

Vol 27 #3&4

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THE PIONEER

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Contents

Minutes 53	Book Reviews 65	Ancestry.com articles 74
News nuggets 55	Historical Resources 67	2004 membership list 82
Ks. St. Gazatteer 1894 56	Kathleen Forsythe 71	Membership form 82
Sound Geneal. Research 57	Census C-D Roms 71	Index 83
Family Chronicle 58	Obituaries 72	
Contents of microfilm files 59	Ellis Island 73	

Dues for the Society are due for 2005. They are \$15.00 and may be paid in person at meetings or sent to the Society at the address above.

Tuesday, April 19th, 2005

7 pm at the Lawrence Public Library

Long-time genealogist Jean Snedeger will lead a roundtable discussion about publishing your family history. Jean has published histories of several of her family lines and will provide advice on the nuts and bolts of the entire process.

These programs are open to the public and free of charge. Join our mailing list for last-minute updates/changes to our events and information about other area genealogical events. E-mail: familyhistory@sunflower.com. Web site: <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/genweb/douglas/dckgs.htm>. Address: DCGS, PO Box 3664, Lawrence, Kansas 66046-0664. To support genealogy research in Douglas County, please join us! Membership in the Douglas County Genealogical Society is \$15 per household. This schedule last updated on February 1, 2005.

**Douglas County Genealogical Society Meeting
at the Lawrence Public Library on 12/7/2004**

1. Members present agreed to turn over the DCGS collection to the Lawrence Public Library on the condition that the DCGS has the right to take back anything the library doesn't want.

2. Mary Burchill noted that she agreed to contact the DAR about their collection on behalf of the library.

3. The following members agreed to be on a committee to talk with library representatives about the library's plans for the DCGS collection and the library's plans for the Osma Room.

They will hold off until decisions have been made about the DCGS's policies for accepting family files.

Shari Mohr
Richard Wellman
Linda Lang

4. The following members agreed to be on a committee to discuss setting up files for accepting and storing family files.

These files will serve as a resource for individuals who are doing family research in Douglas County. The committee will talk with Watkins Museum representatives about our plans for family files.

Martha Harris
Paul Jordan
Shari Mohr

5. The following members have agreed to serve on the board for 2005:

President and Pioneer-Mary Burchill
Vice president and programming-Linda Lang
Treasurer- Shari Mohr
Genealogist- Paul Jordan, Richard Wellman as assistant.
Web Master-Don Vaughn
Librarian (or some variation)-Martha Harris
Membership (keep track of members)-Sharon Moore
Publications- Beverley Chapman

5. Members discussed programming for 2005-2006. The DCGS will continue to have

monthly programs.

No decision was reached yet about whether to plan a major workshop with a national speaker.

6. Members discussed the status of Douglas County, Kansas Family Histories 1991-1992, Volume I.

It was decided that after keeping enough copies to fulfill requests that come by mail or through the Web site, the DCGS would work to distribute these volumes to interested parties at no charge except for mailing costs.

a. Several members are storing these books for the DCGS. Because Paul Jordan is moving and needed to dispose of five boxes immediately, the following members volunteered to take boxes right away:

Richard Wellman: five boxes to distribute to interested Jefferson County Genealogical Society and Jefferson County Historical Society members

Martha Harris: one box to distribute to interested Eudora Area Historical Society members

Shari Mohr: one box to help out

b. Erma Worley agreed to address cards to genealogical societies to help in finding homes for the volumes. If no one has a better list for her to use, she will use a genealogical handbook for society addresses.

Actions Taken After the Meeting

Mary Burchill has contacted Bruce Flanders at the library to let him know that both the DCGS and the DAR are ready to talk to the library about what is involved in giving their books to the Library. Thanks to Shari Mohr for doing considerable research in preparation for the meeting.

Richard Wellman has arranged for the Baldwin City Library to get a complete set of back copies of The Pioneer. The Eudora Historical Society and the Eudora Public Library will also receive a complete set each.

