

Descendancy Research — Elixir for the Hard Core Genealogist

By Lesly Klippel

Starting my family history research at age thirteen had some advantages: parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles were still alive to jumpstart my research. The disadvantage is that after some years of re-searching whenever and wherever the nomadic life of an Army wife and mother of nine took me, I ran out of available ancestors. Most of mine stand on the Atlantic seaboard looking longingly towards England. Only about one percent of early colonists are successfully traced to their mother country. I have only managed to cross the ocean in the 1600s with a handful of my lines, so I keep my fingers crossed and stay current on new publications about those adventurous souls who founded our great nation.

Having traced my husband's Germanic ancestors back to the beginning of their parish registers and my mother's Danish family as far as records could take me, I was fast running out of lines to explore. My addicted brain and computer keyboard were getting shaky and in desperation, I started tracing ALL the descendants of my paternal immigrant ancestor, Johann Jacob Petri who arrived in Philadelphia in 1743 on the good ship *Loyal Judith*. What a joyful jour-

ney that has been! I have corresponded with and journeyed to meet cousins in several states. I even found out that my neighbor is my cousin!

Descendancy Research Begins a Far From Home

To trace all the descendants of one of your ancestors, choose a family line to bring forward. It should be a line about which you have sufficient information with which to begin serious research and about which you have some interest and curiosity. It also helps to start with a family who lived during the 1850 United States census when all family members were enumerated. If you choose a family who lived before the 1850 census, you will need to rely heavily on other types of records, such as probate, land and property, available church records and county records.

Previous Research

If your name is somewhat uncommon, check the Internet to see if someone else is re-searching the same family and has posted their information. Some good free places to start are: www.rootsweb.com (WorldConnect - you can often download GEDCOMS - be sure to put them in a new file and not in your master database until you evaluate the data.)

www.familysearch.org (Ancestral File, Pedigree Research File and IGI)

www.ancestry.com (Click on Search, Family Trees, Ancestry World Tree - that part of Ancestry is still free.)

www.google.com,

www.yahoo.com,

www.altavista.com (Search on the surname with or without a place name to find privately posted web sites and other important data.)

www.genforum.com (Jump to your surname forum and search on a given name or a place - lots of fun postings!)

Be careful about other people's research since it may or may not be accurate. Look to see if it is consistent and that the dates are logical. Do the children's births fall within normal child-bearing years? Drugs to extend those years didn't exist. Check to see if any sources are included with the data. Verify other people's research by checking it against your own accurate data and by finding the family in census and other original records.

Find the Entire Family

Very often you will find that people have done some research on your extended families but have only followed one sibling forward. That's where the fun begins. Try to find all the siblings of your ancestors in cen-

sus records to learn where they moved. I found that the Petrees generally moved west from North Carolina to Illinois and Indiana and then to Arkansas, Missouri and California. You may find a similar pattern in your family. The Wickliffe family started in Virginia with one branch staying together in Kentucky and other branches moving to Missouri and Indiana. But the Wickliffe family in Ohio came straight from Ireland and isn't related to me. My Kahley family stayed in Pennsylvania and my Hale and Brown families loved Eastern Tennessee so much, they are still there.

Verify, Verify, Verify and Document, Document, Document

Finding previous research is like finding the cover to your box of puzzle pieces so you know what the picture is supposed to look like. Then you go to work verifying the pieces and documenting what you find. It is a work that can occupy your attention for years and actually you are never finished finding cousins with exotic relationships such as 3c4r and 5c3r. Your computer genealogy program can help you figure out how you are related to the hundreds and even thousands of cousins who will eventually reside in your

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database.

One of the best sources to verify that you have the family correctly put together, is the U.S. census, taken every ten years since 1790. I love my subscription to Ancestry, but you can find many U.S. censuses and other databases free on the Internet. A good site is www.labs.familysearch.org where 150,000 indexers are posting information daily. The 1880 and 1900 U.S. censuses are complete, the 1860 census is 99% complete and the other censuses are getting there. In addition, there are some state censuses, some marriage and death records and various other databases that will help you with relatives who lived in the 1900s.

