fees, and records became a common source of music for the airwaves. The term “disc jockey” for a radio personality who played records appeared in print in the magazine Variety in 1941.

It’s difficult to find comprehensive lists of all US radio stations, past and present. Wikipedia has lists of currently functioning radio stations, and often the lists have links to separate pages for each station. The radio business has seen great changes over the years. Many stations have gone off the air, and many others have changed their call letters, so it might be tricky to track down information on a favorite station of the past.

That being said, some interesting early radio lists are available online. For instance, at the Internet Archive, you can find the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Radio Stations of the United States, 1913-1914. This was before commercial radio as we know it. Listings include transmitters in use by the armed forces and government agencies, and radios aboard ships. Also listed are hundreds of amateur radio operators, with their addresses.

The Media History Project at http://mediahistoryproject.org/yearbooks offers free access to periodicals related to radio and television. It has a large collection of useful material for researching radio shows and personalities of the past.

Maintained by Jeff Miller, the History of American Broadcasting page at http://jeff560.tripod.com/broadcasting.html has links to lots of radio history material, such as lists of US radio stations at various years from the 1920s and later. There are also some links for television history as well.

Since 1905, the weekly magazine Variety has covered the entertainment industry. Music and radio are covered along with movies, theatre, and television. A large selection of issues up until 1948 are available at the Internet Archive.

Also at the Internet Archive, their Media History Digital Library at http://archive.org/details/mediahistory contains issues of such publications as Radio Guide and Movie and Radio Guide, which contain nationwide radio network schedules as well as news about the radio industry and its performers. The Radio Annual lists US stations, with the names of staff members and other information.


Also at the Internet Archive, various issues of publications such as the Amateur Radio Callbook Magazine give the names and addresses of amateur radio hobbyists between from the 1930s into the 1990s.

Radio Shows and Historic Broadcasts

It’s not difficult to find recordings of programs, news broadcasts, or other audio clips that you or your family might have heard on the radio in the past. Fan sites for radio sitcoms and dramas abound online. Countless episodes of popular radio shows are now in the public domain, and are easily available on the Internet. You can find historic news segments and hear the way radio audiences heard about the attack on Pearl Harbor; the explosion of the dirigible Hindenburg, and other
landmark news events.


Over 2,400 episodes are available at the Internet Archive’s Old Time Radio collection at http://archive.org/details/oldtimeradio. Youtube also has a large collection of radio show recordings.

For another personal family-related angle, you might check microfilmed or digital collections of local newspapers for printed schedules of radio shows available to listeners in the area. By the 1950s, schedules for radio shows appeared alongside of those for television programs.

If you had a relative or two who worked as on-air radio announcers or deejays, they might have been mentioned in one of numerous online fan sites for local radio stations of the past. A Google search by station call letters, or perhaps a check for sites and web pages about radio history (narrowed down with the name of your hometown), might turn up some surprises for you. With a bit of luck, you might be able to find audio clips you heard on your favorite local station, such as station identification jingles, or radio advertisements.

Wikipedia has individual pages for a great many radio stations in the US and other nations. Some of these pages have considerable information on the history of the radio station, and its deejays and announcers over the years.

Even if rambling through radio-related websites and books turns up no direct personal connections, it’s a good way of triggering memories with the potential of turning up some good family stories… and that’s the best part of family history research!

DAVID A. NORRIS is a regular contributor to Your Genealogy Today, Internet Genealogy and History Magazine.

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Finding And Investigating Your Ancestor’s WWI Diary

Margaret Moen offers some advice on locating WWI diaries and how it might help to illuminate your WWI ancestor’s service

“On U.S.S Wilhelmina May 9th (sailed May 10th, 1918) till May 24th, 1918. Arrived at Brest, France May 24th. Quartered at ‘Hotel Moderne’ Rue de Siam and Rue de Louis Pasteur, Brest, France. Troops at Pontanezen Barracks.”

So wrote my grandfather, 1st Lt. Thomas A. Carr, about his arrival in France to fight in World War I. That was the style of his diary – precise, factual, and dispassionate – with no description of his thoughts on landing in France.

But the diary did shift in tone and tenor as he continued to write about his experiences in the 319th Infantry, 80th Division.

If you have an ancestor who was one of the 4,734,991 service members in WWI, 2,171,563 of whom served overseas, mostly in France, he may have left a diary (Department of Veterans Affairs’ statistics). If so, that diary will provide you with insight into his service and his character that you can’t find anywhere else.

If you own such a diary, your only challenge is to glean and verify as much information as possible from it, and also to decide if and how you want to share it (See sidebars).

If you do not know if your WWI ancestor wrote and left a diary, the first place to look is at the collection held by the Library of Congress. Visit www.loc.gov/vets/stories/wwi-diaries-memoirs.html.

Megan Harris, a reference specialist, Veterans History Project, Library of Congress, says: “Currently, we have 30 original WWI diaries in our collection, and 30 more diaries that are copies of the originals. We absolutely expect to receive more as the anniversary of our entrance into WWI approaches. “This has certainly been the case over the last couple of years – as more attention is given to the war, and families think about WWI heirlooms, such as diaries, they are choosing to contribute these materials to the Veterans History Project.”

So, if at first you don’t discover a diary in that collection, keep checking back: 2017 is the centennial of the US declaration of war and 2018 is the centennial of US troops going “over there” – these anniversaries might move more people to contribute their diaries.