Richard is working on a subject index for back copies of the Pioneer. This is a subject index, not a names index. Shari Mohr may be compiling this.

At the regular meeting of the Society on 12 March 2005 the proposal of giving our books to the Lawrence Public Library was discussed. The following motion was moved, seconded and voted on. It was passed. Richard Wellman put forth the motion as follows:

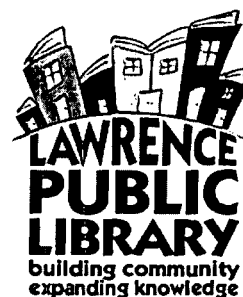
I move that the Douglas County Genealogical Society empower the negotiating team (or oversight team?) to be given the authority to give the Society's books to the Lawrence Public Library if the negotiating team is satisfied that the negotiations have resulted in a satisfactory agreement.

We will proceed from there and report in the next Pioneer.

Connections

Lawrence Public Library Events, Information, and Services

August 2004



Newsy Nuggets from the Nineteenth Century

By Louise Hanson, Adult Services Coordinator

With all the informational wonders available on the Internet's worldwide web, we are tempted to assume that no other sources of information are needed. Not true, of course. Where on the Internet would you find news of George Martin, who took off for Missouri "where he . . . put in his time 'foolin' with [a] buzz saw"? It must have been a slow news day in Perry when a reporter felt compelled to tell readers of the plight of Frank Schell, "a poor lone widdy." (My guess is that forlorn Frank is a widower.) These items are from the June 11, 1885 issue of *The Lecompton Monitor*.

All these tidbits of information and much more are now available in our new microfilm collection of 19th and early 20th century Douglas County newspapers. The collection of historical regional newspapers, comprising

38 microfilm reels, is a joint gift of the Friends of Lawrence Public Library, the Douglas County Genealogical Society, and the Lawrence Journal-World. You can access this collection in the microfilm section of the Helen Osma Room on the lower level of the library. A microfilm reader/printer is available for your use and of course, our Reference staff is always on duty to help you.

Included in this collection are the *Baldwin Criterion* (1883), the *Lecompton Union* (1856) and the *Grasshopper and New Era* out of Grasshopper Falls (now Valley Falls) (1874). Of particular interest to many local history buffs are the Lane University newspapers *College Echoes* (1888) and *College Oracle* (1892). Students, genealogists and local historians will find much of value in this utterly fascinating collection. The Library is grateful to the donors of this collection and extends a hearty invitation to all to explore this new addition to our holdings.

KANSAS STATE GAZATTEER & BUSINESS DIRECTORY, 1894

Volume VIII, by R. L. Polk & Co.

(providing info. about southern Douglas Co. towns)

BALDWIN--- An incorporated town in Douglas county, 16 miles south of Lawrence, the county seat, 53 from Kansas City, Mo., and 44 southeast of Topeka. It is a station on the S.K. Ry, is a seat of Baker University and has 4 churches, public schools, a bank and several stores and a weekly newspaper. Population, 1,200. Exp. W. F. & Co. Tel., W. U. M. E. Cowgill, postmaster.

Bailery, R. W., shoemaker

Baker Beacon, Baker Univ. paper

Baker University, W. A. Quale, D. D. Ph.D., pres.

Baker, University Index, Literary Societies of Baker Univ. publr.

Baldwin Ledger, W. C. Markham, Editor

Baldwin State Bank (capital \$16,000) James Murray, pres., J. E. Hair, cash.