Another site I use all the time is www.usgenweb.com where every U.S. county has a web site with varying amounts of information posted. Many of them have transcribed the county histories. Even if your ancestor isn't included in one, his or her siblings or their descendants might be. Each site has wonderful volunteers who will do look-ups free of charge. I use them for marriage and cemetery records constantly and am so appreciative of their generous help.

Some sites that are free at Family History Centers include www.footnote.com which is digitizing records from the National Archives and other sources. They have recently improved their search template and added a lot of records. You can get a free 7-day trial to check it out. FamilySearch Extras at Family History Centers also include World Vital Records and Godfrey Memorial Library, both of which have wonderful newspaper archives.

Learn More About Researching

You can learn more about following your family forward through lessons posted on the Internet. There are wonderful free lessons and articles at www.genealogy.com. The lessons on www.ancestry.com are also free. The LDS Church has recently posted a series of lesson on www.familysearch.org that include a lesson on descendency research. Find them on the home page by clicking on *What's New, Family History Lesson Series*. That site offers Research Guides for every locality free as pdf downloads. Click on *Research Helps, Articles* and then the first letter of your locality. General United States Guides are found under "U".

Pack Your Bags

Your research would not be complete without both a trip to a major research library such as the Family History Library in Salt Lake City or the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne. Other good regional libraries exist such as the Midwest Genealogy Center in Independence, Missouri. Look up your area on the Internet with the words "genealogy" and "library" to find a place to do local research. Then you must move on to the county where your people lived. Check the local phone directory to find relatives. Be sure you prepare ahead to search the county court house and historical society. You don't want to get there when they are closed for remodeling. There are records in the county that exist nowhere else and cemeteries that hold secrets for you to discover. It is such fun! You will never grow old as long as you have cousins to find and families to complete.

Recently Published: Genealogy In Time, **Ancestors of American Presidents**

Genealogy In Time

MissingLink Software Corporation now has a free online genealogy magazine, *Genealogy In Time*TM, containing genealogy news, articles and links. According to the publisher, *Genealogy In Time*TM monitors thousands of news and genealogy sites worldwide and then summarizes the best genealogy news stories so people do not have to spend their time searching through the internet for the latest developments in genealogy. *Genealogy In Time*TM also presents original genealogy resource articles and provides links to the most recent genealogy records. To read the new magazine, go to: www.GenealogyInTime.com

Ancestors of American Presidents, 2009 Edition

Gary Boyd Roberts has updated his book, *Ancestors of American Presidents*. The author is well-known for tracing of family trees of politicians, movie stars and other famous people. Barack Obama is the most recent president to be included in the book. The book includes:

- Ancestor tables for all presidents royal families
 - Royal descents of each president and first lady
 - Comprehensive name and place indexes
 - More than 150 charts outlining kinships between presidents
 - Charts showing kin and "kin of kin" to Pocahontas, presidential Mayflower lines, and connections to European
- The book comes as a 6 x 9 hardcover, with 864 pages. The book is available for \$34.95 until June 1, when the price is scheduled to go to \$39.95. It can be ordered online from the New England Historical and Genealogy Society at: www.NewEnglandAncestors.org

Quotable Quote

Toleration is not the opposite of intolerance, but is the counterfeit of it. Both are despotisms. The one assumes to itself the right of withholding the liberty of conscience, and the other of granting it.

Thomas Paine

American Revolutionary Writer

1737-1809

Spider Webs:

Dictionary of Irish Architects , 1891 Census of Canada, Indian Census Rolls, 1885-1940, GRO Birth Indexes, New on FamilySearch.org , Canadian Civil Servants, 1872-1900, England and Wales 1911 Census

Dictionary of Irish Architects

Ireland's Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism announced a new free Web site, the Dictionary of Irish Architects 1720 – 1940. The database includes about 6,000 individual architects, builders and craftsmen who were born or working in Ireland during the period 1720 to 1940, and the details of the 40,000 buildings on which they worked. To visit the site, go to: www.dia.ie

