

BOUSE GENIES

DYING IS A VERY DULL, DREARY AFFAIR.

*AND MY ADVICE TO YOU IS TO HAVE
NOTHING WHATEVER TO DO WITH IT.*

— *W. SOMERSET MAUGHAM*

[From the SKP Genies Newsletter Fall 2011]

Oh, contraire Somerset! Since we genealogists are very interested in people already dead, we get excited about that particular event. One of the first lessons we learn as we start our adventure into the world of family history research is to work back from the most recent event in a person's life. Therefore, we begin with an ancestor's most recent event—his or her death.

DULL? NEVER!

We get to play detective. We start by collecting any records our family or friends may have kept regarding the death of the individual—closely examining letters, journals, newspaper clippings and old calendars. We ask probing questions of our parents, siblings, aunts, uncles and cousins—anyone who might know something. We chase down leads as to the last place the individual may have lived. We wander through cemeteries scrutinizing tombstones and taking photos. We visit newspaper morgues looking for obituaries, settlements of estates, appointments of guardians or funeral announcements. We snoop into the public records in county courthouses and roll through microfilms in repositories searching for death records. We know they are dead, but it is not always easy to find sources that will give us the good solid evidence we need. We may get frustrated and our eyes may glaze over, but it certainly is never dull.

In this issue of the *SKP Genies Newsletter* we are examining some of the many places we will find data about our ancestors' deaths, and suggest some of the records that will augment a death certificate or be a reliable substitute if no official record was created.

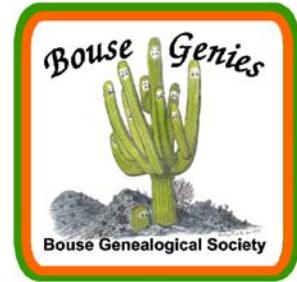
DREARY? HARDLY!

We can talk to the dead! We attend "Cemetery Walks" where volunteers in costume impersonate those resting below the tombstones. We learn how life was "way back when", and we may even chat with a "ghost" who was a contemporary of our ancestor.

Have you ever read epitaphs on tombstones? They go from the sublime to the ridiculous; from the grandiose to the simple; from the explicit to the cryptic; and some are quite funny.

Have you studied the history of funeral customs? It is far from morbid, may help with your research and can be humorous in today's world. For instance, in 1598, Bishop Henri de Sponde argued against mixing Catholic and Protestant burials—"lest they provoke sedition and quarrels."

No, researching the death of ancestors is hardly dreary. Don't listen to Somerset—the articles, tips, hints and features on the next 25 pages should encourage you to delve into the deaths of your ancestors. 🧐



Vol 5, No.4
Oct-Nov-Dec 2011
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Bouse Genealogical Society

Electronic Newsletter

Published 4 times a year for the
members of the Bouse
Genealogical Society

Please send all general
correspondence to:

Bouse Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 624
Bouse, AZ 85325

or email
bouegenies@gmail.com

The Bouse Genies meet every other
Friday at the Bouse Community
Building next to the Library. The
schedule of meeting is posted in this
newsletter.

The Bouse Genies Website is
<http://bousegenies.weebly.com>

FROM THE COMPUTER DESK

GENEALOGY ON AN IPAD, IPHONE, IPOD TOUCH AND ANDROID

By Carolyn H. Brown [From the SKP Genies Newsletter Fall 2011]

Aren't all of these new electronic gizmos wonderful, if you can ever figure out how to use them? My daughter recently gave me an iPad. Since I was planning a trip to the Family History Library and I did not want to lug around my 17" laptop, I decided to see if the iPad would suffice for this trip.



I looked for an application, or app for short, which I could use with my Legacy Family Tree data. I found that Legacy has a "Families" app which works seamlessly with the iPad and other mobile devices. Once the Families app was loaded on my iPad, I was able to transfer my Legacy data directly to the iPad. I didn't need to create a GEDCOM to make the transfer. Though the app is not nearly as extensive as the full Legacy program, it does have many of the program's regular features, including but not limited to multiple family files; family and pedigree views; alternate names; events; To-Do Lists; and, one of my particular favorites, source documents fields much like the full version of Legacy.

The Families app is located on the Legacy website <www.legacyfamilytree.com> under Buy Now! - Mobile Apps. The cost is \$14.95 and is billed through the Apple Store.

Other genealogy software manufacturers are also adding apps to their product lines. Visit the software's website or the market place on your iPhone or Android to see what is available. You will be surprised at the number of genealogy based apps there are. Also check out these sources of information:

Genealogy Apps Part 1: GEDCOM Viewers

www.iphonespaz.com/iphone-app-review/gedcom-viewers

iPad Apps for Genealogy

http://genealogy.about.com/od/family_tree_software/tp/lpad-Apps-For-Genealogy.htm

Mobile Genealogy on Android Made Easy

www.familysearch.org/techtips/2011/04/mobile-genealogy-on-android-made-easy

Using Android Devices for Research

www.familysearch.org/techtips/2011/02/using-android-devices-for-research

You will "never need to leave home without it" the "it" being your genealogy data. Aren't gizmos wonderful! 🤖



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

WEBSITES FOR LOCATING DEATH INFORMATION

Find A Grave

www.findagrave.com

Name search database leads to cemetery and tombstone photographs by volunteers. All free!

US GenWeb Tombstone Transcription Project

www.usgwtombstones.org

The project has expanded to include digital photos. As with all GenWeb projects, quantity and quality vary between sites. For an example of what volunteers are doing, see <http://iowagravestones.org>

Database of UK Burials and Cremations

www.deceasedonline.com

Free search of registers by Region, County, Burial Authority or Crematorium. Pay-per-view fee to see images.

List of Obituary Mailing Lists

<http://lists.rootsweb.ancestry.com/index/other/Obituaries/>

List of Cemetery Mailing Lists

<http://lists.rootsweb.ancestry.com/index/other/Cemeteries/>

LOCATING DEATH INFORMATION

By Carolyn H. Brown [From the SKP Genies Newsletter Fall 2011]

Everyone eventually dies. In fact, I venture to say the vast majority of your ancestors are dead. As genealogists, it is our job to unearth (pun intended) their death dates and locations. Sometimes the information is readily available, but many times it takes some digging. Luckily there are many source documents at our disposal that may provide some details or give you enough clues to find the information you want about an ancestor's death.



CENSUSES - By following someone in the census you can often tell when they may have died. If they lived in the same place for a number of years and suddenly stopped appearing in the census, it will provide you with a date range to look for a possible death. Of course, people moved and this theory may not hold up, however, it does provide a starting point.

CENSUS MORTALITY SCHEDULES - From 1850 to 1880 in most states there was a Census Mortality Schedule taken which showed who died in that county in the year prior to the census.

CHURCH REGISTERS - If the person attended a church in the area, there will usually be some mention about their passing in the Church Registers. Also, check the weekly bulletin to see if more information is provided there. These documents are usually found at the local church or in the possession of the church secretary. For most Church of England registers, the early church registers have been microfilmed and are available through the Family History Library.

CIVIL DEATH REGISTERS - Not available everywhere in the US until after 1912. They may be found in some jurisdictions somewhat earlier. However, in European countries, civil registers of death start in the early 1800s. They are typically large ledger books in US county courthouses and in European town halls.

COFFIN LEDGER ENTRIES - In years past, a local carpenter often made the coffin and kept a ledger of each coffin he made. Check these out at the local historical society or library.

COFFIN PLATES - These were popular in some areas of the US and were engraved with the name of the deceased, and the date of birth and death. They were originally attached to the coffin, but some were removed and may be among family heirlooms.

DEATH CERTIFICATES - Created by the attending physician, they identify the cause, time and place of death. Additional information is generally provided by a family or friend and the funeral home.

DIARIES, JOURNALS AND CALENDARS - Some people kept a diary or journal in which they recorded the death of a relative or close friend. Old calendars may have notations on them about a death of a family member as well as births and marriages.

FAMILY BIBLES - Families often recorded birth, marriage and death information in the family Bible. The family Bible often followed the eldest daughter's line of descent. Many of these Bibles are online.

FAMILY CORRESPONDENCE AND OTHER FAMILY PAPERS - When someone died, the family wrote to all of the members living out of the area. These letters and papers can be found in family papers and heirlooms.

FAMILY DEATH NOTICES - Catholics made cards about the deceased which ended up in photo albums or were used as bookmarks in prayer books and bibles. Often these notices were sent to family members and may be found among family papers.