Bare, Mrs. J. C., fruit grower

Blainy & Bodewell, tinware

Bodewell, H. E., confectioner

Bristow, Wm., justice of peace

Carter & Harpster (Henry C. Carter, F. O. Harpster); nursery & fruit grower

Cary, Wm. E., druggist

Crooks & Thompson (E.L. Crooks, Wm. Thompson), real estate

Crosby, Mrs. K. E., hardware

Cutler, Mrs. C., hardware

Eaton, E. K., live stock breeder

Flora & Deming, grocers

Huff, Mrs., grocer

Humbert, Henry, confectioner

Hyde, W. A., jeweler

Ives, C. P. & Co., lumber

Junkins, W. W., grain and live stock

Kerns, W. D., fruit grower

Kochane, T. J., painter

Lake, Stephen, grocer

Leach, Mrs. James, milliner

Leake, A., harnessmaker

Lehew, P. A., clothing

Lockwood, C. E., baker

McClure, G. J. & Co., books

McDonald, W. I., shoemaker

Markham, W. C., Editor Baldwin Ledger

Martin, Fred, livery

Martin, W. D., physician

Messinger, F., dry goods

Misemer & Sturdy, grocers & meats

Motter, Rev. J. A., Methodist

Newton & Miller, express & coal

Osborn, Dr. F., drugs

Owen, H. C., physician

Preshaw, J. F. & Co. (J. Frank Preshaw), books & stationery

Shinkle A., prop Summit House

Starr, J. M., barber

Stephens, C. E., physician

Stewart, Mrs. Helen, dressmaker

Stewart, J. T. & Co., blacksmiths

Sturdivan, L. A., grocer

Summit House, A. Shinkle, proprs.

Van Kuren, L. S., agt, A.T.&S. Fe RR, Wells Fargo Exp. and W. U. Tel.

Walker, James V., grocer

Walker, J. E., carpenter

Webster, Arthur, stock breeder

Webster, W. H., dentist

Wheeler, F. H., fruit grower

Wilkins, I., flour mill

GLOBE--- Douglas county, 20 miles southwest of Lawrence, the judicial seat and banking poing, and 10 1/2 miles from Overbrook the nearest shipping point. Wm.

Featherston, postmaster

Featherston, Wm. Jr., live stock

Metzger, W. R., carpenter

Powell, W. G., live stock

Preston, J. W., live stock

Ulrich, M. H., justice of peace

VINLAND - -On the S. K. div. A.T. & S. Fe R.R., in Douglas county, 10 miles south of Lawrence, the county seat and banking point. Population, 75. Tel, W. U., Exp., W., F. & Co. James G. Stiff, postmaster.

Baker, T. C., General Store

Barnes, W. E., nursery

Davis, Rev. T. D., Presbyterian

Funk, S. K., blacksmith

Gantz, Jacob, cider and vinegar

Hliff, Joseph, tinner

Hliff & Co., General Store

Leggett, Henry, harnessmaker

Perrine, G. J., physician

Thomas, Rev. E. L., Methodist

Tryon, James, painter

Williams, Louis, railroad & exp. agt.

WORDEN--- A village in Douglas county, 19 miles southwest of Lawrence, the county seat and nearest banking and shipping point. Tri-weekly stage, with mail, from Lawrence. Population, 27. John F. Schott, postmaster.

Fisher, C. M., lawyer

German, Joseph, barber

German, W. L., livery

Hein, Fred, shoemaker

Kirchner, Henry, stone mason

Oliver, H. N., stock breeder

Roberts, Charles, creamery

Schott, John F., general store

Schultz, Peter, blacksmith

Ulrich, M. H., justice of peace

Standards For Sound Genealogical Research

Recommended by the National Genealogical Society



Remembering always that they are engaged in a quest for truth, family history researchers consistently—

- ◆ record the source for each item of information they collect.
- ◆ test every hypothesis or theory against credible evidence, and reject those that are not supported by the evidence.
- ◆ seek original records, or reproduced images of them when there is reasonable assurance they have not been altered, as the basis for their research conclusions.
- ◆ use compilations, communications and published works, whether paper or electronic, primarily for their value as guides to locating the original records.
- ◆ state something as a fact only when it is supported by convincing evidence, and identify the evidence when communicating the fact to others.
- ◆ limit with words like "probable" or "possible" any statement that is based on less than convincing evidence, and state the reasons for concluding that it is probable or possible.
- ◆ avoid misleading other researchers by either intentionally or carelessly distributing or publishing inaccurate information.
- ◆ state carefully and honestly the results of their own research, and acknowledge all use of other researchers' work.
- ◆ recognize the collegial nature of genealogical research by making their work available to others through publication, or by placing copies in appropriate libraries or repositories, and by welcoming critical comment.
- ◆ consider with open minds new evidence or the comments of others on their work and the conclusions they have reached.