1891 Census of Canada

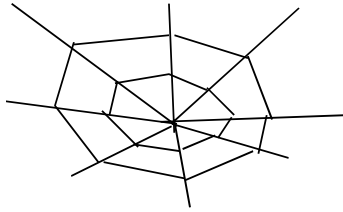
The Library and Archives Canada has the database of the 1891 Census online. Users can search the census and find the full name, age, country or province of birth, nationality, religion, and occupation of Canada's residents in 1891. The database is linked to digital images of the original census returns. A new feature allow users to make corrections to the database. The 1891 Census is the third regularly scheduled collection of national statistics for Canada. It includes the provinces of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, British Columbia and the North-West Territories (which at the time covered much of modern-day Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, northern Ontario, northern Quebec, Labrador, Yukon, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut). Go to: www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/census-1891/index-e.html

Indian Census Rolls, 1885-1940

Footnote.com, a subscription Web site, has added the Indian Census Rolls, 1885-1940 to its database collection. Most records include the English and/or Indian name of the person, roll number, age or date of birth, sex, and relationship to head of family. Starting in 1930, the rolls also include the degree of Indian blood, marital status, ward status, place of residence, and occasionally other information. There is not a census for every reservation or group of Indians for every year. Some tribes, particularly those in the East, were never under Federal jurisdiction and therefore not included in these censuses. To visit Footnote, go to www.Footnote.com.

GRO Birth Indexes

Ancestry.ca in partnership with General



Records Office (GRO) UK, has put 134 million birth records for England and Wales, dating from 1837 to 2005 on the Ancestry.ca Web site for World Deluxe subscribers. The records are fully searchable by name, registration date and district. Until now, the GRO Birth Index was indexed by surname range only. A search would produce a list of all pages on which the searched name might appear, but referenced by the first and last name on those pages only. The new database has every name in the GRO Birth Index individually searchable. The birth Index is in two separate collections. The first is the 1837 to 1915 Birth Index, which was created by FreeBMD, a group of independent volunteers. The 1916 to 2005 Birth Index was transcribed by Ancestry.

Ancestry is also working to index the GRO Marriage and Death indexes. When complete, more than 250 million individual UK birth, marriage and death (BMD) records will be searchable on Ancestry.ca.

New on FamilySearch.org

The monumental task of digitizing and indexing the microfilm collection held by the Salt Lake Family History Library seems to be increasing its momentum. In January, more than 40 million new records were added to the Web site. The records include:

- 1869 Argentina National Census
- California, San Francisco Area Funeral Home Records 1835-1931
- Canada Census 1916
- Costa Rica Church Records 1595-1992
- Germany Burials 1500-1900
- Ireland, Civil Registration Indexes 1845-1958
- Mexico Aguascalientes Catholic Church Records 1616-1961
- Netherlands Births and Baptisms, Mar-

riages, and Deaths and Burials

- Philippines Marriages
- 1920 United States Census – Alabama
- Parts of US 1850 and 1870 census

Go to www.FamilySearch.org to see the records (Click Search Records, then Record Search pilot).

Canadian Civil Servants, 1872-1900

Ancestry.ca now has 78,000 records of Canadian government employment from 1872-1900. The database has more than 78,000 records of those employed in departments of the Canadian Government. These records can now help family history researchers learn how an ancestor's career might have progressed and how much they earned, as well as offer personal individual information such as birth date, age, date of first appointment, years at post, promotion to present rank, creed or religion and nationality of origin. The records are now fully indexed and fully searchable online for the first time. Ancestry.ca is a subscription Web site where subscribers can find Canadian records of genealogical interest. To subscribe or get their free trial, go to: www.ancestry.ca

England and Wales 1911 Census

The 1911 census of England, Wales, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands is now available online, although it is not completely finished. Thirty-six million people were recorded when the census taken on the night of Sunday, 2 April, 1911. The census included those aboard Royal Naval and Merchant vessels at sea and in foreign ports and British Army personnel and their families in military establishments overseas, for the first time in a British census. The census was scheduled to be released in 2012, but public demand brought about an early release. The 1911 census team has worked for two years to make the census available. They have had to scan approximately one page each second to digitize the images. Data protection legislation specifies that some sensitive information relating to infirmity and to children of women prisoners be held back until 2012. Approximately 9 million records (about 20% of the census) remains to be completed, and will be

added over the months to come.

The 1911 census is enormous. Storage of the census returns requires more than two kilometers of shelf space. It was the first English census to ask married women how long they had been married and how many children had been born from that marriage. It is also useful to genealogists because it was taken just a few years before the Great War of 1914-1918 when a whole gen-

eration of young men perished.