Otherwise, check with other descendants of your ancestor to see if they either have a diary or know where one can be located.

Or, your local history society might have a sought-after diary. University archives are another possibility.

If you can’t locate a diary written by your ancestor, you might be able to find a diary written by one of his comrades in arms...
and thus find some information about him there. My grandfather meticulously noted names and ranks of men with whom he served.

For example, on 10 November 1918 – the day before the Armistice – he listed his Machine Gun Company officers: 1st Lt. Thomas A. Carr (himself), commanding; 1st Lt. Alvin F. Philpott, 2nd Platoon; 1st Lt. Perce V. Hendricks, 3rd Platoon; 2nd Lt. Clarence Phillips, 1st Platoon; 2nd Lt. James G. Gilson, Transport.

Descendants of these WWI officers, for example, could learn quite a bit about their ancestor’s service by reading my grandfather’s diary.

Other WWI diarists list their fellow servicemen anecdotally. Harry Frieman (313th Machine Gun Company, 79th Division), whose diary is in the LOC collection, noted on 23 September that he “spent day in woods” and there met Willie McFarland and Louis Goldberg, both in the 37th Division. Two days later, Frieman wrote: “We received orders to move that night for the front. For the first all American Drive on 20 Mile front in the Argonne Forest, north of Verdun. We reached our front line trenches at 11 p.m.”

If you know the names of some of the people with whom your ancestor served or befriended, or his company and division, you might be able to find a diary that mentions him.

What can WWI diaries tell you about your ancestor? They might yield basic information about his appearance, health, family, and home – my grandfather lists his description, his inoculations, his father and mother by name, and his mother as the beneficiary of his Bureau of War Risk Insurance Policy, along with the family’s home address in Pennsylvania. And, of course all the factual details of his service, including his promotions.

Donating A World War I Diary

Megan Harris of the Veterans History Project says that “If someone is interested in donating a WWI diary to our collection, they should contact us at vohp@loc.gov or 202-707-4916, so that we can answer any questions they might have about the donation process, the best way to send the diary, the necessary paperwork, etc”.

Harris adds: “Donating a World War I diary to the Library (of Congress) not only preserves the diary, but also makes it available to researchers, both now and those to come in the future.

“We house our archives in state-of-the-art facilities, with appropriate safeguards against theft and destruction”, she says. “Our holdings are also secure in that they are part of the Library of Congress in perpetuity – they are never at risk of being deaccessioned in the future, as might be the case at smaller institutions. Perhaps most importantly, our collections are made available to the vast range of researchers who come to the Library of Congress to use not only our materials, but other collections in the Library.”
Other diarists may mention spouses, sweethearts, and siblings at home. 1st Lt. Quincy Claude Ayres, 1st Engineers and 2nd Engineers, 2nd Division also wrote a diary that is in the LOC collection. Ayres addresses his wife, Mary, as “honey presc” in his diary.

But much of that you may already know, or be able to obtain from other sources. What does a diary tell you that is unique?

“Diaries are as individual as their writers, so it’s hard to make substantial generalizations about them”, says Megan Harris.

“With that in mind, they can contain all sorts of unique and valuable information – everything from what it really felt like to be in combat, to seemingly mundane wartime details such as what the food was like, to emotional content like ever-present homesickness.”

Harris adds: “Overall, as a historical resource, [diaries] are valuable in that they are primary sources that were written at the time of the event, and generally, tend to be less mediated than other sources such as correspondence, as veterans felt free to record grisly and frightening details in their diaries, which they might not have included in their letters home.”

Also, as Alfred C. Harrison (1st Battalion Sanitary Detachment, 22nd Regiment, US Engineers of the 27th Division; 102nd Regiment) notes in his diary: “Cannot express myself in my letters home the way I should like to; Old Boy Censor is all eyes and has no regards for sentiment.”

Megan Harris further explains that the WWI diaries

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**Sources For Data About Your WWI Ancestors**

Information contained in diaries can be confirmed through research in World War I records. Here are some basic sources for finding out the fundamentals about your ancestor’s service and verifying and clarifying what he wrote in his diary.

While a draft card registration does not automatically mean someone actually served, draft cards are a good starting point.

More than 24 million men registered in the three separate US draft registrations run in 1917-1918. But over 80 percent of those 24 million did not serve in World War I. Also, if your ancestor enlisted prior to these draft registrations, he won’t have a card.

To search these cards, see:

- www.ancestry.com (subscription),
- http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=6482, or
- familysearch.org (free),

Cards from any of the three WWI draft registrations will include basic biographical data about your forebear.


Headstones often cite the deceased’s military service. Visit the US Department of Veterans Affairs website at http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov. Ancestry.com has electronic scans of these records:


If you might have a WWI ancestor buried overseas, search for him at the American Battle Monuments Commission website, www.abmc.gov. Included there: His branch of service; regiment and division; death date; burial place; and where he entered the service.

Once you confirm the basic data about your ancestor, you can order his military personnel record by completing a Standard Form 180 (www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/standard-form-180.html) and sending it via mail to:

National Archives
1 Archives Drive, St. Louis, MO 63138,
or you can fax it to 314-801-9195.

Please note that a disastrous 1973 fire destroyed many of the military records stored at the National Archives building in St. Louis.