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Keep in mind if you are using the Internet to get information from genealogical societies, they are usually non-profit organizations and could use financial help from those they serve. Why not include a few dollars to them when they fulfill your email requests. Email may be free, but the maintenance of records is not, and the time of volunteers should be valued.

Subscribe to Family Chronicle and receive a FREE book

Family Chronicle is a how-to magazine. People who are trying to discover their family roots know that there is no "master plan" that tells you how to conduct your research. While some ancestral lines can be traced back several generations with relatively little effort, others can only be discovered after painstaking research. *Family Chronicle* recognizes that there are hundreds, maybe thousands, of different records and methods that may apply to your own research. See details below for subscription pricing.

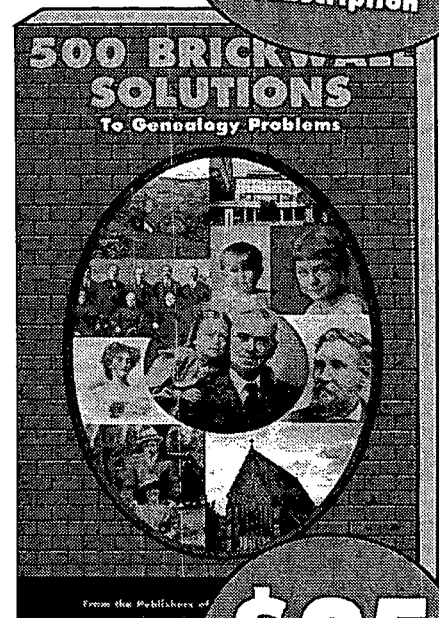
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Please allow four to six weeks for delivery. The charge on your credit card will be billed to "History/Family Chronicle".

Contents: DRAWER #1

Federal Census Douglas County, Kansas

1860 (8th) – two reels
1870 (9th) – two reels
1880 (10th) – two reels
1900
1910
1920
1930

Federal Census Gentry County, Missouri

1860 (8th)

Federal Census Webster, Worth, Wright Counties, Missouri

1870 (9th)
1880 (10th)

Kansas State Census

1865
1875
1885 – three reels
1895 – three reels
1905 – three reels
1915 – four reels
1925 – three reels

***Index to the Reprint Edition of the Report of the Adjutant
General of the State of Kansas, 1861-1865, and
Report of Adjutant General of State of Kansas, 1861-1865***

Douglas County Atlas

1873
1902 (all on
1909 same reel)
1921

Final Rolls of Five Civilized Tribes

Choctaw and Chickasaw – Reel 1
Cherokee – Reel 2
Creek and Seminole – Reel 3

Douglas County Marriage Records Indexes and Records Books

Indexes – Two Reels; Records Books – 13 Reels

Indexes

1D Book 1 1863-1867 to Book 6 1935-1948
2D Book 7 1949-1969 to Book 9 1984-6/30/92

Records Books

3D Book 1 1863-1867 to Book 3 1869-1872
4D Book 4 1872-1879 to Book 6 1883-1889
5D Book 7 1889-1894 to Book 9 1900-1904
6D Book 10 1904-1909 to Book 13 1919-1922
7D Book 14 1922-1925 to Book 16 1928-1930
8D Book 17 1930-1934 to Book 19 1937-1940
9D Book 20 1940-1943 to Book 22 1945-1947
10D Book 23 1947-1950 to Book 25 1953-1958
11D Book 26 1958-1963 to Book 28 1966-1969
12D Book 29 1969-1971 to Book 31 1974-1977
13D Book 32 1977-1979 to Book 34 1982-1983
14D Book 35 1983-1985 to Book 37 1987-1989
15D Book 38 1989-1991 to Book 39 1991-1992