The census Web site is created by findmypast.com. This organization has made many other British available online. They charge by the record to view the information. Users are charged 10 credits per transcript and 30 credits for each original household page. Web site users can purchase 60 credits for £6.95. To visit the site, go to: www.1911census.co.uk

The Fine Art of Tracking Descendents

By Allin Kingsbury

A genealogist will track down descendents of an ancestor for several reasons. The first reason is to find distant cousins who may have otherwise unavailable information about the family history. This information may include a family Bible, old family pictures, old letters, diaries, or manuscripts of family history. Some of these cousins may be active in family history research and prove to be helpful collaborators in research.

The other reason is to make publishing successful. Most family histories that are published are about the descendents of an immigrant or pioneer ancestor. Publishing in small quantities, until recently, was prohibitively expensive. By finding descendents who will want to purchase copies of a history or their family, the project is given a better chance of financial success. A nineteenth century immigrant may have hundreds of descendents, but an early American colonist is likely to have tens of thousands of descendents.

Using the Internet

The process of finding descendents quickly has been made possible with the Internet. Most families living before 1850 are still difficult to track on the Internet unless someone has done the research and posted the family history on the Internet. From 1850 to the present day, you do not need a family tree to track descendents. Searchable data on the Internet will give you most of the information that you need to compile the family history from scratch. To get started, all you need are a name and some dates and places.

The 1850 census is the first "every name" census in the United States (1841 census in England). This means that every individual living in America was to be enumerated in the census from newborn infants to the eldest of the elderly. By starting with a family that was living together as children and parents in the 1850 census, you have the living members identified with a birth date and place of birth. You can then search the next census until each member of the family is found. Children and spouses that are new to the family since the last census are added to the list to search for the next census. This process will take you to the 1930 census where many of the children are living. The family often moves together or members scatter. Moves are based on many reasons. Sometimes they can be linked to historical events such as the Homestead Act or the Dust Bowl of Oklahoma. The information gleaned from the census is fascinating.

The census will not give the married names of daughters

unless a parent comes to live with a daughter or if a married daughter lives with her parents for a while and it is recorded in the census. Sometimes a married daughter can be found by doing a given name search of the county where the daughter last resided. This is often successful when the daughter lives close to her parents after marriage and if there are not very many wives with the first and middle name of the daughter.

If Not Found In the Census

Except in the case of death, a person not found in the census is probably there. A female may have a new surname due to marriage. The vast majority of failed searches are due to indexing problems or recording errors by the census taker or the person who supplied the information. The name is usually misinterpreted because the handwriting is difficult to read. A few census takers erred in writing the name, perhaps from poor spelling or poor listening skill. A search for another member of the family or a search for the person using variant spelling of the surname may solve the search problem.

If a woman disappears from the census, she may have married, divorced and remarried, or widowed and remarried. Some marriage indexes and a few divorce indexes are available on the Internet. If a family tree can be found containing the lost individual, it usually has the information needed to tell what happened to the individual.

After the 1930 Census

Children in families listed in the 1930 census, the last census publicly available in the United States, would now be in their 80s and 90s. Many of them are dead. Most of them are grandparents or great grand parents. For privacy, Family trees on the Internet do not list living people or they use place holders for them, usually with the surname and sex but without dates, places, or given name. This information is helpful in identifying the individuals. For example, knowing the surname of the husband and wife, if they lived in California, you can search the California Birth Index looking for a child with the surname of the father and the Maiden name (surname) of the mother. If you are lucky, there is only one family with that specific combination of surnames for the parents. The children may be in the California marriage index and the California Birth Index may have children listed for them. If there is a family tree that includes the children and the data matches, you have two sources to support your construction of the family.

Another source of data on living people is the obituary. Most individuals mentioned in an obituary are living. A few cemeteries have a Web site and display the equivalent of information that would be found in an obituary along with a picture of the grave

stone. An obituary usually lists the spouse, all children and whether they are living or dead, and brothers and sisters and whether they are living or dead. Sometimes the grandchildren and spouses of the children are named along with their places of residence at the time of the death. Obituaries are scattered into many collections on the Internet. Ancestry.com has a large collection of obituaries, but there are few of them before 2003. There are many small or local collections of obituaries each at a separate site on the Internet. Some obituaries are quoted in family trees. Others can be found by searching old newspapers, especially those from smaller cities around the country. Many obituaries can be found with a search engine like Google or Yahoo and searching for the word "obituary" and the full name of the person in quotes.