(This sidebar is adapted from an article the author wrote for the November-December 2014 issue of VFW Magazine, pages 38-40. The article is available online at http://digitaledition.qwinc.com/publication/?i=227246.)
“oftentimes display the hallmarks of the ‘WWI experience’ – that is to say, aspects that set WWI apart from other wars, such as trench warfare, gas attacks, etc.”, along with the themes found in diaries from all wars: homesickness, quality of food, the weather.

My grandfather records the following about a battle at Bois la Ville, near Vilosnes-sur-Meuse, France, 27 September: “Nine men killed, three died of wounds, fifteen wounded, sixteen gassed, including Capt. P.W. Huston, and one man missing.” A few lines later, he records that his company on 4 October headed “for the front East of Montfaucon and North of Nantillois. We pushed in this sector in the face of most violent machine gun and artillery fire going over the top at 6 p.m. on the 5th of Oct”.

Frieman gives an even more graphic account of battle on 26 September. A man attached to their company, carrying ammunition, “was hit by a shell and killed. All that was found of him was an arm”. After an enemy sniper killed one and wounded another, Frieman and “a soldier of the 311th and I located sniper in tree and we shot at him. I shot at him seven times with my 45 caliber and he fell out of tree”.

You not only learn details of their experience, you understand better how much they endured in their service. Even more, you can delve into their personalities.

My grandfather notes the time of the Armistice without comment, while the more communicative Frieman describes how, as the fog lifted at noon after the Armistice, the members of his unit saw they had been “caught in a trap with Huns on three sides of us”. They found out “how lucky we were”.

But throughout his diary, my grandfather transitioned from a recording of data to more narration, giving more hints of his feelings at the events he experienced.

After the armistice, he describes arriving at Cruzy-le-Chatel, “our final billeting”, on 30 November. The officers stayed at the home of Monsieur and Madame Pierre Barbotte and their daughter; he notes, movingly, that their son had been killed in battle at Bois de la Chalade in 1915.

My grandfather also notes attending a dance at Evacuation Hospital 110 shortly after the Armistice. Other World War I diarists might mention attending parties, religious services, or musical performances then, showing a lighter side of being “Over There”.

Accounts of battles and other wartime episodes in diaries may be difficult to follow, with many small towns mentioned and possibly misspelled – later accounts in your ancestor’s résumé or correspondence might give a clearer, more organized presentation.

If you own or can discover an ancestor’s World War I diary, you’ll learn more about who he was, how the war changed him, and the depths of what he experienced. Some of what you find out might help extend your family research in other directions.

And you might also find a mystery to solve. At the end of my grandfather’s diary, he wrote the name of Rowland F. Jenkins with an address in Buffalo, New York.

We don’t as yet know why.

MARGARET MOEN is a St. Paul, Minnesota-based writer and editor whose articles have appeared in *Your Genealogy Today (Family Chronicle, Jan/Feb 2014), VFW Magazine, American Spirit*, and many more. She has a special interest in military family history.
The record-keepers weren’t interested in tracking the number of jars of sauerkraut or mustard pickles, blueberry jam or pear preserves Great Grandma could put up in a year. “Mere cabbage and potato patches, family vegetable gardens, and ornamental lawns, not constituting part of a farm for general agricultural purposes, will be excluded.” These instructions, given to US Federal census takers in 1870 and 1880, explaining how they were to complete the special Agricultural Schedules could not have been clearer: the Government wanted to quantify large-scale production. Yet intriguing stories about green thumbs in the family, tales the censuses ignored, are often well within the reach of inquiring genealogists.

Although in the early US censuses, one of the most common occupations entered for males was “farmer”, it would have been unusual to come across “gardener”. Professional gardeners begin to appear in later censuses. In the 1910 census for Pittsburgh Ward 11 in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, for instance, Thomas P. Jenkinson is described as an “agriculturalist”, with the general nature of his work given as “farming/gardening”. A 1913 Grimsby, Ontario, Canada birth record for Thomas’s son, Robert Scott Jenkinson, indicates Thomas was a “fruit grower”.

While in censuses you may occasionally discover that one of your ancestors worked with plants for a living, but did not farm, during World War I and World War II, much of the population in the US and Canada participated in the planting and tending of “Victory gardens”, also known as “war gardens”. Rationing during the war years led to shortages of many foodstuffs. With limited labor and transportation, harvesting fruits and vegetables and getting them to market was challenging. The Government encouraged people to plant their own gardens as a way of supplementing their diets, thereby leaving essential canned vegetables and fruits for the troops. Answering the call to start a Victory garden was also a way of showing one’s patriotism. All Americans and Canadians, whether they lived in rural or urban areas, were strongly urged to participate in this gardening crusade. People of all ages...
transformed schoolyards, public parks, and small plots of land throughout their communities into war gardens. Government advertisements called on citizens to plant Victory gardens as a meaningful way to support the war effort. Even seemingly unlikely players got in on the act. In 1944, Sears advertised “Victory Garden Fashions”, namely “shorts for smartness and comfort”, including the “‘Smartpants’ style with bib front and shoulder straps”, for $2.29. Perhaps your ancestors watered their gardens decked out in the style recommended by Sears.

War gardens were a central topic of conversation. In 1944, the Syracuse (New York) Herald-Journal published daily “Victory Garden-Graphs”, illustrations showing how to deal with issues related to war gardens. On 5 May 1944, the article accompanying the garden-graph declared “Victory vegetables must often be protected against their enemies in the insect world” and explained how to outwit cutting worms. In another issue, a garden-graph showed various systems for planting and training raspberries. Many of your relatives would have relied on such tips published in newspapers. Gardening lectures offered across the country described helpful techniques in detail. For example, on 16 February 1943, The Toledo Blade invited the public in Perrysburg, Ohio to the Victory Garden Campaign’s series of free Victory Garden lectures.