FUNERAL HOME RECORDS - These records usually have far more information than any other records generated at the time of death about the person and their family. If the funeral home is out of business, take the time to find their records.

INSURANCE RECORDS - If your ancestor had an insurance policy through a regular insurance company or a fraternal organization, information may be available. It is not easy to find because they are not generally indexed.

LAND TRANSFERS - These records may identify approximately when someone died. When the land was transferred to someone through sale or gift, it may indicate when the person died.

LOCAL HISTORIES - Local history books are a great place to find when someone died. If the person was well known, held a government office, or the family paid to have the family information published in the local history book, information may be available. Many of these books are not indexed, so it will take some reading to find the information.

MANUSCRIPTS AND FAMILY GENEALOGIES - Someone in the family may have a written manuscript that has been passed down for generations. A family genealogy may also be available. Do a web search to see if one has turned up in a library or other institution.

MILITARY AND JUDICIAL RECORDS - Records for persons who died in the military, or by execution, or otherwise died in jail, are in the Military or Judicial records.

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES - If the person was famous, or died by a crime or accident, there will likely be an article about their passing in the local newspapers. If more than one newspaper served the area, check them all.

OBITUARIES AND PUBLISHED DEATH NOTICES - Unless the deceased was famous or infamous, obituaries are generally provided by a family member and provide details about the deceased and relationships to both living individuals and those who "preceded the deceased in death" and may include a photograph. Newspapers traditionally charge for obituaries. Death notices are provided and paid for by the funeral homes. They provide minimal information, such as name, age, visiting hours, times of services and the funeral home's name and address.

RECORDS OF BURIALS - These records are kept by the cemetery where the person was buried. Some cemeteries kept a copy of the obituary of everyone buried there.

TAX ASSESSMENT BOOKS AND RECORDS - Usually the land will appear as part of a person's estate for the tax year following their death.

TOMBSTONE INSCRIPTIONS AND CEMETERY RECORDS - Often found in book format at the church, cemetery, local library or online.

VOTERS LISTS AND POLL BOOKS - These documents recorded almost everyone living in the area at the time. Follow the entries to see when the person stopped appearing. They may have moved or died.

WILLS AND PROBATE DOCUMENTS - These documents are in the public domain and can provide information on the deceased and their family. 🧠



OLDEST CEMETERY IN NORTH AMERICA

By Barbara A. H. Nuehring [From the SKP Genies Newsletter Fall 2011]

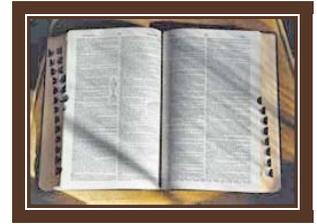
In 2003 when we were traveling along the Strait of Belle Isle coastline in Labrador, we came across the L'Anse Amour Burial National Historic Site of Canada. Being a dedicated genealogist, I had to stop to see the oldest "cemetery" found in North America. Discovered during a construction project in the mid-1970s, after it was excavated archaeologists restored the grave to its original shape.

A plaque explains the site: "*This mound of rocks is the earliest known funeral monument in the new world and marks the burial place of an Indian child who died about 7,500 years ago. The Maritime Archaic people, to whom the child belonged, occupied this area between 9,000 and 3,500 years ago. The body was covered with red ochre, wrapped in skins or birch bark, and placed in a large pit 1.5 metres deep. Fires were lit on either side of the body, and several spearheads of stone and bone placed beside the head. A walrus tusk, harpoon head, painted stones and a bone whistle were also placed with the body.*" 🧠

WORDS TO DIE FOR

[From the SKP Genies Newsletter Fall 2011]

BIER or **CATAFALQUE** is a table on which a casket is set during a funeral; or an ornamental stand that holds the coffin of a dignitary while lying-in-state.



CENOTAPH is a monument erected in honor of a person or group of people whose remains are elsewhere, or for those lost or buried at sea, or for personnel killed in action whose bodies were never recovered or returned. Cenotaphs often resemble tombstones and may inadvertently be recorded as such in lists. This can be confusing as in the case of Lee **NUEHRING**'s 2nd great-grandmother, Emma (**QUINCY**) **STONE**, who died in Grant County, Wisconsin and was buried in Blakes Prairie Cemetery. However, on a WPA published index of tombstones, she is "buried" in Early Protestant Cemetery in Sac County, Iowa. In reality, a cenotaph had been erected "In Loving Memory" to her in the area where the family settled 15 years after her death.

COLUMBARIUM is an above-ground structure designed to hold urns containing cremated remains. Niches are capped with marble plaques with inscriptions. Modern ones may have glass panels so the urn, photographs and mementos of the deceased can be seen.

CONSORT is an old-fashioned word for husband or wife sometimes found on death records or indexes. This term implies that the spouse is still alive.

CREMATORIUM or **CREMATORY** is a facility or location where the corpse is incinerated until only ashes are left. The practice of cremating bodies has been done since prehistoric times. However, until recently Christian doctrine forbade cremation because of the belief that the body could not be resurrected if it were destroyed. Some religions and cultures still forbid it, while others insist on it. In India, the family has a choice to have the remains incinerated in a modern furnace as we do in the USA, or the traditional way of wrapping the body in a cloth and burning it on a pyre on the banks of a river.

CRYPT is actually an underground chapel containing stone coffins or sarcophagi found beneath medieval churches in Europe. The design was influenced by **CATACOMBS**—subterranean chambers used for burial purposes by early Christians. However, today the term is sometimes used for a vault holding coffins of individuals or families.

EPITAPH is a commemorative inscription on a tombstone. They give us insight into the personality or beliefs of the person resting below the tombstone (or the one who commissioned the stone). They often take the form of a short poem or a prayer. Sometimes they are humorous and may be found in published collections and on website postings.

FUNERAL CARDS have been in use since the early 1800s. Sold by the mortuary, the cards were distributed to family members and friends announcing the date and time of the funeral. In decades past, recipients of the funeral cards were expected to attend the service. Design and data vary, but you may find the important dates, cemetery and mortuary names, church affiliation, and a prayer or quote from the Bible.

GISANTS are carved effigies of the departed lying down on their sarcophagi usually with their hands together in prayer. During the middle ages these were popular tombs for the rich, the famous and the saints. Traditionally made of marble, they are most often found in the nave or crypts of churches in France and England.

MAUSOLEUMS are typically "apartment buildings" of individual burial chambers holding coffins, although some are smaller and hold only the remains of an individual. In public "community" mausoleums, a chamber's end cap has much the same information as does a tombstone and sometimes added space for a flower vase and a photograph of the deceased. In previous eras, mausoleums were usually for the royalty—holding only an individual and perhaps a spouse. The most famous mausoleum is the Taj Mahal. The name mausoleum originates from one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, King Mausolus' tomb in Asia Minor built around 353BC.

NAVOHI was a device invented in 1901 for "air burial" of remains. The process used the gases of the corpse to ignite a rocket which shot the remains into the sky where they would disintegrate in the atmosphere. This interment method never took off. ☺

OBIIT SINE PROLE is Latin for died without issue, meaning the individual had no natural born children. This term is often found on legal documents and in church records. In English speaking countries, the abbreviation **D.S.P.** may be used—meaning died sin prole.

OSSUARY is a building or repository for skeletal remains. Usually the bones are arranged by type (i.e., skulls in one section, femurs in another). In European countries where burial space is limited, graves are leased for 20-30 years rather than purchased. If the lease is not renewed, the bones of the deceased are removed and placed in an ossuary and the grave is leased to another. (If the lease is renewed, there may be many generations in one grave.) In France, some of the World War I monuments are actually ossuaries where you can view the bones of the fallen soldiers. Although the concept is abhorrent to some Americans, ossuaries are common in many cultures.

PYRE is an outdoor platform of wood or a pile of combustible material for cremating the remains of the deceased. This was a common way of disposing of remains in many early societies, including ancient Greece, the Roman Empire, our very early Germanic and Anglo-Saxon ancestors and some Native American tribes.

RELICT is a legal term for widow or widower found on such documents as deeds and wills. It could be a clue for establishing the time of the death of the spouse.

