

BOUSE GENIES

APPRENTICESHIPS

[The following Q & A appeared in the May/June 2005 issue of Family Chronicle on page 58. It is reprinted here with permission from Family Chronicle Magazine.]

Q I have traced my family back to the early 1700s. In 1850, when the family immigrated to South Africa and Australia, they were listed as “weavers”. In tracing the family back from 1850, they were listed in the same church parish and the weaving community in Nottinghamshire, England to Selkirk, Scotland.



At this point in time there is a history of the Elliott family that lists a Clan Chief as John Elliott, the lace maker. He is not our ancestor but I believe he may have been a cousin. They would have completed their apprenticeship at roughly the same time and one of the Johns would have moved to London to start a lace shop, while the other went to Nottinghamshire to produce the product.

My question is, do you have any idea how I can research apprenticeships? I am certain that those documents could verify the family descendants.

Thanks for your help and I love your magazine.

Myra Elliott, San Pedro, CA

A We turned your question over to Cohn Oxberry of Ancestral Answers.

“Apprenticeship in England was developed in the 14th century. It was introduced so that individuals could learn a trade which was controlled by a guild. A guild controlled the number of people who could practice a trade in an area and the prices that could be charged for the goods or services.

Terms of the apprenticeship were set out in a document called an indenture. These name the apprentice, master and his trade, the apprentice’s father and sometimes the apprentice’s date and place of birth. A master would not only teach a trade but would house, clothe and feed the apprentice. For this he would receive a fee.

There were normally two copies of the indenture, one for the master and one for the apprentice’s parents/guardian. The ‘Master’ could have been a business, and therefore most indentures that survive are in company records (usually held at county record offices) or in family papers, many of which have been donated to county record offices.

As a side issue it is worth bearing in mind that a lot of family papers held by county record offices in England relate to quite ordinary families and the website catalogue <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/a2a> is always worth searching.

Because copies of the indenture were only held by the two parties, many apprenticeships were entered into registers. These normally contain details

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The Bouse Genies meet every other Friday from October thru April at one of the members homes. You may email Carol at sidcarol@escapees.com for the time, place and schedule.

This newsletter is online at:
<http://quartzsite.gen.googlepages.com/bousegenies>

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of the apprentice, master and trade and father's name. These were often held by the guilds or local parishes and again, any that survive are at county record offices. Between 1710 and 1804, a tax was levied against the premium paid to the master and so indentures were registered centrally. The National Archives in London hold these registers. Their catalogue can be researched on their website www.nationalarchives.gov.uk. The category in the catalogue for the registers is IR1.

Completion of apprenticeship often resulted in the individual becoming a Freeman of the city of where the apprenticeship was served. Many of these records survive at the county records offices. Freeman's indexes normally contain the name of the apprentice, his master and trade and, until 1752, his father's name. Often an address is there.

The entitlement to becoming a Freeman of the City often passes down through the generations. If descendants have become Freemen, it is possible to follow three or four generations through these registers. I am entitled to become a Freeman of the City of York because of my great-great-grandfather's apprenticeship, which ended in 1850. The York Freeman register holds details of up to 30 descendants of his and his brother.

The other method of researching apprentices is through the guilds themselves. The guilds were set up to regulate the trades they represented. They also controlled apprenticeships and helped members in sickness and old age. In London, the guilds were known as Livery Companies. Again, surviving records should be held at the local county record offices.

In Scotland, the system of apprenticeship was similar. As in England, any indentures that survive are generally in private papers. Scotland was levied with the same tax as England between 1701 and 1804, so the registers relating to Scotland are held at the National Archives in England. There were Friendly Societies formed in Scotland in the 18th and 19th centuries. Their role was similar to the guilds in England. The societies were based around different trades.

Repositories in Scotland worth researching for these societies are the National Library of Scotland, local archives and the National Archives of Scotland." (You can contact Mr. Oxberry by e-mail at enquires@ancestralanswers.co.uk or through his website at <http://www.aboutus.org/AncestralAnswers.co.uk>

DIGGING DEEPER

by Carol Brown

FAMILY STORIES



Most of us have at least one family story that has been passed down through many generations which connects us to a famous person or to a significant event. Have you tried to prove whether the story is true or not, or have you just accepted it as fact? Most times part of the story is true, but many times someone in the family heard the name of a famous person and decided that since the surnames are the same, then we must be related. Also, the name of a distant ancestor might be the same as that of a famous person and an assumption was made that they were the same person, when in fact they were not.