You may even find mention of Victory gardens in letters your relatives wrote during WWI or WWII. On 29 May 1945, Mary Lisk wrote to her daughter-in-law: “The food situation is awful here, but we can find enough even if it’s not just what we want. Frank hasn’t planted his big garden yet, too wet — has lettuce beets & carrots up thats all.”

**Gardeners In Your Own Backyard**

Words preserved from long ago can open doors to other stories about your ancestors and their specific gardening efforts and
achievements. If you can put the events in context by talking to relatives or searching out further information on your own, your discoveries will be more meaningful.

Personal letters, journals or diaries often provide details about daily life and are a good place to look for references to gardeners in your family. My relative, Mabel Lindner, copied into a notebook, poems she had written over the years. Her poem entitled “Grandmother’s Garden” describes the garden’s flowers and winding paths in detail; one verse tells of her grandmother peeking in from behind the rose-covered gate to admire her treasured plot. I was able to identify both of Mabel’s grandmothers, but she didn’t name either of them in her poem. By searching further, I found that only one of these grandmothers was still living during Mabel’s lifetime. That green-thumbed grandmother, born in 1844, was our shared ancestor.

Remember to search small-town newspapers for gardeners in your family. One type of gardening reference is especially common. Following the creation of the Cooperative Extension System in the US in 1917, 4-H clubs for youth were organized nationwide. The 4H program encouraged young people to learn about agriculture, grow their own produce, and enter it in 4-H competitions often held at county fairs. In a newspaper, you may well find a reference to one of your relatives winning a prize for such an entry. In the Niagara Falls (NY) Gazette for 24 August 1955, for example, I found a story listing Darwin Stender as having won a “blue certificate” for yellow snap beans in a 4-H Vegetable contest; he won another for sweet pickles. Your relatives may have held on to such awards as keepsakes.

Articles may mention your ancestors participating in other types of horticultural events. An October 1888 article in the Clifton Springs (NY) Press covered the Harvest Home Festival held one evening at a local church. The article describes the exhibits of fruits and vegetables and ends by applauding “the fine exhibit of flowers and plants, among them a night blooming cereus with two blossoms, which belonged to Mrs. D.A. Lisk”. With this line, I thought I had simply learned that my ancestor had contributed a plant to the show, but there was more to the story.

On a whim, I looked up information on the night-blooming cereus. It turns out the plant was the focus of a popular Victorian tradition. This large, spindly orchid cactus normally resembles a dead bush. When it blooms at all, it does so for a single night per year. Victorians organized evening parties at the homes of people who grew the plant in hopes of being lucky enough to witness the rare moment when gigantic white blooms with an overwhelming fragrance would open in unison on its branches. Even today, horticultural experts are unable to predict with certainty exactly

The opening verses of Mabel Lindner’s poem, “Grandmother’s Garden”. (Photo courtesy of author)
when the blooms will appear. I realized my ancestor must have entered her blossoming “Queen of the Night” in the exhibit at the last minute. She was clearly a moderately skilled gardener, at least with this type of cactus. Taking the time to research the details included in the article paid off.

Photos tell their own stories and may help your older relatives remember family gardening tales you can ask them about. A family photo of Rose Stender and her mother, Louise, from about 1920 shows them examining a potted dwarf orange tree placed outside for the summer. They are laughing and pointing at the oranges on the shrub. Such an occurrence might have gone unnoticed in Florida, but the picture was taken in Ladysmith, Quebec. When a relative in her mid-nineties saw the photo, she recalled this orange tree as a sort of local celebrity and shared her childhood memories of it.

Images of distinctive landscaping around a home or other building may provide an identifying anchor for a location in later years. Sometimes unnamed individuals appear in a photo with no familiar buildings in sight; the structures may have been destroyed or may simply not be visible in a particular shot. The “living architecture” can help you identify people when few other clues are available. Even when the individuals in the picture are known, being able to identify the setting is often important as well.

The plants once found in your relatives’ gardens, yards or elsewhere on their properties may also spark memories for family members. If possible, try searching around the areas where your ancestors lived to see what plants may have survived over the years. Certain ornamental trees and shrubs as well as a few garden items like rhubarb can live for decades. Some families have a tradition of passing on plants to later generations via cuttings, divisions or seeds. The tales associated with these plants may have been lost over time, but perhaps someone in your family remembers one or two. Ask while you still can.

And then sometimes the stories may seem to find you. On a visit to the remains of my great-grandparents’ homestead, hidden in the forest of western Quebec, a cousin and I found an apple close to where we believe an orchard once stood. Few birds visit the area, now a remote spot deep in the woods, so the fruit likely fell from a nearby tree. It may trace its origins back to one of the apple trees my ancestors planted over a hundred years ago. Most apple trees need more light to thrive; yet I could turn this apple that shouldn’t have been there, red and real, over and back in my hand. Might it have been a gift from the past?

