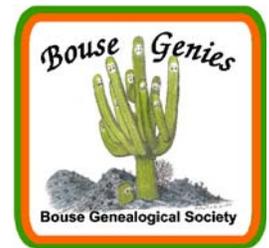


BOUSE GENIES NEWSLETTER

Volume 9, Number 4

Fall 2015



A BOUSE GENIES ANGEL PASSES

By Carolyn H. Brown, Barbara Nuehring and Bob Ed

On 13 July 2015, the Bouse Genies lost a wonderful friend with the passing of Maryalice GORDON. She dedicated her life to sharing her extensive genealogy knowledge and expertise with everyone interested in the hobby. The Bouse Genies were big-time benefactors, and we are forever grateful.

Maryalice was a friend, teacher and mentor to many budding genealogists over the years. She submitted informative articles for publication, some of which we have used in our BGS newsletters.

If you knew Maryalice, you knew how meticulously, thoroughly, expertly, and conscientiously she would have performed every task she took on. The demand on her time, energy, and talents in the cause of genealogy cannot be overstated.



In 2007, Maryalice started showing signs of Alzheimer's. She worked diligently to see that the work she had done over the years was made available to others to enjoy. As a long time friend of Carol Brown, she offered to send all of the genealogy books and documents she had accrued to the Bouse Genies to start our book collection in the Bouse Public Library. She sent four boxes of books to us, and would not let us even pay the postage.

Throughout her years with Escapees Genealogy group, she shared her passion for our hobby and her extensive knowledge by writing dozens of articles for their newsletter, presenting numerous seminars and workshops, and assisting countless individuals on a one-on-one basis.

Many of our early newsletters have an article submitted by Maryalice. The following titles which have appeared in our newsletter are a mere sampling that reflect the breadth and depth of her expertise: "A-B-Cs of Genealogy", "Genealogists Biggest Users of Public Records", "Never Stop Questioning Data", "Preserving Your Story", and "Transcribing Old Records". She was truly amazing—and most generous in sharing her knowledge and expertise.

We are eternally grateful to Maryalice for all that she did for our group and for some of us as individuals. A better friend will never be found. She endeared herself to all of us who knew her personally and we feel very blessed that her life touched ours. We are sorry that all of the members of the Bouse Genies didn't have the opportunity to meet her. She was a very special person. She will live forever in our hearts. 🌹

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Bouse Genealogical Society

Electronic Newsletter

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Please send all general correspondence to:

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The Bouse Genies meet every other Friday, October - May, at the Bouse Booster Club. See the meeting schedule in this newsletter.

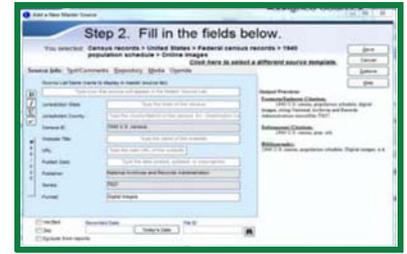
The Bouse Genies Website is:
<http://bousegenies.weebly.com>

FROM THE COMPUTER DESK

SOURCE CITATIONS MADE EASY

By Carolyn H. Brown [From the Fall 2015 SKP Genies Newsletter]

You have been taught from the first time you attended a genealogy society meeting, workshop, conference, or read a how-to book, that you need to “cite your sources.” We wrote a whole newsletter— Vol. 2, No. 3, May / Jun 2008— explaining source analysis and citation. Before you learned to cite your sources, many of you just prodded along entering minimal information in your paper and computer files. Some of you didn’t even do that much. Regardless, you had no idea what should be included in the source citation, where to find the information, and what recording format to use. You were instructed to follow the *Chicago Manual of Style*, but there are so many styles you had no idea which you should use.



Back in 1986, Richard A. Lackey published *Cite Your Sources: A Manual for Documenting Family Histories and Genealogy Records*. In 1997, Elizabeth Shown Mills published her first guide to the citation of historical sources—*Evidence!*, which started the revolution in the citation and analysis of historical sources. In 2007, Mills expanded her instructions from a small manual to *Evidence Explained: Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace* supplying us with over 800 pages of examples. Since then, several nationally known genealogist have also written books and pamphlets on the subject. With the expansion of the Internet several genealogy websites offer documents, quicksheets and guides on the subject. All of these are great reference tools, but is there an even easier method to get the job done? The answer to that question is—Yes!

Today, all you need to do is locate the information, enter it into a source citation website like *Citation Machine* <www.citationmachine.net>, and the computer does the work for you. *Citation Machine* will even look up the book, and if it is found, with a couple of clicks of the mouse you have your citation. In most cases, this is all you need. Genealogists suggest you use the *Chicago* format when using this website. The options start with a general list of sources including: BOOK; MAGAZINE; NEWSPAPER; WEBSITE; JOURNAL; FILM; and OTHER. Under OTHER an additional list of source types is available including: CHAPTER; ENCYCLOPEDIA; INTERVIEW; LECTURE; BROADCAST; RADIO; and TELEVISION. However, there are other types of sources genealogists reference (such as artifacts, unpublished manuscripts, censuses, vital records, court records, photographs, and other personal documents you may have), which are not addressed by *Citation Machine*.

This is where genealogy programs like *Legacy Family Tree* and *Roots Magic* come in really handy. The source writers in the programs not only provide many more options, but walk you through the whole process, and in some cases they fill in the blanks for you. They make it easy to use the same source multiple times for multiple individuals. They also display three citation formats based on *Evidence Explained*: 1) reference list; 2) first footnote; and 3) subsequent footnotes.

Naturally, you will need specific information about the source before you start data entry. You can use *Citation Machine* as noted above, the *Library of Congress Catalog* <<http://catalog.loc.gov>>, or *OCLC World Cat* <www.worldcat.org>, to locate the source information for most published books, articles, DVDs, and CDs.

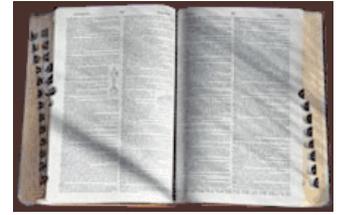
If the item you need to source was found in a library, you may be able to find the source by using the library's online catalog or index. This is exceptionally helpful when citing microfilm, microfiche and unpublished documents held by the facility. If the item was found on a website, return to the website and locate the item again and copy the source.

When creating a transcript, an abstract, or recording other information from a document, include the source. Always place the source information on the front of the document, so it is not lost when the document is copied. The format used for these documents would be the reference list format. However, when writing a case study, use the footnote and subsequent footnote formats. By putting the source into your genealogy program's source writer, you can copy the full source in the correct format to the document you are writing.

With the tools we have today, citing your sources is much easier, and should never be overlooked when recording facts about your family. 🐼

INSTITUTIONAL WORDS

By Barbara A. H. Nuehring [From the Fall 2015 SKP Genies Newsletter]



INSTITUTION is an all-inclusive word for a bureaucracy, establishment, business, society, or formal organization created to accomplish a particular type of endeavor. In addition to the family unit being an institution, there are political/governmental, economic, educational, legal, social, religious, medical, industrial, technological, and social welfare institutions. All institutions create paperwork that could be valuable sources for finding ancestors and providing meat for their bones. Thus, the focus of the articles in this edition of the *Bouse Genies Newsletter* are on institutions and the records they produced which are useful in our genealogical endeavors.

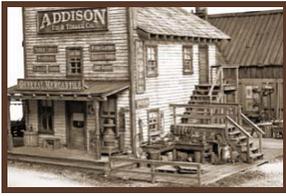
ASYLUM is an outdated term previously applied to a variety of institutions housing those who could not take care of themselves, or were believed to be a danger to themselves or to others. These include orphanages, almshouses, workhouses, juvenile detention centers, reform schools, homes for the physically handicapped, sanatoriums for those with long-term illnesses, and facilities for the mentally impaired. The people living in asylums may have been there for so long that they are absent from any family histories or recollections, and cannot be found in the most commonly researched public records. Although they may be difficult to find and access, the records created by asylums may be the only ones that document the life of those ancestors who lived outside the mainstream community.

ARMED FORCES—a bureaucracy infamous for generating an infinite amount of paperwork—continuously produce an abundance of records that will aid us in documenting our ancestors lives. A typical personnel file has information about service dates, marital status, dependents, rank, salary, assignments, education level, decorations, service number, birth date and place, death date and place, and sometimes a photo. From draft records, to service records, to military pension records, the *Bouse Genies Newsletter* Vol. 4, No. 1 (Jan-Feb 2010) edition was all about finding and using the various records created during wartime and peacetime by the various branches of the US military.

LABOR UNIONS are organizations of wage earners working in a particular occupation or industry. Through collective bargaining, a labor union protects its member's rights in regards to wages, benefits, working hours, working conditions and safety. The types of records unions keep are related to dues, strikes, management and employee disputes, and training programs—not employee files. Those records are created by the employing institution. However, if your ancestor was a union representative in a local, district/council or the national office, then he/she was an employee of the union and records about their tenure would be in labor union files. Before you begin to search for labor union records you should learn the history and organization of your ancestor's union and where the union's archived records are held. A comprehensive listing of unions with their websites and/or e-mail addresses is at <www.thelaborsite.com/uniondirectory1.cfm>, or use your favorite search engine, type in the name of the union in quotes, then look for the union's official website.

GREEK LETTER ORGANIZATIONS (GLOs), an all-inclusive term for fraternities and sororities, are an integral part of college/university life, but are seldom considered as a source of genealogical information. From pledging to long-after graduation, members maintain a social network and participate in philanthropic activities. Thus, most GLOs have alumni chapters across the country. If you know your ancestor was a member of a GLO—or if you have discovered Greek letters on their tombstones or on source documents which leads you to believe he or she was a member of a fraternity or sorority—the alumni chapter may be a source of biographical data about your ancestor. To learn about the various individual GLOs and get contact information, visit the Wikipedia site <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_social_fraternities_and_sororities>.