It is up to us to try to prove that these family stories are correct and to stop the advancement of the tales if they are not. I have one of those cases in my Spraggins family. My family is descended from a William Spraggins who was in Charles City County, VA in the 1700's. A descendant of John Rolf married a William Spraggins who could have been in this family. One of my cousins was totally convinced that we were descended from John Rolf. I have discovered that there were at least two branches of the Spraggins family in Virginia and there are several William Spraggins in both lines. In order to prove or disprove our family legend I had to research every Spraggins I could find in Virginia, and identify which William Spraggins was living where, whom they married and who their children were. Needless to say, I am not descended from John Rolf, so I have put one family story to rest.

Another story in my family stated that "Samuel Boatfield died when a tree fell on him". I have three generations of Samuel Boatfields in my family and I did not know to which one this statement applied. Two of the Samuels lived in Pavilion, NY and one in Devon, England. Research in New York did not provide any information about such an event. However a search in the English death records listed the cause of death for that Samuel Boatfield as "died when a tree fell on him". I now know when he died and a cousin in England found a newspaper article about the accident.

Research that family story. You might be surprised at what you will find.

FROM THE COMPUTER DESK

by Carol Brown

DO YOU NEED A USB FLASH DRIVE?

Are you one of the many people that have a new computer which does not have a 3½" floppy drive? Do you want or need to exchange data with someone who does not have a 3½" floppy drive on their computer? Do you have two computers and one (or both) does not have a 3½" floppy drive. If both machines have a USB port then it is probably time you bought a USB portable disk drive.

Now you are asking, "what in the world is a USB flash drive"? Well, it is a very small portable disk drive about 1" wide x 2" long x ½" thick. See photo. They come in varying capacity from 128MB up to 8GB (at this time). The more data they hold the higher the price. A 128MB USB disk runs about \$5 if you can find one that small. They are used exactly like the old 3½" floppy disk, however they hold a lot more data and they don't require a disk drive to be installed on the computer, since they are a portable disk drive. The capacity of a 3½" disk is only 1.44MB, so one of these 128MB drives holds close to 100 times more data. In general, there is no software to install, however if you get a drive that holds 1GB or more they do come with software to allow it to be used as a full backup drive. Insert the USB disk into the USB port on your computer and you have another disk drive. IF the flash drive you are using comes with software, it will automatically load.

I bought one because I was visiting my daughter who has a new computer without a floppy drive and I wanted to copy some family photos she had on her machine. I had two choices to get a copy of these photos. I could create a CD-ROM, or I could email them to myself. If I only wanted a couple of the photos, email was not a bad idea. However since I wanted about 15 photos, creating a CD-ROM was the better way. If I wanted to take some files from my machine to



her machine, I again had to create a CD. Pretty soon I had several CD's that would just be gathering dust.



With the USB disk I can copy the photos to the disk and then take the disk to my computer and copy the files over. I can copy files from my computer to the USB drive and then place them on her computer. All without burning a CD-ROM. I can hear some of you now saying "why didn't you use a CD-RW disk"? Well, the answer is simple, not all computers can read a CD-RW created on another machine. But they can all read the USB disk. Data on a USB drive can be deleted the same as on a 3½" floppy disk, and it holds a whole lot more data.

You have to be careful when transferring files from one computer to another to make sure you are using a file format that is compatible with programs on the other computer. If the computer you are transferring data to does not have the same wordprocessor, or graphics program, can the wordprocessor or graphics program on the other machine read the data you are sending over? If not, output the file in a format on the sending machine to a format that the receiving machine can read.

How do you use a USB disk? Just place the disk in the USB port (the one I have lights up when inserted). Open *Windows Explorer*, on the folder side of the screen scroll down until you see "*Removable Disk (E:)*" [Note: Your machine might use another letter if you have multiple hard drives or multiple CD-ROM drives.] Now you can copy and paste files from one machine on to the flash drive and then copy and paste the files you want onto the other machine. Buy the highest capacity one you can afford.

WEB Bits & Bytes

Web sites come, move and go on a regular basis. These URLs were current at the time of publication and are subject to unannounced changes.

This issue I was thinking about putting in more websites for your research, but decided the space would be better used to introduce you to a new magazine "Internet Genealogy" which is available at the Bouse Public Library for your use. As soon as I read the first issue I had to order it for myself (Carol Brown), so I could read it without waiting to go to the library. It is by far the best magazine for genealogy internet information I have ever read and every Bouse Genies member doing genealogy on the internet should read every issue. <http://www.internet-genealogy.com/>

THE GENIE'S LAMP



by Bonny McDaniel

Documenting an Email

[From SKP Genies Newsletter Mar/Apr 2005]

Citing sources in your genealogical research is, perhaps, the most important work you will do. None of the work means much without the documentation attached to it.