Searching for Living People

There are several Internet sites created just to help users find living individuals. A few of the sites are PeopleSearch, PeopleFinders, Skipease, PeekYou, Spock, and ZabaSearch. There are many more. I have used only a few of them and have not compared them to see which sites are better. To use one of these sites, you enter a name and the search returns all individuals with that name. If you enter a common name, you will get too many possible people to search. You can limit the number of individuals found by entering the age and place of residence. This is usually enough to limit the number of possibilities.

On PeopleSearch, a search will find a number of possible matches with the name of each individual along with age, places of residence, and a list of possible relatives. A few of the individuals found are deceased but most of them are living. The relatives usually are brothers and sisters, parents, or children, but the actual relationships are not stated. For a fee, documents which support the database can be read. The free information is enough to locate the right family in almost all cases. Once the family is found, the place is helpful in finding the family in the white pages or in additional searches for information on the Internet.

More Information About the Living

The strategy in searching for living individuals is to get as much specific information about a person as possible. A middle name is better for a search than just a middle initial. A town is better than just the state of residence. An exact birth date is better than the year of birth. A relationship of two individuals is a stronger basis of a search than just one name. Even though a search does not find a family tree, it may give small bits of information that will be useful as search criteria.

General Google searches for a specific individual may yield significant genealogical data or clues for the family historian. Following are some examples of help I have found from unexpected hits I have received from searches. Usually the name and place of residence were used as search criteria.

1. A search for the child of a cousin produced a hit on the Target Gift Registry in Mississippi where he and his wife were registered for a baby shower for their expected first-born child. I had not known of the marriage at this point and found the full name of the wife.

2. A search for a second cousin produced a hit on the site of the Maritime Museum in New York City. He was a director on

the museum's board. The site had a biographical sketch of my cousin which included his university degrees, his employment history including his job as marketing director of Snowmass when the resort first opened, and a little about his personal interests.

3. A search for a distant cousin found her personal Web site listing her roles in movies, theater, and television. It told of her start with the Chicago Shakespeare Company and her move to Hollywood, where she was the voice for major characters in animated films as well as live roles in movies and television. There was a nice stock photo for fans to download and a short biographical sketch of her husband.

4. A search for a distant cousin that moved to Washington State found the site of a fence contracting business. This family owned business was founded by my cousin and is now run by his daughter in law. One page at the site told about the family members that played a significant role in the business and had pictures of them.

5. Another search found an online alumni magazine for a major university that mentioned in the alumni news that a distant cousin, class of '89, and his wife (full maiden name and also class of '89) and the name of their first child and her birth date.

6. A family tree was found in a search for a distant cousin. All of his descendants and their spouses were listed with only surname and gender. However, the tree included a picture gallery of family group photos. The captions listed each family member by their full name. Since they lived in Texas, I was able to look up almost all of the birth and marriage dates.

7. The newsletter of a private school contained quotes from the two children of a distant cousin and their mother. I had not found their names up to that point.

8. A search for another distant cousin produced a hit on the Iowa gravestone project with a picture of the grave and dates and places from the cemetery records.

9. A hit on ClassMates.com listed a distant cousin. I had discovered where she went to high school, an approximate age from the year of graduation and her middle name. The surname was unusual and I am sure she is the person I wanted to find.

10. A search for another distant cousin found him listed among the 100 top attorneys in the United States. The site had a nice picture of him and a biography listing his educational and professional accomplishments. I know it is my cousin because he has the same name as his father and grandfather, and the Web site had "III" after his name. It is a good match.

11. A Web site for the Denver Marathon listed the finish time, name and age for the daughter of a distant cousin. Her name was very unique and her place of residence matched that of her father

Even though these living individuals have information about them published on the Internet, and anyone could gather the information I now have, I have elected not to disclose any of my information about living people. Some of them seem to have no reservations about their privacy. However, that position could easily change should someone attempt an identity theft or some other unwanted invasion of their privacy.