WAKE is a watch kept over the deceased. It may last the entire night preceding the funeral. A wake can be a solemn occasion or a joyful celebration of life. 🕯



OTHER OFFICIAL DEATH RECORDS:

MEDICAL EXAMINERS' REPORTS AND CORONERS' INQUESTS

By Barbara A. H. Nuehring [From the SKP Genies Newsletter Fall 2011]

In part due to television characters like “Ducky” on *NCIS* and Maura on *Rizzoli and Isles*, we are familiar with the term Medical Examiner, and we have a vague idea of the role these individuals have in police investigations. In reality, a Medical Examiner is a physician specializing in forensic pathology within a police or sheriff’s department. They visit the crime scene; conduct an autopsy; examine the medical evidence; order laboratory reports and analyze those results; study the victim’s medical history and the events leading up to the death; and make an official report of their findings to the district attorney. The report may become evidence in a criminal case or civil case, but in most instances it is just filed away. While Medical Examiner is a relatively new career title, it is not a new position within law enforcement agencies.

In previous generations they were called coroners, and they still hold that title today in many jurisdictions. The qualifications for a coroner vary by jurisdiction (typically they have some medical or legal background) and they can be either popularly elected or appointed by local authorities. They are primarily responsible for determining the time and cause of death if it occurred while the individual was in jail or police custody; when an individual was dead on arrival at a hospital; if the death was not certified by an attending licensed physician; and any death involving suspicious or unusual circumstances.

However, coroners do not normally resolve cause of death on their own—they call for an Inquest. Facts, autopsy results, eye witness accounts and police detective testimonies are given to a jury at a public hearing and are recorded by a court reporter. Although the jury deliberates in private as in regular court cases, their verdict is simply an investigative conclusion on the manner of death. If a finding of possible homicide is returned by the jury, the records are turned over to prosecutors. However, in most cases records are filed at the local courthouse because the cause of death was undetermined or either a result of the deceased’s own actions, an accident, or from natural causes.

The transcript of a Coroner’s Inquest can be a valuable source document for genealogists since it provides a substantial amount of information about the deceased—much more than any death certificate provides, and it is likely to be more reliable. The most interesting pieces of information for genealogists are: the name of deceased; date, address and location of the inquest; the witnesses’ names, residences, and occupations;

detailed testimony of the witnesses; property found on the deceased; and the jury's verdict which includes date and place of death, the circumstances surrounding the death and the cause of death.

The Medical Examiner's and Coroner's Inquest records are maintained in the local jurisdiction where the individual died and are filed by date. Some have been filmed by the Family History Library (FHL), so it would be advantageous to check the FHL catalog first. Also check the state, county and local government websites and the state archives websites to see if these death determination records have been indexed. If so, find out how to obtain copies.

Don't stop if you cannot find an ancestor's death certificate in the area where they died; look for a Coroner's Inquest or a Medical Examiner's Report. In fact, hope there is one, because it will have so much more information about your ancestor's death and even life! 🧠



FUNERAL HOME RECORDS

By Carolyn H. Brown & Barbara A. H. Nuehring [From the SKP Genies Newsletter Fall 2011]

An often overlooked piece of information on a death certificate is the name of the mortician and address of the funeral home. These were the people and institutions responsible for the deceased's remains until the body was laid to rest. Usually there is much more information in the records the funeral home staff created than what appears on other death records. And in the days before death certificates were required, or if vital records were destroyed by flood waters, fires or neglect, it may be that the mortician's or undertaker's records will close the gap in your source documents.

FUNERAL RECORDS CONTAIN A WEALTH OF DATA

In planning the service and the disposition of the remains, the funeral director interviewed the family and/or close friends to determine what was appropriate for the deceased and surviving relatives. The resulting notes and files may contain answers to many of your questions: What was the disposition of the remains? Was the deceased buried? Was it in a cemetery or a mausoleum? Where exactly is the grave or crypt located? Was the body interred in a private family cemetery? Was the deceased cremated? Were the ashes given to a family member to spread? Are the ashes in an urn interred at a cemetery?

Funeral home records will also indicate if the body was shipped somewhere else for burial, or was received from somewhere else for burial, and their files may contain the shipping documents. If you can't find a death certificate and you know where the individual was buried, it may be that the person died in another state and the body was shipped to that location for burial.

There have been times due to road, business or residential construction, graves had to be relocated to an existing or new cemetery. The funeral home responsible for moving the caskets will have created records documenting the transfers.

There are often lots of little details found in mortuary documents and files that will enhance your research. The person who paid for the funeral might help you identify family members, including married daughters' names, and their addresses. Clergy who are listed as performing the funeral service provide a clue as to the deceased's religious beliefs and which congregation may have records about the individual and his/her family. Names of pall bearers and signers of visitor's books may be family members, collateral lines, friends, colleagues or fraternal associates.

Additionally, you may find that families often utilized the services of the same funeral home for relatives and for several generations. This certainly makes for a good source for finding other members of your family tree.

Since they have a working relationship with most cemeteries in their area, morticians can be helpful in locating cemetery records.

FINDING THE FUNERAL HOME AND THEIR RECORDS

The funeral home's name is often noted on at least one, if not several, different sources: the death certificate, coroner's report, cemetery contract, grave marker, newspaper funeral notice, obituary and funeral card.

You can search for funeral homes by name or location online at www.funeralnet.com or www.funeralhomes.com. If the name of the funeral home no longer exists, they might have merged or become a partnership, so look for similar names. For instance, Brown Mortuary may have become Nuehring-Brown Funeral Home. Also compare addresses because the name might have completely changed. If a funeral home is no longer in business, contact the “oldest” funeral home in the area. They may be able to tell you what became of the funeral home and/or their records. The local historical society or genealogy society may also be able to provide this information.



A grave marker is placed by the funeral home at the time of burial.

Funeral homes are private businesses. Although the vast majority of morticians are helpful, they are not required to give out any information, nor are they required to maintain their records indefinitely. In earlier times mortuaries were family owned and were passed down for generations. In small communities this is still the case, and there may be only one funeral home. However, those in larger cities are likely to be owned by a nationwide corporation.

Time saving ideas: Before you contact the funeral home, check the FHL catalog to see what records they have filmed. As with other genealogical source documents, funeral home records are being placed online by genealogical societies, historical societies, libraries and archives. You may also want to try the US GenWeb county pages and the funeral home’s website. Also, contact the local genealogical society, the historical society, the state archives, and public library and ask what funeral home records are in their collections or have been microfilmed. Don’t forget to try your favorite search engine. Enter the name of the funeral home or the locality and the phrase “funeral home” or “mortuary” and see what you get.

When requesting information from a funeral home be patient and polite. You could call them or show up on their doorstep, but interrupting them while they are busy assisting a grieving family won’t be in your best interest. An email or letter is better. It allows you to develop succinct questions; and it allows them to look for the record and compile the information for you as they have time. Offer to pay for any expenses incurred, and if you expect information or answers by snail-mail send a SASE. Once you receive information, always send a thank-you note.

SURPRISE!

Funeral home records don’t replace the death certificate as an official document, but they are valuable for “filling in the blanks” about your ancestors. Just remember, as with all information gleaned from a secondary source—in this case data provided by a distraught family member arranging the funeral—be aware of possible errors. But what wonderful clues and pieces of evidence may be in those documents. Take a look at funeral home records—you will never know what research surprises await you! 🧐

SHHH! PEOPLE ARE RESTING

By Barbara A. H. Nuehring [From the SKP Genies Newsletter Fall 2011]

Do you wander through rows and rows of tombstones with your significant other or another genealogist? I would venture to say to make good use of the time you probably divide up the territory and prowl different sections. And when you make a discovery, or need help up setting up to photograph the stone, or just want to find out where the other person is, do you have to yell loud enough to wake the dead? If so, put your RVer’s hat on for a minute and think about what the pilot and the ground guide use when parking the rig. Those little two-way radios or your two cell phones, make excellent communication devices and you won’t disturb your ancestors. 🧐



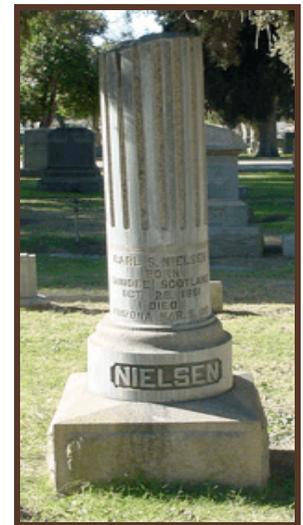
TOMBSTONE MOTIFS = ADDITIONAL DATA—WELL, MAYBE

By **Barbara A. H. Nuehring** [From the SKP Genies Newsletter Fall 2011]

Family history research will eventually lead us to cemeteries and the photographing, rubbing or transcribing of tombstones. Let's face it, traipsing through cemeteries in the search of tombstones—once considered a morbid pastime—is now a routine outing for genealogists. Why do we do it? It is because tombstones, at the very minimum, tell us the name of the deceased and validate the existence of the individual. Many times birth and death dates or the death date and the age at the time of death are carved into the stone. Some stones have the name of the spouse or parents, and some cover a family plot with several individuals listed. And with luck, there are more than just dates and words on a tombstone—there may be images, symbols, shapes, etchings, a pattern, a relief or a sculpture.