FORMAL ORGANIZATION is a structured outcome when people with a shared interest or purpose form an alliance in order to accomplish a set of goals and objectives. We all belong to at least one, if not several, organizations. Our ancestors did, too. Probably not as many as we do today, but some. Contacting those organizations may result in little-known details about your ancestors. So if there is a reference to membership in a social organization, community action league, charity, orchestra/band, sports team, or youth group in a personal letter, newspaper article about club events, award citations, and/or obituary—follow up on that lead. The organization just may have historical information about your ancestor and even a photograph. 📷



BUSINESS AND CORPORATION RECORDS FOR GENEALOGISTS

By Barbara A. H. Nuehring

[From the Fall 2015 SKP Genies Newsletter]



Privately-owned businesses have been around since the development of towns. In addition to merchants and store keepers, there were trade-based businesses (blacksmiths, wagon makers), industries (mining, lumber), service-providers (mill operators, shipping lines) and a wide variety of cottage industries. Even before the industrial revolution there were corporations. In the 1600s, corporations were created in Europe with the goal of colonizing the “new world”; in the 1800s, corporations were chartered on both sides of the Atlantic to build canals and railroads; in the 2000s, corporations abound and impact just about every aspect of our lives.

Whether a business or corporation was industrial-, agricultural-, manufacturing-, service-, information or Finance-based, it generated paperwork. That paperwork will prove an ancestor’s specific location at a specific time, provide us with details about our ancestors’ lives, and may even lead to discoveries of more family members. The most useful paperwork for most genealogists are in the form of employees’ files and customers’ records. If your ancestor was a sole proprietor, an entrepreneur or a corporate officer, then you may also be interested in additional operational records and the company’s history, products and market/service area.

EMPLOYEE FILES

Companies can have anywhere from a couple of employees to tens of thousands of employees with positions ranging from operations manager to floor sweeper.

Other than job titles, payroll records may show little in the way of personal data, but they do validate your ancestors’ locations and provide insight into their economic situation. Payroll books typically will list the employee’s name, hours worked in a time period, the rate per hour/day, and the amount owed to the employee. Job descriptions of your ancestors’ positions (from either your ancestor’s specific company or a similar company) will add meat to their bones.

Companies may have had training programs that might provide you with some details about your ancestors. Prior to the industrial revolution, most teenagers were taught a craft through a formal apprenticeship program. The contract between the small business owner and the parents may provide information on two generations. In more recent times, an employee’s personnel file will include in-house or outsourced mandatory training and may also have details about job-related or career training the individual undertook on their own.

If the employee had a job-related accident, was a member of a union, was reimbursed for uniforms or required equipment purchases, or carried an account at a company store, it is likely these will be in their personnel file.

The business or corporation your ancestor worked for may have had a pension plan for their employees. Naturally, this would generate paperwork with lots of personal and family data—the employee’s full name, birth and death information, places of residence, names of next of kin, and children’s names with birth information. If a widow or minor child is eligible for pension payments or death benefits, then there will be documents proving their relationship to the deceased employee or pensioner.

CUSTOMER RECORDS

Probably the most common and genealogically useful records are merchants’ account books which could be a large bound ledger or a small notebook or somewhere in between.

Information in account books will vary depending on the type of business and might include:

- ◆ the name of the customer which may be the name he/she was known by, not their official full names;
- ◆ the address or location of the customer’s residence or that of another responsible party;
- ◆ the items purchased, or services provided, along with the amount due or received;
- ◆ the running balance of the money owed for items bought on credit and payments received.

Service providers, such as doctors, dentists, teachers/tutors, and itinerant ministers, also kept account books, but these will be much harder to find than those kept by companies.

BUSINESS RECORDS

If your ancestor owned a small business, there may be a record of the business license in the city or state where he/she did business. A license application will provide a lot of personal information about the owner and any partners, such as the individual's age, birthplace, marital status, and residence, as well as the name location and type of business. Depending on the community, licenses may be kept in the office of the Clerk of Court, Tax Assessor or the Recorder of Deeds.

Financial transaction documents such as accounts payables and receivables, bills of lading, inventory, and lists of suppliers were kept whether the company was a small business or a large corporation. Of course, the larger the company the more business records were created. Additionally, corporations are required to make annual stockholders' reports which are public records.

FINDING RECORDS

There are two great source documents that will help you determine your ancestors' employment. Since the 1900 Federal Census the individual's occupation was noted, and since 1930 their place of employment was also listed. The draft registration cards for the First World War and the "old man" draft registration cards for the Second World War list the man's occupation and place of employment.

The further back in time you research, the likelihood is that the companies your ancestors worked for or the businesses they owned no longer exist. If you know the name or type of the business and a time frame, contact the local chamber of commerce or state archives for information to find out what became of the business and its records. Old business directories, trade magazines and local newspapers are other sources that may provide information about the company's dissolution and disposition of their records.

However, some companies may not have closed, but were merged or renamed under new ownership. The records you need may be in the files of the new company. In small communities or rural areas, try contacting present businesses in the same line of work for information about your company of interest. They may have the records you are looking for or give you leads concerning where to find them.

If your ancestor worked for a corporation, it is very likely their old records will be in the company's archives. If not, there are other places to look:

- ◆ The archives, historical society or university library in the state where the company was incorporated may have them. For instance, the records of the Detroit Copper Mining Company in Morenci and Clifton, Arizona, are in the Special Collections of the University of Arizona Libraries; and Penn State University Libraries have the Hudson Coal Company employee records.
- ◆ Search the National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections (NUCMC). Manuscripts might be filed under the name of the proprietor or owner; the name of the business, corporation or parent company; or location of the company. You may find an abundance of paperwork for the company in a place you never dreamed of.

Some businesses end up in bankruptcy. Those resulted in more records about the business and its owners. Since bankruptcy is governed by federal laws, records were created in federal district courts. If old records are not in the files of the court, check the appropriate NARA regional archives.

If your ancestor was a sole proprietor, you may want to check the appropriate Sanborn Fire Insurance Map for details about the business' structure. (The *Bouse Genies Newsletter* Vol 5, No.3, Jul-Aug-Sep 2011, page 7 explains how to use Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps.)

Corporations employ many individuals working at various locations. For instance, the records of a miner who worked in Tyrone, New Mexico, may be maintained at the headquarters in Phoenix, Arizona.

Corporations have been known to periodically self-publish their histories which include personal information about company leaders and perhaps other notable employees. Some of the larger corporations have a museum or library or offer plant tours. A company's website may have some historical information on it.

These enterprises have played a vital role in the life and culture of the current generation as well as past generations, and therefore, should be included on your research to-do list. 🐾

FINDING AND USING FRATERNAL ORGANIZATION RECORDS

By Carolyn H. Brown [From the Fall 2015 SKP Genies Newsletter]

Usually “fraternity” is understood to be a social organization composed of only men, and “sorority” composed of only women. This is true about collegiate Greek letter organizations, however there are some coeducational fraternities such as honor and academic societies on campuses.

General social fraternities not associated with an educational institute often have multiple sub-organizations which welcome both male and female members. There are over a hundred such organizations throughout the world. To obtain information concerning social fraternities, Google the organization and read the information provided on <<https://en.Wikipedia.org>>.

OLDEST FRATERNITY IN THE WORLD

The *Ancient and Honorable Order of E Clampus Vitus* is believed to be the oldest social fraternal organization in the world—going back to biblical times. This organization within the United States began in 1845 in Lewisport, Virginia, and is dedicated to the study and preservation of the mining industry. As the mining industry faded towards the end of the 19th century, ECV started to fade as well. It was revitalized in 1931 and is currently dedicated to the heritage of the American West, especially the history of the Mother Lode and gold mining regions of the area. Their members of a more rowdy nature are known as “Clampers”.



FREEMASONRY IN AMERICA

Freemasonry traces its origins to the medieval craft guild of stonemasons. From the end of the 14th century regulated the qualifications of stonemasons and the interactions with authorities and clients. Over time, the Masons evolved to a more social organization. They follow a system of degrees and ceremonies. Freemasonry first appeared in the United States about 1715 in Pennsylvania. The Masons have about eighty sub-organizations for both men, women and youth. The major charitable arm of the Masons is the *Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine*, known as Shriners. They support the 22 Shriners Hospitals for Children in the United States, Mexico and Canada.



BENEVOLENT AND PROTECTIVE ORDER OF ELKS

The *Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks*, also known as “The Elks” or BPOE, is an American fraternal order and social club founded in 1868. It is one of the leading fraternal orders in the USA, claiming nearly one million members. The Elks began in 1867 as a social club for minstrel show performers in New York. For us RVers, the Elks Lodges provide some very nice RV parks at reasonable rates. There are books available listing the RV amenities available at particular lodges.



FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES

The *Fraternal Order of Eagles*, also known as F.O.E., was founded in Seattle, Washington, on 6 February 1889 by six theater owners while discussing a musicians strike. They dubbed the organization as “The Order of Good Things.” After taking care of business, attendees rolled out a keg of beer and enjoyed a social time. In 1898, they secured a charter and developed a constitution and by-laws. Touring theater troupes are credited with much of the Eagles’ rapid growth. They provide for funeral benefits to their members, and no Eagle was ever buried in a potter’s field.



INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS

The *Independent Order of Odd Fellows* (IOOF) is a derivative from the British *Oddfellows* service organizations. In 18th century England, it was odd to find people organized for the purpose of giving aid to those in need and of pursuing projects for the benefit of all mankind. Those who belonged to such an organization were called “Odd Fellows”. The word “independent” in the organization’s name was given by the English parent organization as part of the chartered title of the new North American chapter in 1819 in Baltimore, Maryland. Odd Fellowship became the first fraternity in the US to include both men and women when it adopted the “Beautiful Rebeckah Degree” on 20 September 1851. Some of the IOOF cemeteries maintain a copy of the obituary of everyone buried there.



These are a few of the more popular fraternities; following is a sampling of the other social fraternities available in the United States today.

Aid Association of Lutherans
American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association
Chautauqua Institute
Danish Brotherhood in America
Fraternal Order of Owls
Fraternal Order Orioles
Honorable Order of the Blue Goose, International
Improved Order of Heptasophs
Improved Order of Red Men
International Order of Alhambra
International Organization of Good Templars (or IOGT - EST. 1776)
Knights of Columbus
Knights of Peter Claver
Knights of Pythias
Knights of the Golden Eagle
Knights of the Maccabees
MEANA (Malayalee Engineers Association in North America)
National Haymakers Association
Order of Heptasophs
Order of Scottish Clans
Order of the Arrow (BSA)
Order Sons of Italy in America
Sons of Norway
The National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry (The Grange)
Unico National
Vasa Order of America (or VOA - EST. 1896)
Woodmen of the World

A list of other general fraternities is available at <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_general_fraternities>. On this site are lists for International, Australia, Canada, Europe, South America, and USA fraternities

ANCESTRAL CLUES

Clues that your ancestor was a member of a social fraternity might come from the organization symbol on his or her gravestone or the gravestones of other close relatives. Your ancestor may have had pins or badges and other items associated with the organization(s) where they were members. It is not unusual for a person to be associated with more than one organization, a sub-organization or lodge.

Though their records may give you very little genealogical data, they sometimes can be used to verify a move or death date. Their records may also help to identify that your ancestor lived in a certain place in a certain time period. They may also help to identify other family members who sponsored your ancestor into membership or who are beneficiaries on a fraternity's life insurance policy offered by some.

In most cases, these organizations don't have a national headquarters. Each state has, or had, a master or grand lodge with individual local lodges. Depending on the information you have available, you may wish to start your research at the local or state level.

Some lodges make their records available, and some may be more helpful than others. The records of some of these lodges and organizations have been digitized and are available online. You should analyze the information you obtain from any of these organizations carefully. You may discover information you had not known before. 🐼

HEREDITARY AND LINEAGE ORGANIZATIONS

Barbara A. H. Nuehring [From the Fall 2015 SKP Genies Newsletter]



Some wonderful sources of information about our ancestors are national hereditary and lineage organizations and their local chapters. There is significant genealogical data in the files of these institutions because membership requires proof of descent from a specific individual whose presence or actions qualifies his/her descendants for membership. Many of these societies maintain a database of members' ancestries and have a library and/or museum; some publish family history books of their members' lineages.

An hereditary/lineage organization focuses on the descendants of participants in specific historical occurrences—such as those who were colonialists (see the article in the *Bouse Genies Newsletter* Vol. 4, No. 2, Apr-May-Jun 2010, page 10), pioneers or “First Families” of a particular state, ethnic immigrants, and members of a religious group. Thus, you may discover a distant cousin is/was a member and has submitted pedigrees of several generations of your ancestry.

Most of the hereditary/lineage groups are based on American events. However, if you have traced your ancestors back to Europe, these unique societies may be of interest to you:

- The Order of the Crown of Charlemagne <www.charlemagne.org>
- Knights of the Most Noble Order of the Garter <www.brookfieldpublishingmedia.com/KG/KG.aspx>
- Descendants of the Illegitimate Sons and Daughters of the Kings of Britain <<http://royalbastards.org>>
- Baronial Order of Magna Charta <www.magnacharta.com>
- Order of Descendants of Pirates and Privateers <www.piratesprivateers.org>

United States military service is the basis of many hereditary/lineage societies. This is where you may find unit histories or journals written by contemporaries of your ancestor allowing you to understand your ancestor's military engagements and add “meat to their bones”. Some of the larger societies are:

- Daughters of the American Revolution <www.dar.org>
- Sons of the American Revolution <www.sar.org>
- Society of the Cincinnati (Revolutionary Army and Navy Officers) <www.societyofthecincinnati.org>
- General Society War of 1812 <www.gsw1812.org>
- National Society United States Daughters of 1812 <www.usdaughters1812.org/home.html>
- Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War <www.suvcw.org>
- Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War 1861-1865 <www.duvcw.org>
- Sons of Confederate Veterans <www.scv.org>
- United Daughters of the Confederacy <www.hqudc.org>
- Aztec Club of 1847 (Mexican War) <www.aztecclub.com/LeadPg.htm>
- Order of Daedalians (Military Pilots) <www.daedalians.org/index.html>

There is an extensive on-line list of active hereditary/lineage organizations with membership qualifications and points of contact at <www.hereditary.us/list_date.htm>. Choose one that might include your direct or collateral line ancestors. If there is a website, investigate the society and learn about the qualifications. Be sure to check the applicable society's website for it may have a list of documented qualifying ancestors.

Although there are many large national organizations, most hereditary/lineage societies are small groups run by volunteers and may not have a web site only an email or snail-mail address that may change with the officers. But, just like local genealogy societies, they are usually willing to help you.

If you believe you are eligible for membership in an hereditary/lineage organization, consider joining. It is an excellent way to preserve your ancestry and, in turn, provides support to those institutions that preserve important historical family information. You can download a PDF worksheet at <www.usdaughters1812.org/Standardized_Lineage_Worksheet.pdf> which will help you determine if you qualify for any of the societies.

On the other hand, even if you are not interested in joining an hereditary/lineage organization, don't pass up the resources they make available to the public. They will help you learn more about your ancestors. 🍷



RESEARCHING CEMETERY RECORDS

By Carolyn H. Brown [From the Fall 2015 SKP Genies Newsletter]

In the not-too-distant past, researching cemetery records meant contacting the cemetery owner for information and you may or may not have received an answer. Even for church cemeteries it was difficult to get information unless you visited the cemetery and did the search yourself. Occasionally someone would have published

a list of all of the tombstones in a cemetery. Unfortunately, if there was no tombstone then no information is available unless the owner of the cemetery kept records. In some cases, even if a list was kept, the exact grave location may not be known. That is very true for older, privately-owned, small and remote cemeteries.

Over the past several years, researching cemetery records has been a lot easier. With websites like Find a Grave <www.findagrave.com>, Billion Graves <www.billiongraves.com>, Nationwide Military Gravesite Locator <<http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov>>, Interment.net <www.interment.net> and others with cemetery information, you now have what you are seeking right at your fingertips.

All of these websites are great to help you get started, fortunately, but unfortunately, they are generally a list in alphabetical order. A list in alphabetical order helps you locate the individual you are seeking, but you can't see who is buried in the same family plot. Therefore, you may be missing information about your family of which you were not aware.

By looking at the names as they appear in plot order, you may see names you were not aware were related to your family. Was a grandchild who died young buried in the grandparents plot? Did that child have a different surname? Did the child's parents move away and eventually were buried in a different cemetery? Lists in plot order may also be helpful when the spelling of the surname varies.

USING CEMETERY LISTS

Is all of the information available on the tombstone recorded on the list, or just names and places? A cemetery may have multiple lists posted on the Internet by various individuals. I have found that different lists have unique information for the same individual. In some cases, dates may be missing from one list and appear on another. Some lists have notes about the person interred which may help you make connections you would have missed if you had not found every list available.

CEMETERIES KEPT DIFFERENT INFORMATION

Some cemeteries keep a copy of the obituary of everyone buried there. I had this happen to me and I was able to have them make a copy of the obituary of everyone of interest to me in that cemetery. Some of these obituaries appeared in newspapers I didn't know about.

If the cemetery kept an interment document, you may find the name of the individual who purchased the plot, or the person who signed for the interment. In one case where the woman had married multiple times, I was able to prove I had the right individual because her son by her first marriage signed the interment record.

CONCLUSION

Don't stop with one website or list. If possible, visit the cemetery and walk around the area to see what else you may have missed that you had no idea was there. Visit the office and ask questions. You never know what you can learn when you explain who you are looking for and what the person in the office might know about that individual or plot. 🐾

Just about anything can appear on a tombstone--not just the dates of birth and death. Some immigrants had their place of birth inscribed on their tombstone and others may have included military service information. Any information on a stone should be compared to other sources, but never assume that the "stone won't tell me anything I don't already know."

~ Michael John Neill



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH,
HAMPTON, VIRGINIA

FINDING AND USING AMERICAN CHURCH RECORDS

By Carolyn H. Brown [From the Fall 2015 SKP Genies Newsletter]

Before the government mandated registration of vital records for birth, marriage or death, churches were the keepers of vital records in the form of births, christenings, marriages, deaths and burials, and other ecclesiastical records. The date these records were mandated varied greatly from state to state and record type to record type. It helps to know the date each state mandated each record type. However, some vital records were recorded in the Court Minute books, way before the state mandated that they be kept.

You must determine your ancestor's religious preference before church records can be used effectively. If an ancestor came from Scotland or Northern Ireland, he or she was probably a Presbyterian. The Germans and Scandinavians were usually Lutheran. The French and Spanish were of the Catholic faith. The English were generally members of the Church of England after Henry VIII. The Methodists were started in England in 1703 by Reverend John Wesley and spread throughout Britain and Ireland. The Quakers—Society of Friends—are a mid-17th century separation from the Church of England by George Fox and spread into Scotland.

Consequently, even in the United States and Canada, which have no state church, we often have a good clue to the church our ancestors attended. However, if your ancestor lived in a location which didn't have a church of the faith they practiced in the old country, they generally attended a similar church near where they lived.