Rose Stender and her mother, Louise, admire their orange tree laden with oranges in Ladysmith, Quebec, circa 1920. (Family photo)

A man buying seeds for his Victory garden in the Northwest section of Washington, DC, circa 1910. (Library of Congress)

SUE LISK, a freelance writer, genealogist, and linguist, is a frequent contributor to Your Genealogy Today and Internet Genealogy. She works for a news agency in Washington, DC.
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Taking That First Trip to the Courthouse

It’s always a shock to the new genealogist: it isn’t all online. And the first time we’re confronted with the need to actually step inside one of those amazing places called a courthouse to try to research our families, it can be really daunting.

But the reality is that it really isn’t — and never will be — all online. But if we’ll gather our courage and take that first step, we’ll find so many goodies tucked into the records held by courthouses everywhere.

We’re not just talking about court records here, although we will find gems in all court records. Whether courts of law or chancery, civil or criminal or probate, every court created critical records that can tell us who our ancestors were and how they lived.


Only a handful of these records may have even been microfilmed, much less digitized and put online, so to get the whole story of our ancestors, we’re going to need to take that first trip to the courthouse where they lived.

The first step in that first trip is knowing the geography. That town may be in Kentucky today, but it may still have been Virginia when our ancestors lived there. Then we need to make sure the records we want still exist and, if they do, where they are now. If they’re colonial-era records, they may have been moved to a regional, or state archive for preservation. If they’re still held locally, we need to find out where: what office in what office building in what town? Are they open records or do we have to make advance arrangements to see them?

Before we go, we want to check with the locals to get the rules of the road. What can we bring with us? What hours is the office open and on what days? Can we use a camera or cellphone or scanner? When we arrive, we want to check for signs or brochures with the office rules and treat the records with care.

We always want to start with indexes and copy all the entries for our target surnames. If we miss a record while we’re there, it’s a lot easier to get someone else to get “the deed in Book A at page 379” than to ask for “that Smith deed I think I saw”.

And we want to remember to look at all the records of everyone with our surnames in the records, including alternative spellings, and to write down all the information we’ll need later to cite the records properly.

Oh... and we want to remember to say please... and thank you ... so we’ll always be welcome back.

The Legal Genealogist
JUDY G. RUSSELL, JD CG CGL, helps provide expert guidance through the murky territory where law, history, and genealogy come together. Her award-winning blog is at www.legalgenealogist.com.
Dealing with the Inevitable

Lisa A. Alzo explores the realities of bequeathing your family treasures and genealogical research

About 10 years ago, a chance lunch meeting I had led to an ongoing internal dialogue involving the legacy of an individual’s own genealogical and family treasures. The luncheon was attended by someone whom I had never met, but who introduced himself as an undertaker. During the course of the lunch, the undertaker related a story of a “sad” scene of which he had been made aware. An elderly member of his local community had passed away at home in his armchair without anyone knowing. I didn’t ask for the details, but I imagine it could have been the man’s neighbors who noticed his absence and called the police or social services. It wasn’t so much the lone nature of the death that struck the undertaker as sad. The house was not untidy or in disarray. Actually, the state of the house was quite the opposite — everything was neat and in order. What was striking was the bare minimum of furniture, complete lack of ornaments and mementos, with only a few personal items in place.

Personally, I didn’t view the minimalist scenario as sad, but more as deliberate and well-planned. With no one to bequeath personal belongings to, or nobody who cares specifically about family documents, photographs, or information, what is to be done with our own genealogy research? We can probably all think of the black sheep members of our family tree and how their secrets were eventually uncovered, but what about ourselves? With today’s ability to easily acquire information from the comfort of our own homes, there’s much already in the public domain. However, must the information necessarily be made freely available in our closets and drawers?

There is a lot to be said for attending to as much of our own belongings ourselves before the inevitable happens. Bequeathing money or property via a last will and testament is the obvious route since there are so many deserving charities. However, what happens to our personal items or those that have been bequeathed to us?

The luncheon discussion reminded me of another story I heard about someone who matter-of-factly admitted to his mother-in-law that when his own mother passed away, he rented a couple of dumpsters and took care of all her belongings in a matter of days. If you fear this happening to your own items, wouldn’t it be better to personally decide on the fate of them before the decision is made for you by some faceless estate-clearance company? Unfortunately, this outcome is more common than you might think.

In the past few years, there have been many articles written about how young people have no interest in antiques and heirlooms. (See the “For Further Reading” sidebar for links to some of these articles.) In short, they don’t want someone else’s stuff.

Making Your Plans

The first step is to take an inventory of your personal items and genealogy documents, family photographs, heirlooms, etc. Then, if there truly is nobody to...
leave them to, you will need to get organized and make your plans. Of course, you could find local charities to take furniture, clothing, and other items that are more generic in scope. You can bequeath possessions to a library, museum, local genealogical or historical society, or an ethnic club or group. Start locally to see if there are such organizations who will accept personal items and ask the curator for their policies and guidelines. For compiled genealogy research, consider donating to the Genealogy Center of the Allen County Public Library, www.genealogycenter.org/Donate.aspx. This is an option genealogist Susan Petersen has explored. “I don’t have much interest in pursuing my genealogy beyond the immigrant ancestors, so I’m narrowing my focus considerably,” says Petersen. “I’ve recently connected with two first cousins for one of my lines on Facebook so I set up a private FB group where I’m posting scans of all that I have. They are mildly interested in it, but I’m not sure if any of the younger group in their 30s-40s will take it up.” Petersen is working on getting everything organized and hopes to drive to Fort Wayne herself someday to deliver her tubs of research paperwork to ACPL. “I look at this as leaving behind the bread crumbs. I’ve done a lot and gathered a lot, but want to leave something for future researchers to do.”