Some of these motifs have an intuitive meaning: a cross (Christian); a Bible (Christian); a crucifix (Catholic); a Sacred Heart (Catholic); Bible and Book of Mormon (Latter-Day Saint); a Menorah (Judaism); a Star of David (Judaism); a crescent (Muslim); and praying hands (belief in a Supreme Being). However, not all symbols can be interpreted as easily, and many have multiple or unrelated meanings. Nonetheless, it is advantageous to know some commonly held meanings of tombstone motifs.

Acorn: protection; life; immortality
 Anchor with Broken Chain: end of earthly life
 Anchor with Wrapped Vines: firm Christian faith
 Angel, flying: rebirth; resurrection
 Angel, trumpeting: resurrection
 Angel, weeping: grief and mourning
 Arch: victory in death
 Arrow: mortality
 Bird: eternal life
 Bird, flying: resurrection; flight of the soul
 Breasts: nourishment of the soul; the church
 Bridge: linking between the earthly and heavenly realms
 Bouquets or Flowers: condolences; sorrow
 Bugles: resurrection; military person
 Butterfly: early death; soul transformation and rebirth
 Candle Being Snuffed: time; mortality
 Cherub: angelic; child
 Coffin: mortality
 Columns and Doors: heavenly entrance
 Compass and Set-square: Freemason symbol
 Corn: ripe old age
 Cross, Celtic: Irish descent
 Crossed Swords: high-ranking military person
 Crown: Christian righteousness; heavenly reward
 Cup or Chalice: the Sacraments
 Dove: purity; devotion; innocence; gentleness; Holy Spirit
 Dove, flying: resurrection
 Dove with Olive Branch: peace
 Flame: life, resurrection
 Fleur-de-lys: Holy Trinity; French descent
 Flower: fragility of life
 Flower, severed stem: shortened life
 Fruits: eternal plenty
 Garland: victory in death
 Grapes and Grapevines: sacrifice



Broken column:
loss of the head of the family



Drapes:
mourning; mortality

Grim Reaper: death personified
 Gourds: nourishment of the soul; the church
 Hand of God, chopping: sudden death
 Hand Touching a Book: word of God is the way to salvation
 Hands, clasped: goodbyes said at death
 Handshakes: farewell
 Harp: praise to the Maker; harmony with the universe
 Heart: love; love of God; abode of the soul; mortality
 Horns: resurrection
 Hourglass: passing of time
 Hourglass with Wings: time flies
 Imps: mortality
 Ivy: friendship; immortality
 Key: mystery; opening and closing; solution to a problem
 Laurel: fame; victory
 Lily: virginity; innocence; purity
 Lion: courage; the Lion of Judah
 Morning Glory: beginning of life
 Oak Leaves and Acorn: maturity, ripe old age
 Orb: celestial body; reward of resurrection
 Pall: mortality
 Palm Branch: signifies victory; rejoicing
 Pine Cone: immortality; fertility
 Pomegranates: nourishment of the soul; the church
 Poppy: sleep
 Portals: passageway to eternal journey
 Ring, broken: family circle severed
 Rod or Staff: comfort for the bereaved
 Rooster: awakening; resurrection
 Rosary: Catholic symbol
 Rose, open: prime of life
 Rosebud: renewal of life
 Roses: brevity of earthly existence
 Scales: justice; balance
 Scythe: death; divine harvest
 Seashell: resurrection; life everlasting; life's pilgrimage
 Ship's Anchor: hope; seafaring profession
 Skull: mortality
 Skull with Crossed Bones: death
 Skeleton: life's brevity
 Snake Swallowing his Tail: eternity; everlasting life in heaven
 Spade: mortality; death
 Stars and Stripes around an Eagle: eternal vigilance; liberty
 Sun Rising: renewed life
 Sun Setting: death
 Sun Shining: life everlasting
 Swallow: hope; fertility; renewal of life; resurrection
 Thistle: Scottish descent
 Thistles: remembrance
 Tombs: mortality
 Torch, inverted: life extinguished
 Tree: life
 Tree, sprouting: life everlasting
 Tree Branch, severed: mortality



Hand, Pointing Up:
 pathway to heaven;
 heavenly reward



Lamb:
 innocence; a child's grave



Urn:
 immortality

Tree Stump: life interrupted
 Tree Stump, with Ivy: head of family; immortality
 Tree Trunk: brevity of life.
 Tree Trunk, leaning: short, interrupted life
 Trefoil (similar to a shamrock): Holy Trinity
 Trumpeters: heralds of the resurrection
 Urn, shattered: old age
 Urn with Blaze: undying friendship
 Urn with Crepe: mourning
 Urn with Wreath: mourning
 Weeping Willow: mourning; grief; nature's lament
 Willows: earthly sorrow
 Winged Skull: flight of the soul from mortal man
 Wreath: victory
 Wreath on Skull: victory of death over life
 Wheat Sheaves: divine harvest; ripe for harvest; time
 Yew Leaves: eternal life



Winged Face:
 effigy of the deceased soul,
 flight of the soul

How wonderful it is when we find an ancestor's tombstone elaborately adorned. The design or images on it might give us clues to the individual's life, ethnicity, religious beliefs, occupation, association memberships and even personality! The key word here is "might." It is possible the decorations you find on the tombstone have no meaning other than the desires of the deceased or the preferences of those who ordered the stone. So keep in mind that the one who chose the motif may not have known it had a specific meaning. What they did know is that they liked the design and felt it was appropriate.

Regardless of the meaning, enjoy the inherent beauty and appreciate the talent involved in creating these expressive motifs. Tombstone carving is an art, and some of the motifs you'll find on tombstones are as captivating as those found in museums. 🗿

USING CEMETERY LIST BOOKS AND WEBSITES

By Carolyn H. Brown [From the SKP Genies Newsletter Fall 2011]



When looking for death records, it is important to know when the individual you are researching died. Many times the family can tell you where someone was buried faster than they can give you a death date. If you know when the individual you are researching died, get a copy of their death certificate and/or obituary to find where they were buried. If they were buried in a cemetery—some people were not—then you should be able to find more information on the cemetery.

Many cemeteries have had a book published, or a website created, which attempts to list everyone buried there. These lists have been created in several ways.

WHEN AN EXISTING CEMETERY LIST IS USED

The person planning on publishing the list often attempted to locate the cemetery record keeper. This could be a church, business or individual. An existing record is much easier to use than to walk the cemetery and record every tombstone. Many times the lists kept by the cemetery are in alphabetical order, which meant the graves without a tombstone were not missed.

Unfortunately, this method does not give the researcher information about who was buried beside—or in the general location—of the individual being researched. This format is helpful because everyone with the same last name can be easily identified, however, if the person buried next to the individual had a different last name, any possible relationship (if there was one) between the two individuals is lost.

WHEN AN EXISTING CEMETERY LIST IS NOT USED

Another method for gathering information is for the person creating the list to walk the cemetery and record information from each tombstone. In this case if no tombstone exists, or the one standing is illegible, then the

information is not recorded. If there is a tombstone, then generally the data is recorded as it appears on the tombstone. With any luck, the person who is creating the list makes notes of family burial plots and records any information particular to that plot.

WHEN AN EXISTING CEMETERY LIST AND A WALK OF THE CEMETERY ARE USED

The most preferred method of recording a cemetery involves using the existing cemetery list and walking the cemetery to record any information which may not appear on the list. Additionally, it facilitates the grouping of burials by family plot. If the cemetery is laid out in sections or blocks, it is helpful if the number assigned to that section or block is recorded with the grave number.

PRIVATE CEMETERIES

For private burial grounds the record keeping can be spotty, at best. Private cemeteries may be on land that has been sold several times, so there are no existing records of the burials that took place there. If the area has not been used in years, then finding the grounds can be difficult. In this case, they are probably unkept and gaining access means finding the property owner. It is important that you receive permission before entering a private cemetery. These cemeteries are often overgrown and some of the graves are hard to identify.