Daily Kansas Tribune (Lawrence, Kansas)

L 663 9 Jan 1872 – 30 Jun 1872
 L 664 1 Aug 1872 – 16 Feb 1873
 L 665 18 Feb 1873 – 19 Aug 1873
 L 667 1 Jan 1874 – 24 Jul 1874
 L 668 25 Jul 1874 – 6 Dec 1874
 L 673 1 Feb 1878 – 29 Jun 1878
 L 674 1 Jul 1878 – 9 Jan 1879

The Western Home Journal (Lawrence, Kansas)

L 766 11 Mar 1869 – 20 Jul 1871
 L 767 27 Jul 1871 – 15 Oct 1874
 L 768 22 Oct 1874 – 8 Mar 1877
 L 769 15 Mar 1877 – 23 Jan 1879
 L 770 30 Jan 1879 – 24 Jun 1880
 L 771 1 Jul 1880 – 1 Dec 1881
 L 772 8 Dec 1881 – 7 Jun 1883
 L 773 14 Jun 1883 – 25 Mar 1885

Douglas County Republican (Lawrence, Kansas)

L 2820 4 Mar 1926 – 9 Aug 1928
 L 2821 16 Aug 1928 – 1 Jan 1931
 L 2822 8 Jan 1931 – 23 Feb 1933
 L 2823 2 Mar 1933 – 6 Jun 1935
 L 2824 13 Jun 1935 – 2 Dec 1937
 L 2825 9 Dec 1937 – 4 Apr 1940
 L 2826 11 Apr 1940 – 2 Jan 1941

Name Change

Outlook (Lawrence, Kansas)

 9 Jan 1941 – 4 Jun 1942
 L 2827 11 Jun 1942 – 30 Dec 1943

Name Change

Lawrence Outlook (Lawrence, Kansas)

 6 Jan 1944 – 12 Oct 1944
 L 2828 19 Oct 1944 – 6 Feb 1947
 L 2829 13 Feb 1947 – 14 Apr 1949
 L 2830 21 Apr 1949 – 15 Mar 1951
 L 2831 22 Mar 1951 – 23 Apr 1953
 L 2832 30 Apr 1953 – 19 Aug 1954
 L 2833 26 Aug 1954 – 24 Nov 1955
 L 2834 1 Dec 1955 – 21 Feb 1957
 L 2835 28 Feb 1957 – 6 Feb 1958
 L 2836 13 Feb 1958 – 2 Dec 1958
 L 2837 4 Dec 1958 – 17 Mar 1960
 L 2838 24 Mar 1960 – 18 May 1961

L 2839 25 May 1961 – 31 May 1962
L 2840 7 Jun 1962 – 6 Jun 1963
L 2841 13 Jun 1963 – 6 Aug 1964
L 2842 13 Aug 1964 – 8 Oct 1964

Name Change

Lawrence Outlook and the Jefferson County Mirror-Times

15 Oct 1964 – 9 Jun 1966
L 2843 16 Jun 1966 – 14 Dec 1967
L 2844 21 Dec 1967 – 8 Feb 1968

Name Change

Lawrence Outlook (Lawrence, Kansas)

15 Feb 1968 – 21 Apr 1969
L 2845 24 Apr 1969 – 7 Aug 1969

Name Change

Lawrence Outlook and the Jefferson County Mirror-Times

10 Aug 1969 – 14 Aug 1969

Name Change

Lawrence Outlook (Lawrence, Kansas)