If you have found a cousin or other researcher working on one of your lines and that person sends you an email with some names, dates, and places on it...what do you do with that info?

According to the book, "Evidence! Citation & Analysis for the Family Historian" by Elizabeth Shown Mills, the following is the proper way to cite an email:

The full name of the sender should be noted plus the title in the subject line followed by the term 'e-mail message' and then < > which encompass the person's full electronic mail address. Mills also suggest that you make an attempt to obtain the sender's full physical address since email addresses are not as permanent and do not usually indicate a place.

Mills suggests that subsequent citations in your endnotes or footnotes just state the name **of the sender, title of subject line**, and "e-mail to author", followed by the date. Electronic database downloads also require the entire URL and the download date (because of frequent up-dates) as well as identifying the type of material most of which are considered, for genealogical purposes, un-published manuscripts. Mills stresses that citation styles for the electronic databases distributed online but not published in paper form are yet to be decided. She suggests using the guidance of some web sites on this issue.



DID YOU KNOW?

If a statue in the park of a person on a horse has both front legs in the air, the person died in battle.

If the horse has one front leg in the air the person died as a result of wounds received in battle.

If the horse has all four legs on the ground, the person died of natural causes.

TRANSCRIBING OLD RECORDS

by Maryalice Gordon



[From SKP Genies Newsletter Jul/Aug 2005]

Trying to decipher not only the words but also the handwriting on old documents can be a real challenge! Here's a suggestion that may help. It has worked very well for me. I transcribe (on the computer, if possible) the words and the parts of sentences that I immediately recognize or can figure out quickly. Not wanting to break the flow, any words that I do not know, or recognize, or have to scrutinize, I by-pass with a "_____". When finished, I print (double-spaced) what I have and correct any obvious mistakes. Then I read through my document, stop at missing words, and try to determine what the missing word should or could be. I compare strange looking letters with known letters in other known words. Many times I can figure out what should be there from the rest of the word or the sentence. I've done this with land, death, military, and retirement records. Going with the flow can really float your document!



A census taker walked up to a woman who was sitting on a porch. After introducing himself, he said, "How many children do you have?"

The woman answered, "Four."

The census taker asked, "May I have their names, please?"

The woman replied, "Eenie, Meenie, Minie, and George."

Confused, the census taker said, "May I ask why you named your fourth child 'George'?"

"Surely, because we didn't want any Moe."

You know you are a genealogist when:

Your neighbors think you are crazy, your friends wonder and you know you are.

"I need just a little more time at the courthouse" means forget the cleaning, washing, dinner, chores; the day is shot.

BEGINNERS PIT FALLS

by Carol Brown

OUR FAMILY HAS ALWAYS SPELLED OUR NAME THIS WAY

Just because your surname is spelled one way, it does not mean that other family members spell it the same way today or that it was not spelled differently in the past.

As you are looking for your family in all of the various records in which they might be recorded you need to take the way the name is spelled as a guide, but don't be closed to the idea that the name just might be spelled differently in some records you find. You should try to spell the name in as many different ways as you possibly can. If the family was of German (or French, etc.) descent, then try pronouncing the name as it would be in German (or French, etc.), then try all of the possible ways it could be spelled by an English or some other language speaking person.

Even English sounding names can be spelled many different ways. That goes for the first letter of the name as well as the rest of the name. Was Kohn spelled Coon on a document?

I have found one surname spelled three different ways in the same document. In the same document the persons first name was spelled two different ways.

Most people writing documents could not spell many surnames, so they wrote what it sounded like to them. In early English church records I have found one surname spelled 57 different ways. Each time the minister changed the name spelling changed.

Be creative with name spellings. If you don't find the name you are looking for in a record group, but you are pretty sure it should be there, then read every page of the document. The name might be spelled some way you never thought possible.

Note: That some census takers were instructed to use the surname name "Smith" if they could not understand the persons surname or could not spell it.



Many years ago in England, pub frequenters had a whistle baked into the rim, or handle, of their ceramic cups. When they needed a refill, they used the whistle to get some service. "Wet your whistle" is the phrase inspired by this practice.



PSYCHIC ROOTS

by Carol Brown

Hank Jones has written a set of books called *Psychic Roots* and *More Psychic Roots* in which he explains that there is something unexplained in genealogy, something serendipitous. As a long time researcher, I am sure he is correct, but I like to go a bit further and say that there comes a time when

our ancestors "want to be found". I wish some of my ancestors would decide they are ready for me to find them soon.