CHURCH CEMETERIES

In general, the church would keep a list of those buried there, however, I have found one church where the records from the very early days of the church have been lost. When a cemetery is part of a church property, and the church is no longer meeting in the building, gaining access to any records that may still exist can be a problem. In this case, the original church records may have been combined with another church of the same faith, and the records are housed there. In some cases when a church closed, the records were sent to the state or national church headquarters. I know of one case where the church failed and people took the tombstones and used them for steps for their homes.

CEMETERY LIST BOOKS

Before it became so easy to post information online, individuals or genealogy societies created books of cemetery records. Usually a copy was placed in the local library, museum and genealogical society. Those which are used and out of print are often sold on eBay. If the book is still in print, a search on the Internet may provide information about how to purchase a copy. Unfortunately, any burials which have taken place since the date of publication are not recorded in the book. Hopefully, if the information is not in alphabetical order, a full index is provided.

When looking for cemetery books online enter "cemetery books" in your web browser and you will get 78,000+ hits. To narrow your search enter the state, county and name of the cemetery (if known).

CEMETERY LISTS ONLINE

The Internet has become a great place for individuals to post a list of burials in local cemeteries. Some of the lists have been created from older existing lists, others are relatively new lists. Some people have taken the original lists and are keeping them updated. You may find several lists for the same cemetery and they may each be a little different.

Some of the information online allows individuals to post additional information about the deceased and even add photographs. I have seen one such entry where someone has added a short genealogy listing the deceased's parents, spouse and children. They also posted a photograph of the person and the tombstone.

FINDING CEMETERY LISTS ONLINE

Cyndislist <www.cyndislist.com> is a genealogy starting point for cemetery research. Find a Grave <www.findagrave.com> is a very popular cemetery website which contains information for over 300,000 cemeteries in over 170 different countries. Another popular website is Interment.net <www.interment.net> which has information on tens of thousands of cemeteries across the world. When researching US Military cemeteries the best site to start with is Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemeteries <www.cem.va.gov/cems_nmc.asp>. Old Burial Hill <www.oldburialhill.org> has a virtual tour of an historic New England graveyard created in the 1600s.

With the vast changes taking place on the Internet today, it is well worth your time to regularly visit these websites. You may find that someone has posted information about an individual you are researching. 🧐



AFFILIATIONS DURING ONE'S LIFE ARE OFTEN MENTIONED ON TOMBSTONES

By Barbara A. H. Nuehring
[From the SKP Genies Newsletter Fall 2011]



Tombstones or small adjacent grave markers may include the emblems or initials of organizations that played a role in the deceased's life. These are clues that will help us understand our ancestors' lives and beliefs; and may lead us to other valuable sources of information. Many of these organizations have websites.

ALOH - American Legion of Honor
 AOF - Ancient Order of Foresters
 AOH - Ancient Order of Hibernians
 AOKMC - Ancient Order of Knights of Mystic Chain
 AOYW - Ancient Order of United Workmen
 BPOE - Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks
 CBKA - Comradery Benevolent Knights Association
 CCTAS - Crusaders-Catholic Total Abstinence Society
 CK of A - Catholic Knights of America
 CSA - Confederate States of America
 CTAS - Catholic Total Abstinence Society
 DAR - Daughters of the American Revolution
 DOC - Daughters of the Confederacy
 DOR - Daughters of the Revolution
 EBA - Emerald Beneficial Association
 F&AM - Free and Accepted Masons
 FAA - Free and Accepted Amerians
 FFV - First Families of Virginia
 FOE - Fraternal Order of Eagles
 GALSTPTR - German American Legion of St. Peter
 GAR - Grand Army of the Republic
 GUO of OF - Grand United Order of Odd Fellows
 IHSV - Red Cross of Constantine (Masonic)
 IOI - Independent Order of Immaculates
 IOKP - Independent Order of Knights of Pythias
 IOOF - Independent Order of Odd Fellows
 IORM - Improved Order of Redmen
 ISH - Independent Sons of Honor
 K of H - Knights of Honor
 K of L - Knights of Loyola
 K of SJ - Knights of St. John
 K of STP - Knights of St. Patrick
 K of STW - Knights of St. Wencelas
 KC - Knights of Columbus
 KFM - Knights of Father Matthew
 KG - Knights of St. George
 KGE - Knights of Golden Eagle
 KGL - Knights Grand Legion
 KHC - Knights of Holy Cross
 KKK - Knights of the Ku Klux Klan

KM - Knights of Malta
 KM - Knights Militant
 KMC - Knights of Mystic Chain
 KOTM - Knights of the Macabees
 KP - Knights of Pythias
 KPC - Knights of Peter Claver
 KSC - Knights of St. Columbkille
 KSF - Knights of Sherwood Forest
 KSL - Knights of St. Lawrence
 KSTG - Knights of St. George
 KSTI - Knights of St. Ignatius
 KSTJ - Knights of St. Joseph
 KSTM - Knights of St. Martin
 KSTP - Knights of St. Peter
 KSTP - Knights of St. Paul
 KSTT - Knights of St. Thomas
 KT - Knights of Tabor
 KT - Knights Templar (Masonic)
 KWM - Knights of Wise Men
 LK of A - Loyal Knights of America
 MOLLUS - Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States
 MWA - Modern Woodsmen of America
 OES - Order of the Eastern Star
 OUAM - Order of United American Mechanics
 PM - Patriarchs Militant (Independent Order of Odd Fellows)
 POSA - Patriotic Order of the Sons of America
 RAM - Royal Arch Masons
 RK - Roman Knights
 RSTV - Rite of St. Vita
 RSTV - Rite of St. Vaclara
 SAR - Sons of the American Revolution
 SBCL - Saint Bonifazius Catholic Union
 SBL - Society B. Lafayette
 SCV - Sons of the Confederate Veterans
 SOC - Sons of the Confederacy
 SV - Sons of Veterans
 TH - Temple of Honor-Independent Order of Odd Fellows
 UCV - United Confederate Veterans
 VFW - Veterans of Foreign Wars
 WOW - Woodmen of the World

Tombstones of military personnel may also have the emblem of the branch of service, their unit crest, or their highest rank engraved on their stone. Veteran's grave markers may show the war in which they served. 🧠

PHOTOGRAPHING CEMETERY STONES

By Peter and Connie Bradish [From the SKP Genies Newsletter Fall 2011]

Your key goal as you prepare to photograph cemetery stones is to capture an image you can easily read later on, which normally means there is good contrast between the engraved names, dates, etc., and the rest of the stone. There are some supplementary activities you should also perform such as recording where and when you took the photo and attaching this information in some fashion to, or associated with, your picture.

What are some of the factors which contribute to or hinder obtaining a good tombstone picture?

You can hurt your chances of taking a good picture before you even go out to a cemetery. If you only allocate a small period of time to take a photo of a stone you need for your genealogy, then you are handicapping yourself. You will have little opportunity to deal with any problems such as sun angle (or lack thereof), rain, mud, weeds, services held in the cemetery and being able to actually find the grave marker you want to photograph. Give yourself plenty of time to take your pictures and solve any problems.

The time of day you pick for your visit can be critical. If you haven't already scoped out the cemetery and the stones you want to photograph, you don't have enough information to choose the best time or times. Generally, a two-hour period spanning noontime is good unless the gravestones aren't facing east or west, or are tilted. The mid-day timing is to have the sun (if it is shining) come in at an angle almost parallel with the face of the stone which can produce shadow in the engraved area which results in good contrast.

Sun shining directly at a stone face can easily wash out potentially needed contrast and is worse than if the sun is coming from behind the stone. See FIGURE 1. With a mirror you can redirect sunlight coming from behind a stone to cross the front side at an angle almost parallel to the face, making shadow contrast with the engraving. See FIGURE 2.

Stones lying flat on the ground can be troublesome because of vegetation, dirt, tree shadows and deterioration. See FIGURE 3. You'll need some gardening tools and a broom to clear away grass and soil. See FIGURE 4. If a tree branch covers part of the information on the stone, it will create a poor exposure situation for your camera. Get someone to block the sun portion with their body. This will improve the camera's ability to provide contrast. If your shadow is falling on the flat-in-the-ground stone, move to the other side and take the picture upside down. You can rotate it back right side up on your computer.