Each religious group maintained a variety of records. Quakers kept excellent records, including entire family groups with complete birth, marriage, and death information. Congregational, Anglican, Dutch Reformed, Lutheran, Methodist, Baptist, and Catholic churches kept birth, christening or baptism, marriage, death, and burial records. The form and content of each record varied from group to group. Religions with American roots such as the United Brethren churches rarely recorded births, christenings, deaths, or burials. Some kept marriage records, but on the whole only membership rolls were compiled. However, using membership and Sunday school class rolls may help you determine a date range for birth. The change in a woman's name may indicate marriage and absence from the rolls may indicate death or a move. Unlike most other religions with American roots, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints is very well known for the vast amount of family information they recorded.

Church records are excellent substitutes for vital records and, like vital records, they should be consulted whenever possible. Americans experienced a number of evangelistic periods resulting in mass conversions from the religion a family embraced for generations to one or more of the religions born in the United States. For example, a German pioneer family attending a Baptist church in Kentucky probably belonged to the Evangelical Lutheran or Dutch Reformed church in Pennsylvania or New York.

FINDING CHURCH RECORDS

Start online by checking the FamilySearch Catalog <www.familysearch.org/catalog-search>. Begin with the country, then state or province, the county and, if known, the city, town, or village where you think your ancestor lived.

You will find most church records filed in their church offices. If a church no longer exists, write the denominational headquarters. Those addresses can be found online by doing a Google search for the denomination. In addition, you may find church record abstracts and indexes at public libraries, historical and genealogical societies. Search their catalogs for "church records."

Several Protestant denominations in America are the result of splits or mergers and sometimes older church records are not kept at the church. Both situations may require extra digging. I have found church records in the state archives, in the denomination's archives for that state, and in the church secretary's home garage. For information concerning church histories see *Bouse Genies Newsletter* Vol. 7, No 2, Apr-May-June, page 8 "Church Histories."

FOREIGN LANGUAGE RECORDS

Churches in ethnic neighborhoods/communities may have conducted rituals and kept their documents in other than English. Don't be discouraged if you come across records in a language you can't read. Word lists are available in the FamilySearch Wiki <http://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Main_Page>. These have foreign words which are the equivalent of born, christened or baptized, married, and months of the year as well as a sampling of the handwriting you are likely to encounter. With that little bit of information, you may be able to find your family of interest in the church records of another country. You may need to ask someone to translate the document in its entirety.

In a typical christening record you may not necessarily find the date of birth. In most religions, christenings took place within a few days of birth, but not always. Because you don't know the exact date of birth, record the christening date as such and estimate the birth year.

Be sure to check a name list in that language and Latin together with the English equivalent. Many individuals anglicized versions of their given and surnames and Catholic clergy may have recorded given names in Latin.

CONCLUSION

Church records may provide information you have been unable to locate anywhere else. This was true for me when trying to obtain a copy of the death certificate of my great-grandmother. I knew that my great-grandfather had died before her, but I didn't know if or who she had remarried. Her membership entry in the church directory showed her new last name, leading me to her death certificate and her grave site. 🙏



FRAUENKIRCHE,
GUNZBURGM BAVARIA, GERMANY

FINDING AND USING EUROPEAN CHURCH RECORDS

By **Barbara A. H. Nuehring** [From the Fall 2015 SKP Genies Newsletter]

The process you used in researching your ancestors in American church records will be the same for finding and using European church records. However, cultures had different ways of maintaining their records which will necessitate investigating the individual country's methods.

The recording of religious events by the churches in western Europe started in the 1500s shortly after the reformation as a means for the clergy to track their members' adherence to church doctrine and participation in services. Few of the early records still exist because a vast majority were destroyed during the Thirty Years' War (1618 to 1648). English records fared better. In 1588, the Church of England clergy were ordered to keep records of all baptisms, marriages and burials that occurred within their parish—including nonconformists.

Baptisms, marriages and burials were recorded in large ledger books. Other types of records may include births, deaths, first communions, confirmations, marriage banns, and arrivals/departures from the parish. In Germany many churches created family books (*Familienbücher*) that look very much like a collection of family group sheets. Early records were usually written in narrative format and may include a lot of information beyond dates and names of the participants. Later records were in columnar format with just basic data but are easier to decipher. Naturally, records are in the local language or Latin. Thus, the FamilySearch Wiki word lists Carol mentions in the preceding article are important tools to have on hand.

In countries with a "state religion", civil registration and church records were synonymous. In addition to recording each individual's religious events, the clergy were obligated to maintain detailed records about the lives of everyone within their parish, as well as collecting taxes which resulted in a type of census.

FINDING CHURCH RECORDS

You must know the name of the town/village/parish where your family lived and knowing their religion is helpful. Check gazetteers to determine where the various churches were located. (One of my lines had to cross a river to another town in order to attend a Catholic church.) Find out if the FHL has films or digital

images of the church records, and then check the websites of the denomination's archives in your ancestors' countries to see what may be available either online or through a written request. If the church still exists, you may want to send a request and include a donation. If all else fails, say a prayer. But remember, God helps those who help themselves. 🐾

ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS HAVE NUMEROUS RECORDS

By **Barbara A. H. Nuehring** [From the Fall 2015 SKP Genies Newsletter]

Valuable family history information can be found in academic records of public and private schools, colleges, universities, and military academies. What is nice about school records is they provide us with insight into our ancestors young lives which is rarely found anywhere else. Plus, they give us proof of residence at a specific time and are fairly reliable substitutes for birth records.

Schools and universities in colonial times were private, mostly religious based. Free public education didn't become common until the mid-1800s. While state statutes varied in regards to mandatory school attendance, it wasn't until 1918 that compulsory schooling was nationwide. To gain an appreciation of the educational opportunities our American ancestors had, and to help you determine what records may be available, see the comprehensive article at <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_education_in_the_United_States>.



In 1919 there were 200,000 one-room schools in the USA

RECORDS OF GENEALOGICAL INTEREST

To find most academic records start by contacting the school, school district, college/university or academy. If it no longer exists or does not have the records, check the collections of the Family History Library, then the State Archives, Library or Historical Society. Also, do an online search because academic institutions have an internet presence, and genealogists are transcribing records/lists and creating searchable databases.

Report cards are usually hard to find because they were probably destroyed or lost over the years. On the other hand, college and university transcripts are considered a permanent file.

School teachers or district administrators took a census each academic year. In the early years, teachers were paid by the number of students they taught. In more recent times, the census was used to determine the allocation of government funds. School census records vary in content and format, but will have such data as the child's name, gender, age, race/nationality, parents' names, and residence.

Grade and high school files include class registers or attendance sheets that list each child, a parent's name and the reasons for each absence. The latter may give you clues about the child's family life or relocations.

Your ancestor's college and/or university may have preserved student files that could contain admission applications and financial aid/grant paperwork which will have detailed family information.

Commencement records verify when your ancestor graduated and indicate if they graduated with honors, and may include the school or campus organizations they were involved in.

Alumni directories feature biographies, women's married names and work histories of former students. Many also include spouse and children's names and current residence. Newspaper accounts of class reunions may include a picture or information about your ancestor. Both will give you the names of alumni—your ancestor's contemporaries—which will be a source for FAN (Friends, Associates and Neighbor) cluster research.

Yearbooks are wonderful sources that show us what life was like for children through the decades. The information you will find in them and how to find school yearbooks of the past was the subject of an article on page 5 of the *Bouse Genies Newsletter* Vol. 5, No. 1, Oct-Nov-Dec 2010 edition. 🐾

In tribute to the late Maryalice GORDON, we share with you an article of hers that fits this edition's theme of researching institutional records.

QUAKER RECORDS *THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS*

By Maryalice Gordon

Regardless of where you go you will find consistency in the nature of the Friends' records. They do not vary extensively either with the passage of time or from one locality to another. The records are based on a "Meeting" system. The local congregation meets weekly and is called a *Weekly Meeting*. Each Weekly Meeting group has a *Preparative Meeting* wherein the business of the congregation belongs. A *Monthly Meeting* comprises several Weekly Meetings and is the meeting wherein most of the business of the church is transacted and recorded. There are both men's and women's Monthly Meetings. It is the Monthly Meeting records that are generally considered to be of the most genealogical value, though other records do have some value.

In researching any church records several steps may be taken:

- 1) Are the records still in the custody of the church in question?
- 2) An ad in the local newspaper may lead to the location of older records, particularly those in private hands.
- 3) Ask questions of ministers, deacons, church secretary, janitor, long time members.
- 4) Many genealogical and historical periodicals publish records of some churches, but may not be too accessible if not indexed. Make use of periodical indexes such as the *Periodical Subject Index (PERSI)* in the Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, Indiana.
- 5) Local area libraries and historical societies may have collections of church records. Be sure to investigate.

Recommended reading: *Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy*. by William Wade Hinshaw, 7 vols (in 8).

Some organizations and research centers specializing in Quakers:

Rhode Island Historical Society, 121 Hope Street, Providence, RI 02906 (Most of the Friends records are available on microfilm in the Rhode Island Historical Society Library.)

Additional listings in *The Genealogist's Address Book* are:

Long Beach, CA; Whittier, CA; Oskaloosa, IA; Bloomington, IN; Richmond, IN; Wichita, KS; Baltimore, MD; New York, NY; Greensboro, NC; Barnesville, OH; Canton, OH; Columbus, OH; Wilmington, OH; Norman, OK; Hillsboro, OR; Newberg, OR; Haverford, PA; Philadelphia, PA; Swarthmore, PA; Wallingford, PA; Chehalis, WA; Harmony, WV; New Market, Ontario; London, England; Dublin, Ireland; Birmingham, England.

The Genealogist's Address Book is available in most libraries. Further research information and techniques for researching Quaker background are available in *The Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy* by Val Greenwood.