You should contact an attorney to handle your estate and seek his or her advice. Another option is to burn or shred photographs and personal papers. Yes, this is extreme, but nevertheless, discarding personal information is an option if you don’t want unchecked disclosure after you are gone. [Disclaimer: I am not encouraging or advocating this action, only presenting it as an option. I strongly recommend considering all other available options before taking such a final step.]

In summary, while it is not pleasant to think about, it is better to address your own situation sooner rather than later. Literally, think about putting your own house in order before the inevitable happens.

FOR FURTHER READING

Boomers often rebuffed when passing down heirlooms by Virginia Rohan, The (Bergen County, N.J.) Record USA TODAY NETWORK, November 8, 2016


The real value of our antiques and heirlooms from THE ESTATE LADY SPEAKS http://estatelady.wordpress.com/tag/irony-of-heirlooms

At times, running your own genealogy business can be a lonely endeavor. If you work as a “solopreneur” and not part of a small or large company, you often have to wear multiple hats including content creator, business manager, marketing and social media expert, event coordinator, and many more. In any business, networking with colleagues is critical for success, and for the self-employed genealogy professional, even more so. One way to expand your circle and increase visibility is to establish a partnership with another professional to offer products or services that can boost both of your businesses. Here are some tips for finding the perfect partner.

1. **Evaluate your niche.**
   Genealogy is a rapidly expanding field with a mixture of established professionals and those who aspire to break in with their own brand and business. Given this scenario, one could think that there is too much competition. However, I personally believe there is a place for everyone, but you need to honestly determine your audience and how your expertise is best used. Sit down and write out your business goals. Next, list your strengths (for example, I would list Eastern European genealogy research and nonfiction writing, Scri-vener coaching, etc.).

2. **Identify key colleagues.**
   Review your contacts list (including those people whom you interact with regularly on Facebook) and then see where you can find complementary interests or common ground. Also, consider working with someone with a different area of expertise to explore ways to balance and enhance your respective businesses. Some examples:
   - Technology + Methodology
   - Ethnic Research Specialty + DNA Expert
   - Writing + Organizing
   - Client Research + Genealogy Education

   I think you will find there are numerous possibilities for collaboration with one or more colleagues.

3. **Give it a trial run.**
   Once you find a partner to work with, test the waters with a trial effort or project. Remember to start small and measure your success. Some ideas for possible joint ventures or projects include:
   - Co-write an article for a genealogy publication or journal
   - Co-present a webinar or propose a joint genealogy conference session or panel
   - Run a contest together on your blogs or websites
   - Sponsor each other’s podcast
   - Co-author a short eBook on a general genealogy topic (e.g., Search secrets for online genealogy; organizing your genealogy research, etc.)
   - Purchase a booth together in the exhibit hall of a conference
   - Develop an online course or boot camp for purchase

   These are just a few examples of ways to establish a “buddy system” for your business. Be creative. Make sure the ideas are simple to implement and not cost-prohibitive for either party. Prepare a contract that designates how you will divide and share tasks, expenses, and potential income.

   Over the years, I have tried a few different partnerships which have been both financially and personally rewarding. The key is being willing to put yourself out there and keep an open mind throughout the process. Running your own genealogy business has its challenges, but knowing you have a trusted colleague with whom you can share a success often makes all the difference.

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The Power of Partnership

Lisa A. Alzo shares how teaming up with another genealogy professional can help you build a better business

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Author and lecturer LISA A. ALZO is a frequent contributor to Your Genealogy Today and Internet Genealogy. Visit her website, www.lisaalzo.com, to learn about her genealogy and writing services.
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Upcoming Genealogical Society Events

Editor’s note: Please see the end of these listings for updated deadlines and the e-mail address for upcoming events. Please allow at least 12 full weeks advance notice of your event to ensure inclusion in the listings. Due to space limitations, we cannot guarantee that listings submitted will be included in a given issue.

What’s On

March

March 14 – 22, 2017
2017 Research Trip
The West Valley Genealogical Society & Library
12222 N. 111 Ave, Youngtown, AZ
The West Valley Genealogical Society & Library is offering its annual research trip to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. Scheduled for March 14 through March 22, 2017, this trip is an opportunity to visit and use the largest genealogical library in the country. Members and non-members are welcome. For full details, including costs, lodging, transportation options and registration, visit www.azwvgs.org – click Events/Activities or call 623-933-4945. A Trip Raffle opportunity is also being offered, to cover cost of the Salt Lake Research trip registration, air travel, lodging and prep class. Tickets are $10 each and may be purchased at the Library and at the General Membership Meeting on January 9, 2017. Drawing will be January 9, 2017. For further information about the Research Trip and other society activities, visit www.azwvgs.org, or call 623-933-4945 for additional Society information.

DGS Writing Contest
Deadline is March 31, 2017
The Dallas Genealogical Society is excited to announce that its 2017 Writing Contest is open for entries beginning January 1, 2017. This is the fifth year that the Society has sponsored this contest which comes with cash prizes. The contest is open to both members and non-members of DGS as well as amateurs and professionals. Only original material not previously published elsewhere in any format is eligible. Entries will be accepted January 1 through March 31, 2017. Winners will be announced in July 2017. Entries will be judged on accuracy, clarity of writing, and overall impact and interest. Complete Rules and Guidelines are available at: www.dallasgenealogy.org/Info/Guidelines.pdf.