Deterioration on any stone is a problem. If the stone is lying flat on the ground, find some dry sand or dirt which is of a different (contrasting) color than the stone. Sprinkle it on and carefully brush away the granules on the surface leaving the rest in the engraved writing. Sweep it off after you have taken your picture.

Spraying a little water on the stone can help contrast, but you won't know until you try it. Use water after you have tried using sunlight and/or sand. See FIGURE 5. Putting sand or dirt on a flat, wet stone makes mud which is difficult to move around without smearing, and much harder to clean off. But sometimes mud is good. See FIGURE 6.

White chalk can also be used to help highlight writing on a stone, but there is quite a bit of argument over whether anything should be put on a stone, even water. See Dick EASTMAN's blog article, plus the comments which follow, "Controversy: How to Read Unreadable Tombstones" at

<http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2011/08/controversy-how-to-read-unreadable-tombstones.html>.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6

There is a good article entitled "Going Digital at the Cemetery" on the FamilySearch.org web site in the "TechTips" section at <<https://www.familysearch.org/techtips/2011/07/going-digital-at-the-cemetery>>. Read it and the comments which follow for good suggestions.

If you have access to past issues of *Everton's Genealogical Helper* magazine, read the article "Hard Rocks" which starts on page 23 of the November/December 2004 issue with pictures.

Happy hunting in your ancestral cemeteries. 🧐

MILITARY BURIALS

By Carolyn H. Brown [From the SKP Genies Newsletter Fall 2011]

Many of us have lost loved ones in wars or while serving in the armed forces. If they were buried in a National Cemetery, they are easier to locate than those who were buried in private cemeteries. The National Archives <www.archives.gov> has records online for the Mexican War, American Revolutionary War, Spanish American War, Civil War, World Wars I and II, Korean War, and the Vietnam Conflict. The burial records for US Veterans can be found under the National Gravesite Locator (NGL) at the Veterans Affairs website, <http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov/j2ee/servlet/NGL_v1>.



Military personnel who were buried in non-government cemeteries before January 1997 are not listed on the grave locator website. However, you can request the information be added to the database. They will be found in the records kept by the cemetery where they were buried.

If the veteran was buried in a military cemetery overseas, there is a link on the NGL site. The American Battle Monuments Commission <www.abmc.gov/search/index.php> has a database of these burials.

Due to the fire at the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri, the records for soldiers who were discharged between 1 November 1912 and 1 January 1960, and 75% of Air Force Personnel discharged between 25 September 1947 and 1 January 1964 have been lost. If you can't find the service records of a soldier, try looking for their grave site. You may find information you won't be able to access anywhere else. 🧐

Tips & Hints

Check the websites of the genealogy societies in the area where your ancestors died. See if the society has published transcriptions of tombstones or has a project "enumerating cemetery residents." Some societies have a roster of volunteers who will take photos of tombstones for you if you can provide details as to the location of the grave. The service is normally free, but plan to reimburse the volunteer for any of their out-of-pocket expenses, such as postage, mailing pouch and CD/DVD. Of course a small donation to the society is always a nice way to say thank you.

If you believe everything you hear you know there is an App for everything! How true that is, even for the dead. Just take a look at the Billion Graves—Mobile App for Taking Cemetery Photos. You can read all about it on <www.familysearch.org/techtips/2011/06/billiongraves-mobile-app-for-taking-cemetery-photos> and you can get the app by going to <www.billiongraves.com>.

If you have the name of the cemetery, but no specific location, try e-Podunk and do a nationwide search. Of course, you can also narrow your search down by state and county. Or if you only know the state where the deceased may be interred, search only by location. Start at <www.epodunk.com/search/cemeteries.html>.

Whenever you go to a cemetery, in addition to taking your photography equipment, also take a digital (or even a tape) recorder. It is easier than pen and paper for recording names, dates, epitaphs, the exact location of the cemetery, locations of graves, photo number(s) and "notes to self" about further research ideas. 🧐



Life should NOT be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in a well-preserved, attractive body—but rather to skid in sideways, Chardonnay in one hand, strawberries in the other, body thoroughly used up, totally worn out, and screaming "WOO HOO! What a Ride!" 🧐

BEGINNERS' PITEFALLS FALLS

FAILING TO ORGANIZE YOUR DISCOVERIES [From the SKP Genies Newsletter Fall 2011]

Since the national television channel, NBC, started airing "Who Do You Think You Are?" Tuesdays at 7:00 P.M. local time, and the BYU channel has aired their "Generations Project" on Mondays at 7:00 P.M. EST, many more people are getting interested in their family history.

If you are one of these "newbies" to genealogy, it is important that you realize there is a method to doing family history research which will help you find important information on your ancestors. The place to start your search is with the records and stories that have been kept and passed down by your family. Talk to your parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins.

Take the data you gather and organize it using the standard forms designed to help you place each individual you locate into their proper position within the family.

BEGINNING FORMS

An Ancestry Chart (a.k.a. Pedigree Chart) is at <<http://c.mfcreative.com/pdf/trees/charts/anchart.pdf>>. Use this form to record your direct ancestors.

A Family Group Record is at <<http://c.mfcreative.com/pdf/trees/charts/famgrec.pdf>>. Use this form to record all individuals in a given family unit. If a person married more than once with children from each marriage, a separate form should be used for each family unit. Be sure to include the source, with the date you obtained it, for each data item on the form; i.e., letter, email, website, document, or spoken communication.

As your research advances you will find there are other standard and pre-printed forms that will enhance your record keeping; but these are the two most important to start with.

Once your data is organized, you are ready to branch out with your research. Using the many websites available on Cyndi's List at <www.cyndislist.com>, start by working backwards from the most recent event in each of your ancestors' lives; i.e., from their death, to their marriage, and then to their birth.

Follow closely the information you find, and try to glean every bit of information each record provides to help you find your ancestors' parents.

For each person you find, there are two more people (their parents) to look for. If you get stuck on one branch of your family, stop and look at other branches. Each one will teach you new research techniques. 🧠

USING DEATH RECORDS TO FURTHER YOUR RESEARCH

By Carolyn H. Brown [From the SKP Genies Newsletter Fall 2011]

As genealogists, one of the first lessons learned after you have gathered all of the information you can from your home resources is to check the census to determine where the person was living and deduce where they may have died. By following the lead provided from the latest census in which your ancestor appears, you will probably be able to obtain a copy of the individuals' death records.



Death records can be one of the most important records you will find, and in many cases the death record may provide enough information for you to get back one more generation on your ancestral line.

FINDING DEATH RECORDS

Mandatory civil registrations of death in the USA vary by location. Many registrations at the state level began in the early 1900s. However, some states and some lower jurisdictions kept records in the 1700 and 1800s. European countries started civil registration of deaths in the early 1800s and before that churches kept records of the death of their parishioners as far back as the 1500s.

In some cases death records were kept for a few years, then the practice was suspended, only to be started again at a later date. Even after they were required by the government, many areas did not keep death records, or they appear very spotty at best.

When searching for deaths in the USA, visit <www.states-death-records.com> and choose your state(s) of interest from the list on the right. Although the site is trying to sell "searches", you will still learn a lot for free—when death registrations started, what agency is responsible for maintaining those records, and how to obtain the record.

Your family may be able to tell you where your ancestor died, and where the person is buried. If your ancestor died in one state and was buried in another, there may be a copy of the death record in both states. There should be one in the state of death. However, if all you know is the place of burial, then start there. If you search the regular Death Records Index and don't find the individual, then search in the county of burial for the Transient Death Records Index, which includes people who died in another country, state or county and are buried in that county.

INFORMATION ON A DEATH RECORD

Death records can provide a wealth of information about the deceased such as their full name and current residence, date and place of death, cause of death and place of burial, birth date and place, name of each parent and their parents' place of birth. The name of the person providing the information is also important. If the person died in an area where he or she had no known relatives, the death record will usually have very little information other than the persons' name, current residence, approximate age at death, cause of death, and place of burial.

Data on a death record can be divided into two types of information: Primary and Secondary.

PRIMARY INFORMATION is provided by the person involved with the death event such as the attending physician or the coroner (for place, date, time and cause of death), and the funeral home director (for place of burial).

SECONDARY INFORMATION is provided by someone who was not in attendance at the event noted, such as the date and place of birth of the individual, or of his or her parents, and should be researched further.