SEARCHING FOR PRISON RECORDS

By Jeanette Fisher [From the Fall 2015 SKP Genies Newsletter]

For most of us, the mention of prison records probably sends a chill through our spines. Imagine what it would be like if you were in your teens and your mother offhandedly mentioned your biological father had been in prison. It happened to me and caused my young imagination to begin wondering whether he was a murderer, embezzler, rapist, or maybe a common thief. And there I was walking around with his genes in my body!



Since that time, I've learned of the existence of a few other notorious family members—both of whom truly may have committed murder. What does that say about my genes? It tells me we're born with free will and the ability to make choices but, most importantly, I'm not them. It certainly made me curious to learn more about prison records, though.

Why in the world should you consider searching prison records? Breaking down brick walls and adding meat to the bones of our ancestors are two good reasons.

Surprisingly, prison records can and do contain large amounts of information useful to genealogists. The following excerpt from the Ancestry Wiki <www.ancestry.com/wiki/index.php?title=Prisons_and_Penitentiary_Records> contains a wealth of information in one paragraph, as well as a brief history of the beginnings of US prisons and on searching penal records:

"Unfortunately, there is no complete inventory of the records maintained by each of the early correctional institutions in the United States. The types of records compiled by early Pennsylvania correctional institutions are representative of those found in other states for the same time period and include admission and discharge books, biographical registers, hospital record books, descriptive registers, convict dockets, reception descriptive books, registers of prisoners, death warrants, clemency files, pardon books, and lists of executions. Admission and Discharge Books contain the name of the inmate, date of admission, race, sex, health, habits (temperance), marital status, immunizations, family diseases, number of convictions, length of sentence, time in county jail, birthplace, occupation, physical and mental health at release, time in prison, and pardon information."

Gaining new research leads is another good reason to research prison records. In one record I was able to learn the incarcerated person was separated from his wife, his father's address, the reason he was in prison and length of sentence, as well as information about his service in the US Army during World War II. And the best reason for me—the prison mug shot. All of this information helped me break down a brick wall and added meat to the bones of my famous—or infamous—ancestor.

DETERMINING WHERE RECORDS ARE LOCATED

Prison records can be somewhat complicated to search. First, you have to determine what jurisdiction you will be dealing with. In the United States, these include federal penitentiaries; state correctional institutions and local facilities (city or county jails). If your ancestor was in the military, there are also military prisons to consider. You can find a description of each type of institution by checking this book:

American Correctional Association. *Directory, Juvenile And Adult Correctional Institutions And Agencies of the United States of America And Canada*. College Park, MD: American Correctional Association, 1975.

Similar to census records, which are available only after 72 years have passed, privacy laws will affect the dates you can access prison records.

◆ Federal Penitentiaries:

The Federal Bureau of Prisons oversees federal penitentiaries. Currently, federal penitentiaries are located in the following states:

- Atlanta, Georgia, established in 1902
- Florence, Colorado, established in 1994
- Leavenworth, Kansas, established in 1906
- Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, established in 1932

Lompoc, California, established in 1959
Marion, Illinois, established in 1963
Terre Haute, Indiana, established in 1940

A detailed list of Federal correctional facilities with links to information about each facility can be found on the Bureau of Prisons website at <www.bop.gov/locations/list.jsp>. Included in this list are federal prison camps, federal detention centers, federal transfer centers and US penitentiaries; or try Googling “federal correctional facilities” and the state you would like to search.

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) website <www.archives.gov/research/guide-fed-records/groups/129.html> contains historical information about prisons, photos of prisoner activities and case files of notorious offenders, in addition to other reports and memorabilia relating to federal prisons from 1870 to 1970.

◆ State Correctional Facilities:

Anytime you are considering searching prison records, it's helpful to have the name of the facility in which your ancestor may have been housed. Also consider the fact that many state historical societies and/or state archives and genealogical society libraries may have microform or digital copies of penal records or, at the very least, indexes to these records. These records can include biographical information about inmates, as well as information about their crimes, sentences and paroles or pardons, along with mug shots of most inmates. For example, the Colorado State Archives has *An index of prisoners housed at the Colorado State Penitentiary from 1871 to 1973*.

Some states such as Pennsylvania, Arkansas and Missouri have made prison records or indexes available online.

◆ Local Correctional Facilities:

As with state facilities, many local correctional facilities have made records available online. For example, you can find penitentiary records from 1936-1938 in Jefferson County, Arkansas, at <www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~arjeffer/> and scrolling down to Arkansas Penitentiary Records. On the Oregon Secretary of State website <<http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/pages/records/provisionalguide/ClackamasCounty.html>> we learn:

“The first Clackamas County Courthouse was built in 1850 at Oregon City and burned down a few days after completion. An iron box served as both the county jail and as the territorial jail until the penitentiary was completed in 1857.”

If that particular prison interests you, then you may want to find out from World Cat <www.worldcat.org> which libraries have:

Bumgarner, Herb. *Jail Register Index, Clackamas County, Oregon: From 1892 to 1925 Except for Years 1903 Thru 1906*. Oregon City, OR: Clackamas County Family History Society, 1991.

◆ Military Prisons:

A list of US military prisons and Navy brigs both in the United States and overseas can be found at <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_U.S._military_prisons>. If you suspect or know your ancestor was incarcerated in a military prison, you can begin your search by checking the NARA Records of the Adjutant General's Office, 1780's–1917 (Record Group 94) at <www.archives.gov/research/guide-fed-records/groups/094.html>. Scroll down to 94.10.2, Records of the Military Prison Record Division.

The National Archives has microfilmed several sets of records on Civil War prisons that include lists of prisoners. Many of the records indicate the company, regiment, and date of death. Listings include rank, company, state, date and place of capture, date and cause of death, and place of burial. More information can be found at the above-mentioned NARA website. Scroll down to 94.13, Records of the War Records Office (WRO) of the War Department, 1853-1903. Also check the Records of the Commissary General of Prisoners (Record Group 249) at <www.archives.gov/research/guide-fed-records/groups/249.html> for POW records. Scroll down to 249.2.2 Records relating to individual prisoners of war.

This book, which can be found on Amazon and some libraries, will also provide interesting information.

Speer, Lonnie R. *Portals to Hell: Military Prisons of the Civil War*. Mechanicsburg, PA: Stackpole Books, 1997.

You may want to check this book review before purchasing by typing <www.historynet.com/book-review-portals-to-hell-military-prisons-of-the-civil-war-by-lonnie-r-speer-cwt.htm> into your computer's browser.

JUST FOR FUN

You can find other sources of information and things to read just for their entertainment value by checking the following websites:

<http://genealogy.about.com/od/records/tp/Historical-Prison-Records-Online.htm>

<http://www.cyndislist.com/prisons/us/?page=2>

https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Main_Page (after signing in, type in the search box U.S. Prison and Jail records or other prison-related keywords).

Also read about the Bertillon Records, in use from the late 1800s to the 1930s, which used various body measurements and a photograph of the prisoner to aid in positive identification before fingerprinting became the preferred method of identification.

As a source of prison record information or just for fun, check out:

International Blacksheep Society of Genealogists <<http://ibssg.org/blacksheep/>>

Blacksheep Ancestors <www.blacksheepancestors.com/>

If you are ever near Cañon City, Colorado, stop and “do some time” in the Museum of Colorado Prisons <www.prisonmuseum.org/>.

There are many, many resources for prison records. Be imaginative in your keyword use on various websites, or just start with one site and it will surely lead you to ideas for other sites and places to search. After all, you may find out—like I did—that your ancestor was only in prison for non-payment of child support—nothing close to a really heinous crime. 🐑

FINDING RECORDS OF OUR POOR ANCESTORS

By Carolyn H. Brown [From the Fall 2015 SKP Genies Newsletter]

Many of us have a poor relative or two. We may know of entire families which are poor or physically disabled and never worked a day in their lives. Today they may not end up in the poorhouse as they would have years ago, however, it doesn't make them any easier to locate in the records we usually think of when we are doing our research.

The poor are people who generally didn't own land, lived with other relatives, rented a home or apartment, or maybe even lived on the street, leaving behind only a couple of vital records. On the other hand, they may have owned land, been productive in society, and just fell on hard times to the point of almost disappearing from records.

HOW DO WE FIND THESE INDIVIDUALS?

Years ago the government had facilities where they cared for people who couldn't take care of themselves, such as an almshouse, county home, insane asylum, orphanage, poor farm, workhouse, and soldiers' and sailors' home.

In the past, local officials sometimes handed out food or fuel, hired local residents to shelter the homeless, or paid for indigent burials. Some places even ran the poor out of town or forcibly indentured their children. This method was very prevalent in Europe.

Fortunately, all of the places which were run or sanctioned by the government kept records. If the care for the poor was handled by the church, they also kept records of payments to the poor or to parishioners who helped care for them.



By today's standards, most people in the past were poor. The poorest lived their entire lives in slavery or as indentured servants. The working-class families worked just to eat, stay warm, raise their children who survived past infancy, and to be buried respectfully. Many were able to work their way out of poverty to a point where they could own a home, get an education and earn a comfortable living. Others remained in severe poverty for generations.

If you find your family fell on hard times, then it's time to look at the "poor records" which may have existed at the time.

OVERSEER OF THE POOR RECORDS

From Colonial times to the early decades of the United States, officials were directly responsible for the poor. Some of that responsibility may have fallen on the state-supported churches in the area. Trustees, Overseers, or Superintendents of the poor were eventually elected or appointed by county, city, township, or town governments. A few common strategies—none of which were very kind—were used by the keepers of the poor.