March 31 – April 1, 2017
The Fairfax Genealogical Society’s Annual Spring Conference
The Westin Tysons Corner
7801 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, VA 22043

April

April 7-8, 2017
Workshop and Seminar
Jackson County Genealogy Library
3405 S. Pacific Hwy
Medford, Oregon
The Rogue Valley Genealogical Society of Medford, Jackson County, Oregon is pleased to offer a German Handwriting Workshop Friday, April 7th from 3:00 to 6:00 PM and an all-day seminar Saturday, April 8th from 8:30-4:00, featuring Warren Bittner, CGSM as our guest speaker. The 3 hour workshop is titled: German Gothic Handwriting: Anyone Can Read It. The Workshop fee is Members $30 and Non-Members $40. The Seminar classes include: German History; Historical Maps & Territories: You Can’t Do Research Without Them; Meyer’s Gazetteer: Gateway to Germany; and German Marriage Laws & Customs. Seminar fee is Members $45 and Non-Members $55. Please visit our website for information and speaker details at www.rvgslibrary.org or www.rvgsociety.org. Lunch is not included. For additional information, call the library M-S, 10am - 4pm, at 541-512-2340.

April 26-29, 2017
Ohio Genealogical Society 2017 Annual Conference
The Ohio Genealogical Society 2017 Annual Conference will be held at

E-mail event information to: events@yourgenealogytoday.com. Please allow at least 12 weeks advance notice of events to be eligible for inclusion in the calendar.
Kalahari Resort & Convention Center in Sandusky, Ohio (between Toledo & Cleveland, Ohio and just down the road from Cedar Point Amusement Park) on April 26-29, 2017. The full program brochure can be downloaded from the program page, visit www. ogsconference.org/conference-program. If you plan on attending the workshops, make sure to register by 10 March 2017 for the early bird pricing since there are a limited number of seats available and they will go quickly! Pre-conference activities on Wednesday, April 26 will include mid-afternoon two-hour workshops and a social event in the evening. Thursday, Friday and Saturday events include approximately 86 lectures with workshops scheduled every day covering all phases of genealogical study, lineage society inductions, a vendor hall, the OGS annual meeting, special evening events and plenty of genealogical fellowship and fun events. A special room set up like a college lecture classroom will be used for hands-on workshop training on various topics throughout the conference. For those who love to shop, the vendor hall will have ample products and genealogy tools to satisfy your needs. Watch for more details at www.ogsconference.org/conference-program and other social media. The Kalahari Resort and Convention Center is in Sandusky, Ohio. Hotel guests enjoy a special room rate of $129/night + $15 usage fee = $144 + taxes, including free Wi-Fi, free parking and a host of other amenities. To make reservations, phone 855-875-7774.

**JULY 2017**

**July 28-29, 2017**

**German-American Genealogical Partnership Conference**

A growing international Germanic genealogy organization has set the date for the first of what is to become a biennial international conference offering Germanic family researchers unique opportunities to connect with people from other countries. The conference, organized by the German-American Genealogical Partnership, is set for July 28 and 29, 2017, in Minneapolis, Minn. “For anyone involved in researching Germanic ancestors, this is a rare opportunity to make personal connections with people from the United States, Germany and other countries. We especially encourage members and leaders of societies in the Partnership to join us in this inaugural international conference,” said Kent Cutkomp, one of the key founders of the Partnership and a past president of the Minnesota-based Germanic Genealogy Society, host of the 2017 conference. The conference is scheduled at the Minneapolis Marriott Northwest Hotel, in Brooklyn Park, a Minneapolis suburb. Attendees may book room reservations at the hotel beginning in August. Registration for the conference opens in January 2017. For more information, visit www.gsgsmn.org/cpage.php?pt=70.

**Locating Your Roots: Discover Your Ancestors Using Land Records**

Land records—grants, deeds, mortgages, surveys, and more—are among the most valuable resources for genealogists to prove relationships and to point to new relationships. One of the strongest motivators for American immigration was land, and one of the strongest motivators for migration within America was land. Because of this, land records are the most common records available for pioneer ancestors. For many, they may be the only records. This invaluable guide will help you understand the various types of land records and give you the information you need to locate these records—and in the process, it may well open up new avenues of research for you. Price: $43.45 ppd. ISBN: 9780806320373. Item #: GPC2595.

**History for Genealogists**

History for Genealogists is a rarity: It’s one of the very few history books in print that is written for genealogists. Here’s what we mean: Let’s say you have lost track of your 1880 ancestor in Iowa. Have you considered that he might have moved there during the Economic Panic of 1873? Or maybe your forebears were living in Texas in the 1840s. Did you know that they might have come from Kentucky as part of the “Peters Colony”? Are you aware that you can learn a great deal about your ancestors if they belonged to a labor or fraternal organization like the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, or the Catholic Family Life Insurance Society? In other words, knowing a little history can go a long way in helping you find elusive ancestors. Author Judy Jacobson dissects the past into scores of time lines. Researchers can also make use of a time line for the history of each of the 50 states, and, in brief, for the rest of North America, Europe, and more. Readers of the original 2009 edition will enjoy the new time lines concerning (1) life on the homefront during America’s 20th-century wars; and (2) fashion and leisure in America from its beginnings through the middle of the 20th century. Price: $43.00 ppd. ISBN: 9780806357683. Item #: CF8250.