Meanwhile I have a rather complete record of the descendents of my family back to the 1830s. It is not yet complete, but I was able to find most of them on the Internet. I can see how they established a strong family and passed their traditions on to the suc-

ceeding generations. I am proud of them and the family they helped to build.

Good luck to you in finding your family.

Of Interest Pequot Library Reopens, Genealogy on TV, Ancestry.com Offers \$79 DNA Test

Pequot Library Reopens

The Pequot Library in Fairfield, Connecticut has reopened its Family and Local History Collection, which has been unavailable during the recent renovation of the library. The collection of local and family histories covering many colonial American families from the mid-16th century to the late-20th century is nationally known by genealogists. Details may be found at www.pequotlibrary.com.

Genealogy on TV

The popularity of family history has not gone unnoticed by the media. *Ancestors in the Attic*, has been a popular show on Canada's history channel, produced by Global TV. It will continue at 7pm on Sundays during 2009. Some of the recent shows told the following stories:

- A WWII veteran goes on a quest to find the orphaned daughter of his best friend, a girl who disappeared more than 60 years ago.
- A man dying of cancer travels to Northern Ireland to fulfill his last wish: find his long-lost brother
- A Ukrainian-Canadian goes in search of the truth about his family and stumbles into one of the darkest chapters

in Canadian history.

British television has a very popular show called "Who Do You Think You Are?". The show has been exported to other countries. Now NBC will have this television program for American viewers. The program will air on Mondays at 8 p.m. starting on April 20. The show will feature American celebrities such as Lisa Kudrow, Sarah Jessica Parker and Susan Sarandon, as they unearth their family trees. Kudrow's company, Is or Isn't Entertainment, will produce the programs, along with the U.K.'s Wall to Wall Productions.

Ancestry.com Offers \$79 DNA Test

Ancestry.com announced a \$79 DNA testing program. It is the same 33-marker paternal lineage test which previously was offered at \$149. The paternal lineage test analyzes DNA in the Y chromosome. This DNA is passed from father to son and virtually unchanged as it is passed to male offspring. Ancestry also offers advanced paternal lineage tests, maternal lineage tests (which looks at mitochondrial DNA passed from a mother to her children). The new price of \$79 is probably the lowest price available today, and certainly makes the test more affordable to those who want the family history information provided by these tests.

Black History Month

Some Genealogy Web sites have been working hard to add something new about African-American family history in time for Black History Month. A few of the new offerings are:

Ancestry.ca: The records of the Second Construction Battalion, Canada's all-black military battalion are now available on this subscription Web site of Canadian records. The unit was formed on July 5, 1916 at Pictou, Nova Scotia. Ancestry.ca, a subscription site, has indexed the records and scanned the images of the records of the battalion.

Footnote.com: Footnote.com, a subscription site, is launching its African American Collection for of Black History Month. Footnote.com has been working with the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) in Washington, D.C., to digitize records that provide a view into the lives of African Americans. Footnote.com has spent the last two years with NARA compiling this collection. African American records currently on Footnote.com include:

- Service Records for Colored Troops in the Civil War – Records for the 2nd-13th infantries including enlistment papers, casualty sheets, oaths of allegiance, proof of ownership and bills of sale.

- American Colonization Society – Letters and reports relating to this colony established in 1817 for free people of color residing in the U.S.
- Amistad Case – Handwritten records of this landmark case beginning in 1839 involving the Spanish schooner Amistad, used to transport illegal slaves.
- Southern Claims Commission – Petitions for compensation resulting from the Civil War. The Southern Claims Commission records contain information that cannot be found anywhere else. The records document the experiences of former slaves during the Civil War and in the days immediately after. Many contain detailed narratives that are priceless in writing about the former slaves.

Footnote.com is also working on additional record collections that are soon to be released. Those records include:

- Records of the US District Court for the District of Columbia Relating to Slaves, 1851-1863 – includes slave schedules, manumission papers and case papers relating to fugitive slaves.
- Records for the Emancipation of Slaves in the District of

Columbia, 1862-63 – minutes of meetings, docket books and petitions pertaining to emancipation of slaves.