18 Aug 1969 – 22 Sep 1969

Name Change

Lawrence Outlook and the Jefferson County Mirror-Times

25 Sep 1969 – 29 Apr 1970

Contents: DRAWER #12

Douglas County, Kansas --- 19th and Early 20th Century Newspapers

Baldwin – Eudora - Lecompton

Helen Osma Room – Microfilm Collection

Source: Kansas Historical Society

<u>Title</u>		<u>Begin Date</u>	<u>End Date</u>	<u>Reel #</u>	<u>Lab #</u>
Baldwin Criterion	B 1	1883 11/29	1885 4/23	1	15732
Baldwin Ledger	B 1	1885 5/1	1885 10/24	1	15732
Baldwin Ledger	B 2	1885 10/31	1887 4/29	2	15733
Baldwin Ledger	B 3	1887 5/6	1890 7/25	3	15734
Baldwin Ledger	B 4	1890 8/1	1893 12/1	4	15735
Baldwin Ledger	B 5	1893 12/8	1897 2/26	5	15736
Baldwin Ledger	B 6	1897 3/5	1900 6/15	6	15737
Baldwin Ledger	B 7	1900 6/22	1903 7/31	7	15738
Baldwin Ledger	B 8	1903 8/7	1906 8/31	8	15739
Baldwin Ledger	B 9	1906 9/7	1909 8/27	9	15740
Baldwin Ledger	B 10	1909 9/3	1912 9/27	10	15741
Baldwin Ledger	B 11	1912 10/4	1915 10/29	11	15742
Baldwin Ledger	B 12	1915 11/45	1918 12/27	12	15743
Baldwin Ledger	B 13	1919 1/3	1921 12/30	13	15744
College Echoes (Lane University, Lecompton)		1888 8/0	1891 3/0	26	17038
College Oracle (Lane University, Lecompton)		1892 6/0	1901 8/1	26	17038
Community Spirit (Lecompton)		1922 8/3	1923 2/22	37	17036
Eudora News	E 883	1887 9/8	1890 12/25	14	22139
Eudora News	E 884	1891 1/1	1894 1/25	15	22140
Eudora News	E 885	1894 2/1	1897 3/25	16	22141
Eudora News	E 886	1897 4/1	1900 5/24	17	22142
Eudora News	E 887	1900 5/31	1903 8/13	18	22143

Eudora News	E 888	1903	8/20	1905	9/28	19	22144
Eudora News Weekly	E 888	1905	10/6	1906	8/10	19	22144
Eudora News Weekly	E 889	1906	8/17	1910	12/8	20	22145
Eudora News Weekly	E 890	1910	12/15	1915	12/30	21	22146
Eudora News Weekly	E 891	1916	1/7	1920	8/19	22	22147
Eudora News Weekly	E 892	1920	8/26	1923	6/21	23	22148
Grasshopper and New Era (Grasshopper Falls, now Valley Falls)		1874	9/19	1875	2/27	25	5531
Kansas National Democrat (Lecompton)	L1455	1857	7/30	1861	3/14	24	A1362
Kansas New Era (Lecompton)	V25	1866	8/28	1867	5/7	25	5531
Kansas New Era		1873	9/25	1874	9/10	25	5531
Kansas Weekly New Era (Medina)		1867	4/5	1867	9/4	25	5531
Lecompton Ledger	L1680	1889	12/13	1890	12/19	26	17038
Lecompton Monitor	L1680	1885	6/4	1886	6/10	26	
Lecompton Sun	L1668	1891	4/23	1897	5/28	27	17026
Lecompton Sun	L1669	1897	6/4	1898	6/24	28	17027
Lecompton Sun	L1670	1898	7/1	1901	9/27	29	17028
Lecompton Sun	L1671	1901	10/4	1904	11/18	30	17029
Lecompton Sun	L1672	1904	11/25	1908	1/17	31	17030
Lecompton Sun	L1673	1908	1/24	1911	2/10	32	17031
Lecompton Sun	L1674	1911	2/17	1914	1/22	33	17032
Lecompton Sun	L1675	1914	1/29	1916	12/28	34	17033
Lecompton Sun	L1676	1917	1/4	1920	2/12	35	17034
Lecompton Sun	L1677	1920	2/19	1922	7/27	36	17035
Lecompton Sun	L1678	1923	5/10	1928	7/19	37	17036
Lecompton Sun	L1679	1928	7/26	1934	9/20	38	17037
Lecompton Union	L1455	1856	4/28	1857	6/19	24	A1362