Some of my lines I have searched years for, and then when least expected, the problem is solved or nearly solved. I have also been in libraries and research centers and have found someone else researching the same family line I am. It could be someone at a nearby microfilm reader, in line for assistance, in the book stacks or at the water fountain. Once I met a lady who had met someone in the restroom who was also researching the same surname. I have even found family I never knew existed in a general store in the area my ancestors lived. It does not hurt to strike up a conversation any time you are in a research facility. You never know who you might meet.

Not long ago while at a local genealogy society meeting, one of the members who had heard me speak about one of my ancestors having been tried for witch craft and released, she brought a book she had recently purchased on the subject for me to read. She had not even read it when she loaned it to me. Part way through the book were the names of two of my Hutchinson ancestors. Joseph Hutchinson had given the acre of land for the Salem Village Church where the major events occurred. Benjamin Hutchinson, his son, had been adopted at a young age by Nathaniel Ingersoll who owned the Inn where many of the trials took place. Benjamin was witness against one of the women who was tried and hung. I have read several books on the Salem witch trials and never seen these two names in any of them.

Have you been at the microfilm reader or opened a book, turned to a page by accident and found someone you weren't even looking for? There are many stories that we can all tell of the occurrence of these types of unexplained events. I would like to add a column to the newsletter about some of the things that have happened to you, our members. Please keep all entries to 150 words or less. Send you articles to Carol Brown, at sidcarol@escapees.com

Bouse Genies News

Some of us have returned for the season, or will be returning very shortly, and things are getting under way to really organize the Bouse Genies.

All of the issues stated in the Jul/Sep newsletter have been discussed either on line or will be discussed at the first meeting the date, time and place of the first meeting will be announced in an email.

- 1) Where will we meet through out the season will probably depend on how many new members we get. We do have the option of meeting in the Library Meeting Building where I held the genealogy classes, but we would have to check with Nikki Mackey to see what day would be best for her, since she has to open it up. [Note: Nikki may want to join us, so that will make a difference.]
- 2) We need to do some organization, so we have to establish some basic guidelines. We will need a Constitution and By-Laws, which I have already taken from another genealogy society, that we can modify. We will need officers so that the various chores of the group are given to specific people. Also some basic membership rules and other items that may arise that we have not thought about yet. [Note: We should not need Articles of Incorporation since we are an arm of the Bouse Public Library and will not need a bank account.]
- 3) We need a memorandum of understanding with the Bouse Public Library about the books we have placed there, the classes I will be giving (which the Bouse Genies will sponsor) and the monies taken in from the classes and other items which are held for our use by the Friends of the Bouse Public Library.
- 4) The next issue of the newsletter will come out before we all return. If any of you have news that should be in that issue, please have it to me by Oct 20, 2007. Any news about the group that needs to be put in the Bouse Community Newsletter that Pat Schlect does, needs to be sent to Beth Van Sickle before the 14th of the month before it is to be published.

5) Several forms we will need have been created and will be ready for your review at the first meeting. Roberta has done the first draft of our logo. She will have it ready for the first meeting.

6) This issue of the newsletter is being sent to all of the individuals on the current mail list, however after the first meeting, unless notified that you will not be in there and you want to remain on the list, your name will be removed from the mail list and you will not receive any more updates or newsletters.

7) I sent an email out in June about the library ordering the library edition of Ancestry.com for us. Ancestry sold us full library access for \$995. It has been installed and is available for use at the library on their computers only.

We had \$674 from the genealogy and computer classes over the winter and then \$80 from the postage for the books from Maryalice. The library has loaned us the additional \$321, which we need to reimburse them for this season.

This version is available to all visitors to the library. It will not be available to laptop users, as they would have to have the password on their system, and we can't do that.

8) At the end of last season I made temporary library cards for our members to use to check out the genealogy books donated to the library. Only paying members of the Bouse Genies can check these books out. If you were not there to get your card and will need it before September 10th or the first meeting, please let me know and I will mail yours to you. Other than that we will be issuing new cards starting with the first meeting to paying members.

9) Please note that we will be setting the amount for the Bouse Genies dues at the first meeting. We will also discuss how we are going to go about collecting the \$321 that we owe the library for Ancestry.com for this year. Some of the money will come from donations at the library, so please don't send any money for a donation for Ancestry.com until we find out what we need and how we are going about getting the money. We also need to think about Ancestry.com for next year.

I am anticipating that our membership will grow a lot as the season progresses, so we can spread this cost over more people.