- Registro Central de Esclavos 1872 (Slave Schedules) – registers from Puerto Rico giving information for each slave: name, country of origin, name of parents, physical description, master's name and more.
- Records Relating to the Suppression of the African Slave Trade and Negro Colonization, 1854-1872 - letters, accounts, and other documents relating to the suppression of the African slave trade.
- Correspondence of the Military Intelligence Division Relation to "Negro Subversion" 1917-1941 - record cards and correspondence of the Military Intelligence Division (MID) that relate to activities of blacks in both civilian and military life.

The African American Collection at Footnote.com can be viewed at: <http://go.footnote.com/blackhistory/>.

Our Black Ancestry: This Web site announced a partnership with Footnote.com. The site also has introduced recommendations for reading about African-American genealogy. Go to: www.ourblackancestry.com/1.html

History .com: The site has a section about the Underground Railway which helped escaped slaves move to Canada where

they were safe from the slave hunters. The site also has a collection of Black History maps. Go to: www.history.com/minisites/blackhistory

Blackhistory.com: The site has an encyclopedia of Black History profiles. Go to: www.blackhistory.com/

Poetry for genealogists

On a Tree Fallen Across the Road

The tree the tempest with a crash of wood
Throws down in front of us is not to bar
Our passage to our journey's end for good,
But just to ask us who we are

Insisting always on our own way so.
She likes to halt us in our runner tracks,
And make us get down in a foot of snow
Debating what to do without the axe

And yet she knows obstruction is in vain:
We will not be put off the final goal
We have it hidden in us to attain,
Not though we have to seize the earth by the pole

And, tired of aimless circling in one place,
Steer straight off after something into space.

Robert Frost

Stranger than Fiction Noteworthy Cemeteries

The urbanization of our countryside has been going on for the last 60 years with tract homes, convenience stores, and shopping centers. Genealogists who have braved the brambles to find a cemetery located out among the cow pastures may be pleased to know that a cemetery in Oklahoma is now located in a shopping center located on a major thoroughfare.

The Tullahassie Creek Indian Cemetery was there first. It was used by the Creek Indians when they lived there in the 1880s. The tiny quarter-acre plot was their burial ground. It contains 40 known graves and half of them are unmarked. The land in the area was sold by the Federal Government to Charles Page, a philanthropist who used it to found the town of Sand Springs in 1906. The town was to be a refuge for widows and orphans. The town caught on, not as the intended refuge, but as a center of commerce for the surrounding area.

Developers bought the land to build the Atwood Plaza, discovering afterward that there was a cemetery in the middle of their well-planned parking lot and almost blocking the parking lot entrance. The deed had a restriction requiring the preservation of the cemetery. The developers knew better that to go to court over the cemetery, having seen the bad publicity and high legal costs other developers had incurred in similar circumstances.

So, the developers had but one option. They paved all around the cemetery. Today, the small plot of grass and its meager array of headstones appear as an oasis in a sea of asphalt surrounded by the traditional wrought iron fence. The thousands of shoppers, who arrive and leave each day, drive around the little plot and

barely notice it.

California, not to be outdone, has its own cemetery which has become a local legend. The Hardyville Pioneer Cemetery, noted for its coffin slide, was located on a bluff overlooking the town of Hardyville (now Bullhead City). The town was built across the river from Laughlin, Nevada, and was named after William Harrison Hardy, who, as you may remember, invented the riveted mail bag. The town did not survive like the mail bag and the only remnants of the town are the cemetery and an unofficial historical marker in the Safeway parking lot in Bullhead City.

The most famous resident interred in the cemetery was the local stage coach driver, William J. Tuttle, who had the habit of firing his gun into the air to summon the ferry from the other side of the river as he came into Hardyville. One day, a passenger who knew the routine, decided to save Tuttle a bullet. He fired his own pistol into the air to summon the stage. Unfortunately, the bullet found its way into the back of Tuttle's head, causing an untimely death.

Nobody knows the exact location of the graves in the cemetery. The notorious coffin slide happened when a rare desert storm brought torrential rain to Hardyville. The waterlogged soil was washed over the edge of the bluff along with a large number of coffins which picked up speed as they slid down the bluff. The town built a retaining wall to prevent any recurrence of traffic on the highway below the bluff being stopped by coffins. However, they never did sort out the coffins and bodies after the first coffin slide.

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