- ◆ **Auctioning** –The care for the poor might have been sold to the lowest bidder. The care of the aged, vulnerable, sick, and disabled was put into the hands of the town's stingiest scrooge.
- ◆ **Binding out** –The children of families deemed too poor to care for them might be forced into indentured labor until they were of majority age. The contracts provide the name of the child being indentured, the person who claimed their care and perhaps more.
- ◆ **Contracting out** – A person who was unable to care for himself might have been placed in the care of relatives, friends or strangers for an agreed-upon sum. These records provide who accepted aid to care for their own and may be mentioned by name and relationship.
- ◆ **Warning off** – Anyone who had lived in a place for less than a year and had not established residency (or a "settlement") might be told to leave. They were escorted by the superintendents back to their prior residence or to the state line. In Europe, it was not uncommon to find the situation where two poor people from different towns married. When they tried to live in the hometown of one, the other would be warned-off. These records provide the name of the individual, and sometimes where they were taken.

In some times and places the overseers provided some relief such as distributing food, fuel, medicine, and funds, especially to the widowed, elderly and disabled. They might have been buried in paupers graves, as charity plots were called. These graves didn't have tombstones. There may be a list of those buried in the common grave area of a cemetery or church yard. Many poor records list the name of head of household and sometimes they were noted "with children".

Use the minutes and accounts book of the overseer of the poor to determine if your relative received aid. These lists may contain information about the indigent individuals, as well as lists of residents who were delinquent in paying poor taxes.

The records of the overseers, most commonly for the 1700s and 1800s, may still be in town halls or county courthouses in a stand-alone collection, or along with county commissioners' records. They may also be in the county or state archives or the local or state historical society. Some of these records have been microfilmed and can be found at the Family History Library or online at <www.FamilySearch.org>. Search by county or city/town. However, they are not likely to be indexed, so expect to read through them.

To find potter's fields search online or ask at the local historical or genealogical society, or the local library where the records might be.

POORHOUSE RECORDS

Social reformers in the early 1800s began to look for more humane ways to care for the poor—and governments looked for cheaper ones. Thus enters the age of the poorhouse.

In big-cities, homeless shelters—known as almshouses—were established. Later, all states and some counties built poorhouses or poor farms. These facilities provided the ability to keep all of the poor in one place and required them to work for their own care when possible.

Originally, the able-bodied were housed together with the aged, mentally and physically infirm, families with children, and sometimes low-level criminals. They may have had to swear a pauper's oath before the county commissioner—stating they were without money or property—to be admitted to a poorhouse. Residents, often called “inmates”, couldn't leave without permission.

Eventually, It became clear that children, criminals, and the elderly should not be housed together. States started building soldiers' and sailors' homes, children's homes, hospitals and asylums. They built separate “workhouses” for criminals. Many of these facilities endured until the early to mid-1900s.

Records kept by these facilities are among the best resources for the poor. They kept a range of records such as: inmate registers; certificates of indigence; visitors' logs; medical records; transfers; discharges; deaths; and burials. They had to submit annual reports which will help you understand how many people lived there at a time, how long they generally stayed, living conditions, work required and daily activities.

Don't forget to look for facilities which were privately operated as well. You can find the surviving admission registers and other records from orphanages, poorhouses and workhouses using an online tool such as ArchiveGrid at <<http://beta.worldcat.org/archivegrid>>.

ORPHAN RECORDS

When children of the past lost even one parent they were considered orphans. Fatherless children with inheritances and “prospects” were assigned male legal guardians by the orphans' and probate courts. These guardians did not necessarily care for the children, just for their futures. Many times the child may have had a guardian while the mother was still living. The guardianship may have changed more than once before the child came of age.

The poorer children left less of a paper trail than those better off. For them there was probably no probate process. Legal adoptions were rare, more an exception rather than the rule. Therefore, the child's name may not have been changed. An older brother or sister may have taken in one or more of the children when a parent died. Neighbors and family friends also took in the orphans of a friend. Legal adoptions were not common until the mid-to-late 1800s.

During the 1800s start looking for private orphanages run by churches and other organizations. Children's homes kept good records of their wards' personal data and family situations. Some orphanage records still survive and may be found with poorhouse records.

ORPHAN TRAINS

Between 1854 and 1929 approximately 200,000 homeless children—not all of them orphaned—were shipped by train to the Midwest and West by the Children's Aid Society of New York. When selecting the children to be sent on the Orphan Trains, the Society coordinated efforts among several institutions to identify the adoptable children. They were sent in chaperoned groups who were met by receiving committees in 45 states, Canada and Mexico. There was a vetting process for prospective parents, and children were paired with qualified caregivers. Many boys over 10 were apprenticed; most others were adopted. Some were cared for by more than one family before they came of age. There were cases of abuse, many of which required legal action taken by the court. Case files and related paperwork were maintained. On the receiving end, county courthouses recorded adoptions and apprenticeships.

RECONSTRUCTION-ERA RECORDS

After the Civil War, four million African-Americans were liberated from slavery. This created a displaced and largely undocumented workforce. Freed slaves generally didn't have surnames, weren't legally married, couldn't read or write, and had lost contact with close relatives. They needed support in the form of food, homes, unification with relatives, legal aid, medical aid, work, transportation, and job training.

Many Southern white families were also affected. When Confederate soldiers returned home, many were in poor health and found a very poor economy. Plantations lacked workers, and their goods had been destroyed.

The federal government answered the chaos by creating the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands—known as the Freeman's Bureau. They distributed food, medical care and clothing directly to the poor. The Bureau agents helped African-Americans document marriages and labor contracts. They processed military benefits claims and persecuted hate crimes. The Bureau records are rich in information on both

Southern whites and blacks. They established schools and redistributed seized Confederate lands—some back to the original owner who signed loyalty oaths. The original records have been microfilmed and are available at <www.familysearch.org>. Some of the Bureau's documents have been transcribed and can be accessed at <www.freedmensbureau.com>.

NEW DEAL RECORDS

Seventy years after the Civil War, the United States found itself in economic chaos during the Great Depression. One in four people across the nation was out of work. President Franklin D. Roosevelt led the creation of organizations to put people to work. The following organizations may have information on your relatives:

- ◆ **Civilian Conservation Corp** (CCC, 1922-1942) – Employed 2.5 million young men and veterans to work on conservation projects in six- to 24-month stints. Work, housing, food, medical care and social life were provided in camps. About 75% of their wages went to a parent or other designated beneficiary back home.
- ◆ **Works Projects Administration** (WPA, 1935-1943) – Previously called the *Works Process Administration*, the WPA provided nearly eight million jobs building roads and dams, inventorying historical records, conducting oral history interviews and more. The jobs often matched the skill set of the individual and were close to home.
- ◆ **National Youth Administration** (NYA, 1935-1943) – Provided part-time work to those aged 16 to 24 while going to school or receiving job training.

If you have family stories of a relative taking part in any of these New Deal programs, it is time to see what you can find. The government kept personnel records on its relief workers. You can order personnel files from the National Archives; National Personnel Records Center at <<http://archives.gov/st-louis>>. To learn more about the work assignments a relative may have been involved in visit the WPA Today <www.wpatoday.org> and CCC Legacy at <www.ccclegacy.org>.

The following records provide clues to the state of your ancestor's wealth—or lack there of.

US FEDERAL CENSUS RECORDS

Though the censuses didn't directly ask "Are you poor?" there are hints in the censuses. In 1850, they started asking about real estate owned. A column for personal property was added to the 1860-1870 censuses. In 1850 and 1880 censuses there were questions about occupation and employment respectively. Beginning in 1900 there were questions about owning or renting the dwelling where they lived. Later there were questions about rent/mortgage, number of weeks out of work, and other questions which may help you identify the poor. By studying the place where they lived, you may discover a relative residing in an institution.

When using these censuses, compare the property value of those around your person of interest to see how their wealth compares to others in the area.

SPECIAL CENSUSES

Various special censuses ask other questions concerning agriculture, industrial or manufacturing businesses which may hold financial clues. The 1880 schedules of Defective, Dependent and Delinquent (DDD) which lists, among other categories, individuals maimed, crippled, bedridden or otherwise disabled, may provide more information about the person you are researching. State censuses are available as well.

OTHER RECORDS

The poor may not have been poor all of their life and may have generated other records. They may have had family members who broke the chains of poverty, and therefore, they may appear in the records of other family members.

REAL ESTATE AND PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX RECORDS

At one time the poor may have paid taxes. Look for city, county and state tax records. They often itemize the taxable goods of residents. They may be available for your area of interest on microfilm at the Family History Library or online at <www.familysearch.org>. These are not easy records to research, however, you may find when a person died based on his estate being taxed or when the property shows up under the name of another individual. Tax lists for the United States start as far back as 1782.

PROPERTY RECORDS

Even if your ancestor didn't own land, they may appear in the records of family members who did. Deeds are important records to research to help find your family. Do the censuses or tax records indicate your relative many have owned land? If so, deeds may provide considerable information about the person of interest. Deeds can go so far as identifying two or three generations in a family. Unfortunately, deeds weren't always recorded if the land was transferred to a relative in a will, or when the widow or other relative remained on the land. If you find any sign of a sheriff's sale as part of a foreclosure, look for related court records.

MILITARY PENSION APPLICATIONS

Military pensions were given to veterans who served from 1775 to 1916. Following the Civil War many families lost everything. If the man fought in the war, he, his spouse, or other heirs may have filed for a pension. Even if they didn't receive a pension, there may be a record of the application. There is an extreme amount of genealogical-related information in military pension records. Some of these pension records are available on <www.fold3.com>.

PROBATE RECORDS

The poor generally didn't initiate a probate record. However, that is not always the case. When researching probate records, make sure you look at the entire estate inventory in the probate packet. Lists of creditors may be available in the probate records. All sorts of unexpected documents can show up in the packets, none of which should be overlooked. If the deceased's property doesn't show up in probate court, it may mean that the property was not worth probate. However, that assumption may be wrong. They may have been filed in an adjoining county, or assets may have been disposed of before death to avoid probate.