REVIEWS OF BOOKS RECENTLY ADDED TO THE OSMA ROOM

Hatcher, Patricia Law

Producing a quality family history. Salt Lake City, Ancestry Inc., 1996 \$19.95

278 p., bibliography, index.

This book covers all aspects of putting together a family history in book form. The author is assuming the reader is doing a book so therefore she starts with what to write, resources to look at, designing the book, illustrations, different technologies to use, self-publishing, editing and preparing an index for best use. It is chock full of very good information.

It will be shelved in the Osma Room.

Smolenyak, Megan Smolenyak

Honoring our ancestors. Salt Lake City, Ancestry, Inc., 2002. \$12.95

218 p.

The subtitle is "Inspiring stories of the quest for our roots". The author has collected stories of peoples families. They are inspiring and fun to read.

It will be shelved in the Osma Room.

Balhuizen, Anne Ross.

Searching on location: Planning a research trip. Salt Lake City, Ancestry, Inc., 1992 \$9.95

102 p., bibliography, index.

Books of this sort always point out something you might not have thought of when you are getting ready to do research on-site. Reading this and going through their chapter by chapter checklist of things to do can make your trip work out very well.

It will be shelved in the Osma Room.

Neagles, James C.

U.S. military records: A guide to federal and state sources-Colonial America to the present. Salt Lake City, Ancestry, Inc., 1994.

441 p., bibliographies, index.

Every war from pre-1775 through Vietnam is covered. Types of records (pensions, landgrants, burials, etc.) are covered plus several chapters on resources including archives, history and research centers inside and outside Washington, D.C. State resources for every state plus published sources that cover more than one state are also discussed. This is one of these large books which is very useful.

It will be shelved in the Osma Room. There is also one in the general collection.

Pfeiffer, Laura Szucs.

Hidden sources: Family history in unlikely places. Salt Lake City, Ancestry, Inc., 2003. 2nd rev. ed. \$16.95.

194 p., bibliography, appendices.

This is an alphabetical listing of abbreviations and acronyms. These are listings that pertain to genealogical and historical sources and generally are from the US and Canada. This is a useful and fascinating book.

It will be shelved in the Osma Room.

Hone, E. Wade

Land and property research in the United States. Salt Lake City, Ancestry, Inc., 1997. \$49.95

517 p., bibliography, appendices, index.

The book is divided into sections; pre-US possessions, state-land states, federal-land states, individual lands, and special interest (which includes Native American Land records). Appendix A is Tract Book and Township Plat Map Guide to Federal Land States. Appendix B is Land Office Boundary Maps for All Federal Land States. This is a comprehensive, in depth and most useful volume.

It will be shelved in the Osma Room.

Your editor sorts and prices the Genealogy Books for the twice a year book sale at the Lawrence Public Library. Occasionally there are books that seem appropriate for the Osma Room collection. All have been donated to the book sale. The following three titles came from there.

All three are published by Debra Graden of Grey Ink, Inc. in Leavenworth, Kansas.

Protestant orphan's asylum, August 3, 1866-August 3, 1871. Leavenworth, Kansas.

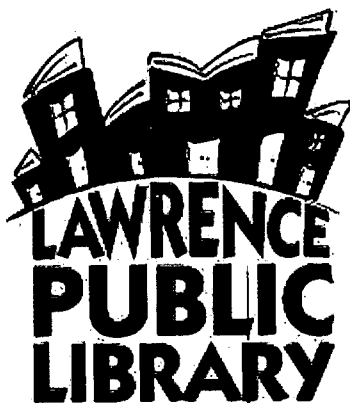
Registration of voters, 1867, Leavenworth County, Kansas.