OTHER RESOURCES

If your ancestor's death records and obituary don't show the deceased parents, try the death records and obituaries of all of his/her siblings.

Burial records held by the church your ancestor was affiliated with may also provide important death information. These records may not provide the death date, only the date of burial. 🗿

ABCs

THE A-B-Cs OF GENEALOGY

by Maryalice Gordon [From Jan-Feb 2009 SKP Genies Newsletter]

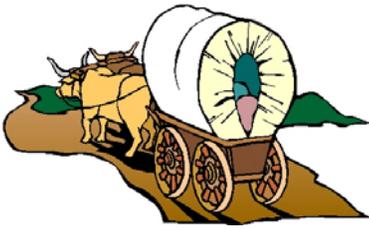
E - F - G - H

E is for **EVALUATE**. Occasionally you will find information that really needs to be evaluated to determine if it is really the correct ancestor. Just because the name is the same does not mean it is the same person.

F is for **FACTS**. A fact is a thing that has actually happened or is really true according to the dictionary. Facts are very important when researching your genealogy. The facts make your ancestry real people as opposed to names on a page. Make your ancestors smile!

G is for **GRANDPARENTS**. Grandparents represent the second generation above you and Grandchildren the second generation below you. It is important for your grandchildren to have accurate data about their grandparents and great-grandparents.

His for **HEARSAY**. Hearsay evidence is usually inadmissible as testimony in court. Without other proof, hearsay usually should be inadmissible as genealogy documentation, but don't throw it away. It may lead to something else or it may even be true. Check it out! Track it down if at all possible.



GREAT JOURNEYS INTO THE PAST

HOW SHOTGUN GENEALOGY GOT ME TO CHURCH

By Terry L. Linthicum [From the SKP Genies Newsletter Fall 2011]

In December 2004, I had returned home from a trip to Greensboro, NC with quite a few more tidbits of information about my LINTHICUM ancestors who had come to that area from Maryland right around the end of the Revolutionary War. Among the many copies I brought home with me were copies of area telephone books. Feeling that I had pretty much exhausted most of the sources of information available to discover more about these LINTHICUMs that I am pretty sure are my direct ancestors, I detailed my findings and my need for more information in a long, wordy letter and launched it off to close to 50 LINTHICUM families in the Greater Greensboro area.

I received exactly one reply, a phone call from a widow of a LINTHICUM. A mention that I had made of "my" John W. LINTHICUM'S obituary from the Greensboro Patriot in 1847 which indicated that he could have had a troubled past with "spirits", struck a chord with her as she had an old church notebook with a memoir in it for a John W. LINTHICUM who had turned around a troubled past and become a good church member. I asked the lady to send me a copy of the document so I could better understand what it was.

I had made previous contact with the historians of some local churches and I turned to one to help me make sense of what I had received from the lady in Greensboro. To make a long story short, the church historian put me in touch with a historian for the Methodist Church who finally concluded that the copies I had sent to him were copies of Quarterly Conference Minutes from the Guilford Circuit of the Methodist Church. His words in the e-mail to me were electrifying: *"Terry: You have led us to a great discovery. The Guilford Circuit Quarterly Conference Record book which we have a copy of from 1832-65 has some notable gaps. The pastor noted in that record book that there are missing records from the meetings of the Quarterly Conference from 1847 and 1848 and YOUR COPIES ARE FROM THAT MISSING PERIOD!!!!!!!!!!!!!! This is a truly great find because we never find any pre-Civil War Methodist Church records anymore."*

The historical significance of the book to the church was only icing on the cake for me, and my benefactor provided a copy to the church historian. More importantly to me, there was information in that memoir that probably exists in no other place: the memoir indicated the birth and death dates of John W. LINTHICUM and indicates that his father was Daniel LINTHICUM. I hope that someday this information that came to me by almost pure serendipity will help me to positively identify these men as my 3rd and 4th great grandfathers.

LINTHICUM FAMILY REFERENCES IN THE GUILFORD CIRCUIT RECORD BOOK.

This Guilford Circuit was the result of a division over slavery within the original Guilford Circuit of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South (MECS) of the North Carolina Conference in 1846. Those who pulled out of the MECS formed the Guilford Circuit of the "Union Methodist Church."

In December 1846 this group assumed the name and adopted the discipline of the Wesleyan Methodist Church. In August 1858 this group pulled out of the Wesleyan Methodists and adopted the Constitution of the United Christian Church.

LIST OF ABSTRACTS

Abstracts by Michael PERDUE, Wentworth, NC in May 2006. The dates cited are dates of the meetings of the circuit quarterly conference:

11 July 1846 Quarterly Conference of the Guilford Circuit of "Union Methodists". John W. LINTHICUM is listed as exhorter.

- 19 September 1846 John W. LINTHICUM and Daniel LINTHICUM listed as exhorters and John as Secretary to the Quarterly Conference.
- 2 January 1847 John W. LINTHICUM is listed as an “unstated preacher.”
- 10 April 1847 John W. LINTHICUM applied for and obtained a renewal of his preaching license. Daniel LINTHICUM applied for and obtained a renewal of exhorting license.
- 18 December 1847 Committee appointed to draft memoir of John W. LINTHICUM, deceased.
- 18 March 1848 Memoir appears in the minutes of the Quarterly Conference:

“John W. LINTHICUM was born the 19th day of August 1801 of pious parents and was early taught the principles of the Christian Religion his father Daniel LINTHICUM being an exhorter for several years in the Methodist E(piscopal) Church, he had not the means furnished him of acquiring an education as would have been desirable from the fact that his parents were poor but being a quick turn of mind and capacious intellect succeeded in getting what was then called a tolerable English Education he was always a strong advocate of Antislavery sentiments he served the Hatters trade and then his occupation confined him mainly to the town of Greensboro, Guilford County, NC not far distant from the place of his birth being thus situated where vice was common and an evil influence surrounding him almost constantly he formed associations which led to dissipation he commenced forming a strong bias against religion and became addicted to an intemperate use of intoxicating liquors and under their poisonous influence almost gave himself up to infidelity and thus continued for years almost beyond the hope of his pious parents and friends on one occasion his pious Aunt interrogated him on the subject of religion when he told her he did not want it but the Washingtonian Temperance Society was started and a society formed in Greensboro and at the earnest solicitations of friends he was prevailed upon to give his name and though he was partly intoxicated at the time yet such was his integrity that he never afterward swerved from pledge but became an efficient lecturer. In the great temperance cause in the latter end of the Summer of 1842 he made a profession of religion and joined the Methodist E. Church and continued a faithful member of the same for some years acting as class leader and exhorter as much to the satisfaction of all who knew him until the Division of that church into North and South on account of slavery after which he with the writer and several others of the Brethren who were anti-slavery in sentiment withdrew from the communion of the church and organized ourselves into what we called the Methodist Union Church that was done in 1846 and in the following September the quarterly conference acting under the authority of the above organization licensed him to preach which he continued to do as long as he lived not long however after he was licensed until we obtained information of the Wesleyan Methodist Connexion of America and appointed a general convention to consider upon the propriety of connecting ourselves with that body of Christians which was held on the 12 of December 1846 when we assumed the name and attached ourselves to that church. Brother LINTHICUM labored in the Wesleyan Methodist Connexion faithfully and successfully up to his last illness which terminated his earthly existence on the 3 day of September 1847. He left the shores of mortality, left several children to mourn his loss, his wife having gone before him to the spirit land; also numerous friends to lament his loss but we rejoyce in the belief that our loss is his infinite gain we trust that he has exchanged this earth with all its sorrows for Heaven this vale of tears for a crown of glory bright, his warfare is over, he has gained his laurels no doubt.”

Daniel WILSON

John SHERWOOD

(Comity)

[Spelling and punctuation are as they appear in the document.]

Are you wondering yet about the title of this article? Sending out 50 letters to complete strangers who may or may not have a connection or information on “my” LINTHICUMS was a shotgun approach to try to find more information. So was it worth my time, effort and the cost of mailing? I certainly think so. Give it a try... you may be surprised at the results. 🤔



Just before the funeral services, the undertaker came up to the very elderly widow and asked,

“How old was your husband?”

“98,” she replied... “Two years older than me.”

“So you're 96,” the undertaker commented..

She responded, “Hardly worth going home, isn't it?” 🤔

BOUSE GENIES NEWS

We are sorry to report that three of our members are in the hospital for extended stays in rehabilitation.