HISTORIES

Local and regional histories often describe the wealth and living conditions of workers. They may describe the amount of land, or identify the business a person may have owned. They may also provide the married name of a daughter you haven't been able to locate. There may be a short history of the family you are researching, providing as much as three or even four generations of a family.

CITY DIRECTORIES

Often we don't know where someone lived. Even if they weren't wealthy they may be found in a city directory and their place of employment may be identified. A woman may show up as widowed, when you didn't know her husband had died. Once you have an address for the individual, use the cross index by address to see who the individual was living with one year before the year of the directory publication date.

CONCLUSION

Poor people aren't the easiest people to locate, but they may have appeared in a record you never thought to research. 🐾



FEDERAL CIVIL SERVICE RECORDS



By Barbara A. H. Nuehring [From the Fall 2015 SKP Genies Newsletter]

The Federal Government is the largest and longest running institution in the USA, employing hundreds of thousands of civilians since 1792. Few records go back that far. However, the records of many former civil servants—known as Official Personnel Folders (OPFs)—from 1850 through 1951 are archived at the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) in Saint Louis, Missouri, and can be viewed by the public. To find out how to access an OPF, go to <www.archives.gov/st-louis/archival-programs/civilian-personnel-archival/>. The OPFs of those retired since 1952 are held at the NPRC, but are still the legal responsibility of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), and are subject to privacy laws. In some instances information about a retiree may be released; detailed instructions are at <www.archives.gov/st-louis/civilian-personnel/>. 🐾

In 1662, many Quakers in Scotland were chased back to England or deported to America. In some cases, non-Quaker family and friends moved with them. It may help to research the Quakers who arrived about the same time as your non-Quaker family. If you are looking for the ancestors of people arriving in America about this time, look to Scotland not England. 🐾

ORPHANAGES AND THEIR RECORDS

By **Barbara A. H. Nuehring** [From the Fall 2015 SKP Genies Newsletter]

I have a special interest in this subject. Three of my grandparents were raised in orphanages. My father's mother, two-year old Catherine Louisa BUSCHLE, and her five older siblings went to live in Saint Aloysius Orphan Asylum in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1872 because of the death of both parents. Both of mother's parents, Nickolas SCHOBBER and Marie GEIGER, were boarded at Angel Guardian Orphanage in Chicago, Illinois, in the early 1900s because of the death of one parent and the inability of the surviving parent to care for the younger children while earning a living.



SAINT ALOYSIUS ORPHAN ASYLUM,
CINCINNATI, OHIO, CIRCA 1870

Orphanages sprang up in large numbers around the nation in the latter half of the 1800s as a result of the frequent cholera, yellow fever and influenza epidemics that left many children parentless and the Civil War that took the lives of many fathers. It is estimated that by 1900 there were close to a 1,000 orphanages around the country caring for an estimated 100,000 children. However, a great majority of these children were actually “half orphans” who had lost one parent but still had one living parent.

There were county orphan asylums, Catholic, Protestant and Jewish orphanages, and non-sectarian children's homes run by private charities, which resulted in tremendous variations in how the orphanages functioned, the living conditions, the treatment, and the education or training provided. Boys were taught plumbing, masonry, bricklaying, and sign painting. Girls were taught sewing and “domestic engineering”. Older children may have been bound out to learn a trade, or indentured as domestic workers or farm hands, earning a small wage. In more recent years children attended elementary and high school classes which followed public school criteria.

Since the end of the Second World War, the need for large orphanages has significantly decreased primarily due to improved health care and longevity, social programs such as Aid for Dependant Children, and the promotion of adoption and foster care in lieu of institutionalization.

RESEARCHING ORPHANAGE RECORDS

The content and format of institutional files will vary, but most will have the child's name, age or date of birth, birthplace, date of admission, names of parents, and date of discharge. Additional information may include parents' dates and locations of birth and death, medical treatment provided, fees paid or received, name and residence of nearest kin, whether the child was orphaned, abandoned or boarded and any remarks. Religious-based orphanages will probably include christening date and participation in other denominational rituals.

Orphanages maintained by state and local governments were funded agencies, so there will be a myriad of paperwork that was created at the time. If the orphanage is still in operation—though few are—records are available at the institution. Records of a state-operated facility may be at the State Archives or the state's Department of Social Services. Records of closed, local government-operated orphanages may be deposited with the town, city or county clerk. Also check the holdings of the local historical society or research library.

If the orphanage is/was operated by a religious group, the records may be at its headquarters' archives. In the case of Catholic orphanages, contact the dioceses archives. Some have websites.

The early records of non-government-operated orphanages that are no longer in existence may be difficult to find. Check the National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections (NUCMC) under the name of the institution or the community where the orphanage was located.

Check federal and state census schedules which will list the staff and children. The latter are often referred to as “inmates” or “pupils” and may be listed in alphabetical order or by age or by dormitory/cottage of residence depending on how the institution maintained their records.

Using your favorite browser, see if the orphanage or state orphan society has a website and instructions for obtaining your ancestor's records. Check USGenWeb state and county sites for the history of an orphanage; Rootsweb message boards for possible listings of past residents and research tips; and social media sites (e.g., Facebook) for orphanage alumnus postings which will give you insight into living conditions. 🐾

HOSPITAL RECORDS COME IN TWO FLAVORS

By Barbara A. H. Nuehring

[From the Fall 2015 SKP Genies Newsletter]

Like other institutions providing a service, the records created and maintained by a medical facility are for two distinct purposes—to maintain information about internal operations and keep data on the services provided to the clients. Thus, hospital records that are of particular interest to genealogists are employee records and patient medical records. (I should know. I was born at Ball Memorial Hospital in Muncie, Indiana, where my mother was Surgery Supervisor until shortly before my birth.)



BALL MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, MUNCIE, INDIANA
LATE 1940S

EMPLOYEE RECORDS

If you are interested in your ancestor who worked in a medical facility, then locating and accessing their employment records will be the same as if you were searching the files of a large business. See the article “Business and Corporation Records for Genealogists” on page 4. Some hospitals are also teaching hospitals, so you may find educational records within the Hospital’s Human Resources files. See the article “Academic Institutions have Numerous Records” on page 12.

One advantage you will have is that doctors, nurses and other medical personnel have been subject to licensing procedures for more than a century. This provides you with another source of information about your ancestor. Check the websites of state archives or historical societies and of national professional associations for databases or files for license applications and of licenses issued in the past.

If your ancestor was a doctor, then you will be interested in the medical directory of the American Medical Association (AMA) which has been published every couple of years since 1906. The listings were extracted from 4x6-inch cards containing a variety of information—such as, the doctor’s full name, place and year of birth, premedical education, medical school and year of graduation, all licenses, internships, special training, and places of practice. The AMA maintained these biographical cards until 1969 when they computerized the data on physicians living at that time. The cards for deceased physicians were archived in the National Library of Medicine in Bethesda, Maryland.

The Family History Library has filmed the archived cards. From your computer at home you can download or print your ancestor’s card from the digital file online at <<https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/2061540>>. Other sources are:

American Medical Association. *Deceased Physicians Masterfile*. 1906. (These are the original cards in a manuscript collection in the History of Medicine Division of the National Library of Medicine.)

Hafner, Arthur Wayne, Fred W. Hunter, and E. Michael Tarpey. *Directory of Deceased American Physicians, 1804-1929: A Genealogical Guide to Over 149,000 Medical Practitioners Providing Brief Biographical Sketches Drawn from the American Medical Association's Deceased Physician Masterfile*. Chicago: American Medical Association, 1993.

PATIENT MEDICAL RECORDS

Due to privacy restrictions, patient records can be difficult to access, particularly if they are less than 75 years old. Naturally, this will vary by location and whether it was a private or governmental institution. However, that doesn’t mean we shouldn’t try, for there can be a lot of personal and family information in the records.

Content of the medical records also varies. You may find some or all of the following information:

Name of the patient	Estimated date and place of birth
Age of the patient	Religious preference
Sex of the patient	Home residence/address
Date of admission	Marital status of the patient
Reason for admittance	Names of family members
Date of discharge or death	Name and location of cemetery where buried

Our first challenge is to ascertain what medical institutions were used by our ancestors. A death certificate stating the hospital's name as the place of death is the most likely document you will find that leads you to look for patient medical records. But there are other resources to explore for documents or clues:

Newspaper obituaries may include a prolonged medical condition which will lead you to the name of the medical facility where your ancestor was treated before death.

If an obituary states a "donation to a particular medical charity in lieu of flowers", then your ancestor may have been treated at the closest hospital specializing in that medical condition.

A birth announcement may give a hospital's name as the location of birth, which means that is where the mother of the individual was hospitalized.

If several collateral line ancestors were treated at a particular medical institution, this may give you a clue as to where your direct-line ancestor may have been hospitalized.

Once you get a lead on the medical facility used by your ancestors, you can find out about it and get historical images of it by using your favorite search engine (as I did for the Ball Memorial Hospital postcard picture). From the results of your search you can determine if the hospital is still in existence, learn about the history of the hospital and obtain present-day contact information. Then it is a matter of getting in touch with the facility's admissions office to find out if and how you can get your ancestor's medical file or information.

Usually, the older the file, the more likely you will be able to get a copy of it. On the other hand, it is more likely the file no longer exists, because they are not considered "permanent" files and after a specific period of time they are destroyed.