Genealogical Publishing Company, 3600 Clipper Mill Rd., Ste 260, Baltimore, MD 21211
Tel: 1-800-296-6687, website: www.genealogical.com
Research Resources

Scottish-American Gravestones 1700-1900, Volume II
by David Dobson

Gravestones and monumental inscriptions contain a wealth of information for the family historian. This primary source of data is of particular importance to Scottish genealogists as the Old Parish Registers of the Church of Scotland concentrate on baptism and marriage and contain little information on burials. Gravestone inscriptions thus provide an almost unique source for deaths prior to 1855 in Scotland and for Scots dying overseas before that date. After 1855, there are statutory records of births, marriages, and deaths in Scotland. The only other major sources of such information lie in the obituary pages of the press or in the various Registers of Testaments.

Recently, various family history societies, especially the Scottish Genealogy Society, the Aberdeen and North East Scotland Family History Society, and the Tay Valley Family History Society have been actively recording such inscriptions. The urgency of their work results from the fact that many stones are crumbling away, while others have been subject to vandalism or to destruction by local authorities clearing graveyards prior to "development". Many of the inscriptions have now been published by the societies concerned.

This book, the second in its series and the first such collection since 1998, is based on both published and unpublished material. The book also differs from Volume One in that it includes gravestone inscriptions located in cemeteries on both sides of the Atlantic. While the inscriptions are unique unto themselves, virtually every one identifies the decedent by name, years of birth as well as death, and place of demise in North America. In many instances, the entries also convey an individual’s parents’ names, the decedent’s occupation, year of emigration, and the source. In all, Volume II contains about 1,600 inscriptions with references to at least three times as many Scots or Scottish-Americans.

Published by Genealogical Publishing Company

Choctaw by Blood Enrollment Cards 1898-1914, Volume VIII
Transcribed by Jeff Bowen

According to Kent Carter, author of The Dawes Commission, for the actual process of Choctaw enrollment, "A commission was appointed in each county of the Choctaw Nation under an act of September 18 to make separate rolls of citizens by blood, by intermarriage, and freedmen; it was to deliver them to recently elected Chief Green McCurtain by October 20, but he rejected them even before they were completed because of charges that people were being left off for political reasons. On October 30, the National Council authorized establishment of a five-member commission to revise the rolls within ten days and then directed McCurtain to turn them over to the Dawes Commission", another indication that throughout the Commission’s efforts, there was always controversy between the tribes and the negotiators.

The results of these proceedings are contained in 6,100 Choctaw enrollment cards (National Archive Microfilm M-1186, Rolls 39-46), and they comprise the basis for this series of Five Civilized Tribe genealogy records transcribed by Jeff Bowen. This is the eighth volume in the series. All of the cards list householders’ ages, sex, degree of blood, the parties’ relationship to head of household, county, Dawes Roll Number, and date of enrollment by the Secretary of Interior. The contents also give the enrollee’s parents’ names as well as miscellaneous notes pertaining to the enrollee’s circumstances – such as mixed race – when required.

This multi-volume series contains thousands of names, all of them accounted for in the indexes carefully prepared by the author.

Published by Genealogical Publishing Company
328 pages; ISBN: 978-0-8063-5789-8; Price: $35.00
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records  research  results
We family historians should be good with death, given that we deal with it so often. We spend hours confirming that people have died, even though it’s only logical that ancestors born in the 1850s are no longer with us.

We treasure the trove of information we get because of death — certificates, obituaries, cemetery transcriptions, private files and so on. Few things are as filled with clues to life as someone’s death.

Yet, when people close to us die, family historians are no better prepared than anyone else. A death can be a shock, even when the person has been in decline for years, even when they are in their 90s.

Last year was horrendous on so many levels. I am quite glad that 2016 is over. I lost several close friends and close relatives, including a cousin who had been walking genealogical trails with me for three decades. We all lost notable people who made a huge difference in our lives. Maybe it’s true that the world went out of balance when David Bowie died.

Since a good genealogical researcher is in contact with all the older relatives, we tend to deal with death more often than do some of our non-genealogical kin. After all, we have spent years interviewing these older relatives, copying their photos and documents, and pushing them to remember their early lives, and what they were told by their grandparents. They are friends as well as relatives, and we miss them when they go.

We, the historians in the family, should be quite aware that death is part of life, but that does not make it any easier.

With each death, we have to deal with the usual emotions, but we might also feel regret over questions not asked, or joy over making contact with a distant relative who turned out to be a fascinating person and a delight to know.

Is there a message in all of this? Of course there is. Stop procrastinating. Get moving. Get in touch with everyone you can in your family while they are on this side of the Great Divide.


Above all, get to know the people in your family. I am far richer — not financially, but that was never the goal — for having spent time with as many relatives as I have. I have come to understand much more of my family history, and the forces that made me who I am.

My mother’s parents, immigrants from the Soviet Union, would not talk about certain things. Other relatives would. I can understand why my grandparents said nothing; it was better to keep those horrible memories locked away.

By contacting distant relatives, or even former neighbors, my research became much stronger, more thorough, and more meaningful, and gave me a stronger appreciation for my own life.

So please, don’t hesitate. Talk to people while you can before death, or dementia, close the doors.

Finally, thanks for everything, Mom. Nice to think that you are with Dad again.

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DAVE OBBE’S most recent book is a history of the largest cemetery on Vancouver Island in British Columbia.
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