Robert Willis - Vice Chairman - Had back surgery and is recovering in Las Vegas. She thought her problem was related to her MS, which she has had for over 30 years, and did not realize that she had actually broken her back. She and Bill are moving to Oregon to be near their children and she will not be back to Bouse.

Esther Tucker was planning on being with us this winter, however she has been diagnosed with gallbladder cancer and will be undergoing treatment in Oregon this winter.

Vicke Southam (a member from Quartzsite) broke her hip and had to have surgery. She is in rehab in Utah.

BOUSE PROJECT UPDATE

Work on the bouse project is slow. Some members worked on a surname over the summer, and we are hoping more will resume work in the winter.

2011 GENIES IN THE DESERT - GENEALOGY TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE

Everything is going well for the conference on 9 December 2011. The information for the Syllabus has been received and it should be printed shortly. Advertising is getting underway. The Jensens have been working in the Lake Havasu area. At the last meeting Betty Hacke agreed to work Parker and the River and Arlene Strunk will take care of Wenden, Salome and Brenda. Shirley Baker will cover Quartzsite and Bouse. Carol Brown has been submitting information online to the national organizations and magazines. Nikki Mackey will be placing an article in the local Parker, Bouse, Salome and Quartzsite newspapers. Anyone who wants to help, please contact any of these people and see if you can cover some of their area for them. Advertising the one area that needs the most work.

The door prizes have been purchased and gathered, and the gift bag stuffing items are coming along. If you know of a business in the area you can approach for their advertising items, please do so. We need 100 of what ever is donated. There will be a work party the week before the conference to stuff the gift bags.

The Jensens are making a PVC pipe holder for a sheet to be used as the screen for the projector. The Casino does not have a larger screen and that was one of the major complaints at the last conference.

Marilyn Volmer and Brenda Dixon along with the help of Sue Mahoney will be covering the sign-in tables. They may need one more assistant. Linda Pryse will be in charge of the sales tables, and she may need at least one assistant. Please volunteer to help where you can on the day of the conference. It would be nice if we had a couple of people to stand at the door and greet the people, and take care of any problems that arise at the last minute.

We have booked a block of rooms for the conference at a reduced rate of \$49 + tax. You must tell them you are with the December 9th conference when you make your reservations, to get the reduced rate.

The flyer and registration form have been distributed through the Yahoo Group and are available on the website.

SKILL BUILDING WORKSHOPS

Carol Brown will give two full days of Skill Building Workshops on 3 & 10 February 2012, in the Bouse Community Building (that is the official name of the building we are using). A flyer has been distributed through the Bouse Genies Yahoo Group and on the website. You are asked to supply your own documents if you have them. If you do not, please let Carol know so she is sure to have enough for those attending the classes. Remember to bring your own lunch.

OTHER CONFERENCES IN ARIZONA THIS WINTER

This year there are four other genealogy conferences taking place in Arizona. We have plenty of places to go this season to gain more knowledge in genealogy research. The first is in Prescott at the LDS Family History Center on 22 October 2011. They have four tracks to choose from and lunch is included in the \$10 donation, if you pay before 17 October. If you pay after 17 October, the fee is \$15 with no guarantee of lunch.

Arizona Genealogical Advisory Board (AzGAB) has their annual workshop presenting Curt B. Witcher, the manager of the Allen County Public Library Genealogical Center, Fort Wayne, Indiana. Curt is a very well known and respected speaker. The workshop starts at 8:45 A.M. with registration and goes until 3:30 P.M. in Phoenix.

There will be two Family History Expos in Arizona this winter. The first will be one day, 17 January 2012 in Yuma. The second will be 20-21 January 2012 in Mesa.

Bouse Genies Meeting Schedule

7 & 21 October 2011
 4 & 18 November 2011
 2 & 16 December 2011
 9 December 2011 - Conference
 13 & 27 January 2012
 3 & 10 February 2012 -Workshops
 24 February 2012
 9 & 23 March 2012
 6 & 20 April 2012
 4 & 18 May 2012

From the Editor's Desk

By Carolyn H. Brown

Time flies, and nobody knows it better than the older generation. The year 2012 is upon us and soon the 1940 US Federal Census will be published. It seems like only yesterday that the 1930 census came out. Are you ready to look for all of the new data you can find on this census? If you are as old as I am, you will find yourself on the 1940 census for the first time. WOW!



In the April-May-June 2012 issue we will introduce you to the 1940 census and revisit earlier censuses. Things have changed considerably in the last few years in our ability to access these documents online.

We would love to read your stories about researching in census records. Did a census record help you overcome a dead end? Did you find major discrepancies in a census record versus the truth you now know? What have you learned that may help someone else get by a brick wall using the census? Please send us your stories. It is important to us to have input from our members. Your stories are what help make this newsletter work for our members.

If you have a story to share on any of our upcoming topics, we would love to hear from you.

JAN-FEB-MAR 2012: *WORKING WITH OLD PHOTOS:* Identifying, preserving and digitizing photos; some quick tips for "fixing photos" using a photo editing program, including ideas for naming digital photos. (Deadline is 1 December 2011.)

APR-MAY-JUN 2012: *THE 1940 CENSUS AND A REVISIT TO EARLIER CENSUSES:* Techniques for using the census. What's changed in census research. (Deadline is 1 March 2012.)

JUL-AUG-SEP 2012: *SHARING, PUBLISHING & COPYRIGHT - PAPER & DIGITAL:* What to share and what not to share, when and how to share or publish. (Deadline is 1 June 2012.) 🗣️



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Remember when fall excited us because the kids were going back to school? Well, that was yesteryear. This is today. Continue your education this year—there are many opportunities this fall and into the winter months.

Iowa Genealogical Society

14-15 October in Clive, Iowa
Info at: www.iowagenealogy.org

CzechoSlovak Genealogical Society

26-29 October in St. Louis, Missouri
Info at: www.cgsi.org

Genealogical Forum of Oregon

29 October in Milwaukie, Oregon
Info at: www.gfo.org/seminar/debra-mieszala.pdf

North Carolina Genealogical Society

29 October in Raleigh, North Carolina
Info at: www.ncgenealogy.org/

Texas State Genealogical Society

3-5 November in Houston, Texas
Info at: www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txsgs/

Arkansas Genealogical Society

4-5 November in North Little Rock, Arkansas
Info at: www.agsgenealogy.org

Florida State Genealogical Society

11-12 November in Maitland, Florida
Info at: www.flsgs.org/aem.php?eid=2

Irish Genealogical Society

19 November in Livonia, Michigan
Info at: www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~miigsm/

Genealogy Technology Conference

9 December in Parker, Arizona
Info at:
<http://bousegenies.weebly.com/2011-conference.html>

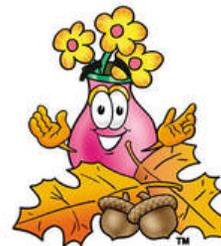
Family History Expos

17 January in Yuma, Arizona
20-21 January in Mesa, Arizona
Info at: www.familyhistoryexpos.com/expos.aspx

Roots Tech Conference

2-4 February in Salt Lake City, Utah
Info at: <http://rootstech.familysearch.org/> 🧐

October is Family History Month. Celebrate!



Family History Month was started in 2001, when Dick Eastman worked with two genealogy groups to make October recognized by the US Government. You can celebrate with your family and friends by getting involved in one or more of these suggested projects.

- Spend *some time with an elder* and *chat about the old days*.
- Take a *young family member* to a *historical museum*.
- Pack a *picnic lunch* and *visit an ancestor's grave*.
- Cook up your family history with a *family cookbook*.
- Trace your *family medical history*.
- Create a *heritage scrapbook*.
- Start a *family website*.
- Scan and restore *old family photos*.
- Get the *next generation* involved.
- Craft a heritage gift with a *family tree project*.
- Research the *ancestry of a friend*. See what you can find in one or two days using the following websites:

Ancestry.com: <http://www.ancestry.com>
Family Search: <http://www.familysearch.org>
Find a Grave: <http://www.findagrave.com> 🧐

ANCESTRY.COM CELEBRATES THEIR 15TH YEAR

Ancestry.com just posted the following:

“You’re invited to a 15-day celebration of your story—and ours. Visit Ancestry.com daily October 1st–15th to search some of our favorite collections for free and enter for a chance to win the prize of the day in the 15 Days of Discovery Sweepstakes.” 🧐

Happy Thanksgiving