A few hospital records from previous centuries have been released and are available to the public in film, digital or print versions. There are several institutions you can search:

Check the FamilySearch catalog <<https://familysearch.org/catalog-search>>, entering the location in the PLACE NAME field then looking under the subject of MEDICAL RECORDS; or search by putting "Medical" in the TITLES field and filtering the search by using the PLACE NAME. You may find admission forms and patient records have been filmed or that genealogy societies and private individuals have published transcriptions or indexes of hospital admissions and they are on the stacks at the Family History Library.

Using the Periodical Source Index (PERSI) <<http://search.findmypast.com/search/periodical-source-index>> (a fee-subscription site) you may find genealogy societies have published lists of hospital patients in their journal or newsletter. You can then request a copy of the periodical article from the publishing society or order a copy from Allen County Public Library's Genealogy Center at <<http://www.genealogycenter.org>>.

Check the archives or historical society of the state and/or city where your ancestors lived. They may have older hospital records in their holdings or manuscript collections. For instance, the Minnesota Historical Society <www.mnhs.org/genealogy/family/genieguide/health.php> has innumerable patient admission forms and employee records from various medical facilities around the state.

When you have located either an employment record or a patient's record, carefully evaluate each bit of data given—there may be more in it than you had imagined. Save a copy of the image or transcribe the data. These pieces of information may give you new biographical details about your ancestor and clues where you may find more documents about the individual. 🍷

Appreciating two words—content and context—can have an enormous impact on our genealogical research. Having the most amount of information possible about an ancestor and corresponding ancestral family—content—will prevent us from stumbling into many brick walls; and trying to research our family lines in the most robust contexts possible will drive us to continually exploring for new content. And of course, an ongoing commitment to lifelong learning in the genealogy space will help us increasingly appreciate content and context. ~ Curt B. Witcher

AN ANCESTOR IN AN INSANE ASYLUM—NOT MINE!

By Barbara A. H. Nuehring [From the Fall 2015 SKP Genies Newsletter]

In the course of researching your family history there is a good chance you will eventually discover a relative was committed to an insane asylum. Now, before you go and say “not in my family” lets take a look at some of the reasons people were “committed”.

Not everyone entrusted to an asylum was mentally ill. In previous eras an individual could be institutionalized for a variety of ailments—many of which are treated today by diet, drugs or just plain understanding. An individual suffering from alcoholism, dementia, bipolar affective disorder, depression or epilepsy may have been committed. A woman suffering from postpartum syndrome, going through menopause, exhibiting “inappropriate” behavior, or simply not obeying her husband or father may be committed. Before the advent of retirement, rest or nursing homes, an asylum was also a place an elderly person could live if the family couldn’t care for him or her. Thus, a person may have been committed even though he or she was really not “insane”.

Through the decades the changes in philosophy and medical practices were reflected in the changing names of mental health facilities. Therefore, you may find an asylum referred to as a Lunatic Hospital, Lunatic Asylum, Asylum for the Insane, State Hospital, Mental Health Center, or Psychiatric Hospital. In recent years there has been a shift to outpatient treatment and many of these types of institutions have closed.

IDENTIFYING AN ASYLUM AND FINDING RECORDS

Your first clue that your ancestor was in an asylum will probably be in a census record. On a population schedule the address may be the name of the institution and the individual’s relationship-to-the-head may be “inmate” or “patient”. Mortality schedules for 1850 to 1880 may contain clues that the person died of insanity. The best clue of all—if the timing is right—is the 1880 census special schedule Defective, Dependent and Delinquent (DDD) which lists, among other categories, insane inhabitants and idiots.

You may find court documents committing the person considered to be insane, along with a testimony from a family member, an inquest into their condition and the name of the institution where they would be sent. The paperwork will include the name of the spouse, parent or guardian, the name of an attending physician and details of the person’s condition. Other court documents to check are probate records assigning a custodian of the insane person’s affairs or guardianship records.

A death certificate will give you a lot of primary and secondary source information. It will show cause of death, which may be a type of insanity; the location of death, which may be the name and address of the institution; and the cemetery where the person is buried. Additionally, the attending physician may be on the asylum’s staff. (On the death certificate of Uncle Albert SCHOBER, it also gave me the address where he lived prior to being committed, how long he had been at the Elgin Insane Asylum, and the informant's name and address.)

Every state has different procedures and laws governing the access to mental health records. If the institution is still in operation contact them directly to find out what records they have kept and what they can give you. If the institution no longer exists, other sources of information for old medical files are manuscript collections at the State Archives or Historical Society. Check their websites for their holdings. Also, do a keyword search on the FamilySearch catalog for “insane asylum” and browse local contemporary newspapers, which may have stories of the facility and even listings of those people “committed”.

Visit the Asylum Project <www.asylumprojects.org> which has informative articles and historical photographs of many asylums in the USA and some foreign countries. I get a kick out of their mission statement that in part says “...this site was created to help in the historical research of any institutions that can be classified as an asylum. It was created for both serious researchers, those who are doing genealogical research, and people with an interest in asylums.”—as if we were not serious!

Privacy laws and the fact that many institutions destroyed old records makes researching insane asylum records challenging. But it is worth the effort to learn about those ancestors who lived in a different world. 🐼



ELGIN INSANE ASYLUM, CIRCA 1915
ELGIN, KANE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

BOUSE GENIES NEWS

By Carolyn H. Brown

Welcome back winter residents and visitors. The Bouse Genealogical Society will resume our regular meeting schedule on October 9, 2015 in the Bouse Booster building. The old Community Building is still closed and probably will not be open this coming season. All group meetings are open to the public.

GENEALOGY WORKSHOP 2016

Our 2016 workshop will be held in the Bouse Booster building on February 26, 2016 from 8:00 AM until 3:00 PM. We will utilize our own Bouse Genies speakers to present five classes for this event. The Bouse Booster's will provide a salad lunch. By having the event here in Bouse we can keep the admission fee for the workshop to a minimum for members and guests. If you have been working on a research method you would like to share with the group, let me know. If you need help, I will be glad to work with you to get your ideas into PowerPoint presentation.

GENEALOGY STUDY GROUP

The GSG will have their first meeting of the season on October 19 in the Library. We meet every third Monday of the month from 10am – 12 noon in the Bouse Public library. The article for October has been sent to everyone who signed up for the group. If you wish to attend and have not received a copy of the article, please contact us at: <BouseGenies@gmail.com> and we will e-mail you a copy.

LEGACY USERS GROUP

The Legacy Users Group meets following the first meeting of the month. At the end of last season we discussed the fact that many members aren't taking advantage of the Legacy Source Writer and Source Clipboard. It was suggested that we each work on using the Source Writer, and if you feel ready, to start practicing with the Source Clipboard.

At the request of those present it was agreed that we would start this season with the review of the Source Writer with hands on. Help will be available. We will continue with the Source Clipboard in November. All Legacy User Group members and guests are requested to bring two different types of documents concerning your ancestor, such as a vital record or other document to input. We will continue with the Source Clipboard at the first November meeting. We request that you bring a document or book concerning at least five members of your family. We will use the Source Clipboard for this data entry. 🐾

From the Editor's Desk

By Carolyn H. Brown

The themes have been planned for the next few editions of the *Bouse Genies Newsletter* and we are now turning to you, our faithful readers, to give us some ideas for future themes. We want to make sure the newsletter remains a "force to be reckoned with" when it comes to providing pertinent and useful information for nomadic genealogists. So please tell us what subject matters you would like to see explored in future editions of the *Bouse Genies Newsletters*. Just email your ideas or thoughts to <GenieCarol@gmail.com>. As usual, we would very much like to have articles from you for the next couple of editions. The themes are:



WINTER 2015 EDITION: *Doing On-site Research.* We are seeking articles about the holdings in various repositories; researching in courthouses and at cemeteries; creating a research plan; and packing a genealogy to-go bag. Please send your articles to Carol by the deadline of 1 December 2015.

SPRING 2016 EDITION: *DNA and Genealogy.* We would like articles on Y-DNA, mt-DNA, and at-DNA, explaining what they are, and how they can advance your genealogy research; the latest advancements in DNA testing; how to contact cousins you never knew you had; and testing with more than one company. Please send your articles to Carol by the deadline of 1 March 2016. 🐾

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Send general correspondence, membership renewals and address/email changes to:

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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Many genealogy societies are hosting full-day seminars or multi-day conferences in the Fall. Discover the topics and speakers that are being featured at the following educational opportunities by clicking on the info link. Then steer your RV in that direction.

Houston Genealogical Forum

3 October in Houston, Texas

Info: <http://hgftx.org/>

Iowa Genealogy Society Annual Fall Conference

9–10 October in Pleasant Hill, Iowa

Info: http://iowagenealogy.org/?page_id=6307

4th Annual Family History Conference

Sponsored by the Mesa AZ FamilySearch Library
 24 October on the ASU Campus in Tempe, Arizona
 Info:

<http://mesarfhc.org/MyExpo/Conference2015/default.html>

Wilson-Cobb History & Genealogy Library Workshop

24 October in Roswell, New Mexico

Info: www.wilsoncobb.org/workshop.html

Texas State Genealogical Society Annual Conference

30 October–1 November in Austin, Texas

Info: www.txsgs.org/conference/

Tennessee Valley Genealogical Society Fall Seminar

7 November in Huntsville, Alabama

Info: www.tvgs.org

Genealogy Christmas Tour

6–12 December in Salt Lake City, Utah

Info:

<https://sites.google.com/site/saltlakechristmastour>

AROUND TOWN

The Family Dollar held their Grand Opening on Saturday, September 12, 2015. They accept AARP discount, and will price match ads from the current Parker Pioneer.

Rose Acres Farms has started construction.

B&S Hardware and the pyrotechnic firm have also shown signs of work. We are hoping they will be ready for workers shortly.

BOUSE GENIES NEWSLETTERS 2007–2013

All 7 volumes on one CD and Indexed ~ Order Yours Today for \$8.00 including shipping
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