All name index of biographies and businesses from the history of Leavenworth County, Kansas

by Jesse A. Hall and Leroy T. Hand. 1921

This kind of book is so very useful and a real contribution to the genealogical community.

They will be shelved in the Osma Room.



707 Vermont Street
Lawrence, KS 66044
(785) 843-3833
www.lawrence.lib.ks.us

Historical Resources at the Lawrence Public Library

The Lawrence Public Library has a diverse collection of historical resources, accessible through a variety of means. Many of these are located in the Helen Osma Room, located in the library's lower level; others are electronic resources, available both in the library, on the Internet computers on the lower level, and from remote locations, with a Lawrence Public Library card. Materials in the Osma Room are for in-house use only, although several titles in the library's Kansas Collection of books are duplicated in the circulating collection and thus can be checked out. There is no charge for using any of these materials or for obtaining a library card.

The Helen Osma Local History and Genealogy Room

The Osma Room is a dedicated room and space located on the library's lower level. Its vision is to provide and support a library collection that reflects the history and genealogy of the local community and serves as a resource for users investigating Lawrence and Douglas County history. It features the materials and resources listed below, as well as census rolls, marriage records, and worktables tables and chairs for patrons within the room. The Osma Room also currently holds collections for the Douglas County Genealogical Society and the local Betty Washington Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Reference staff is always available to help patrons access and use any of our resources; those with questions about the collection can call Louise Hanson, Coordinator of Adult Services, at (785) 843-3833, ext.113.

Historical newspapers collection on microfilm

Lawrence Daily Journal World
Baldwin City Ledger
Lecompton
Eudora

Anyone may access and use these in the library; a library card is not necessary. Patrons may print from the microfilm; there is, however, a print charge of .25/page on the microfilm machine.

The Kansas Collection

This is a recently catalogued collection of books, which can be searched and found on the Library's online catalog. It comprises a wide range of materials, such as The Douglas County

Tombstone Census, city directories, Lawrence High School yearbooks, titles on Lawrence, Douglas County and Kansas history and biographies. These are for reference only and do not check out, but are always available for use during the library's operating hours.

Vertical/Clippings File

The library maintains an extensive collection of clippings from newspapers, as well as photos and other ephemera, on topics of area interest. These cover a wide time period, and topics range from biographical (like area artists Stan Herd, William Burroughs, and Langston Hughes-related items) to community events over time. An index to this collection is kept on top of the vertical files themselves.

Magazines and Journals

The Osma Room holds several periodicals, including back issues, with content often highlighting Kansas history or of interest to those researching area individuals, such as
Kansas History, 1978-
Kansas Heritage, Spring 1993-
Kanhistique: Kansas History and Antiques, 1975-

Electronic Databases with historical coverage

These are accessible through the library's website: www.lawrence.lib.ks.us. Individuals will need to have a library card number to access these databases remotely.

Heritage Quest Genealogy Database

This database provides a broad range of sources useful in discovering personal histories:

- ProQuest's Genealogy & Local History - more than 25,000 complete books, with material from every state and Canada
- U.S. Federal Census, 1790-1930 - complete census information, with the ability to search by name, place of birth, age, ethnicity and other variables
- PERSI (Periodical Source Index) - a subject index of more than 6,500 periodicals written since 1800, with the ability to search more than 1.6 million articles by surname, location, title and keyword
- Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Application Files (coming soon) - detailed records of more than 80,000 people who served in the revolution with genealogical and historical information
- Freedman's Bank Records (coming soon) - records from the primary bank used by freed slaves from 1865 to 1874, with information about more than 70,000 depositors and almost 480,000 dependants and heirs
- Additional information from a number of data sources is coming soon - ship passenger lists, military history, city directories, vital records, and international genealogical records

Historical New York Times

This database offers full-text and full-image articles for *The New York Times* dating back to the 19th century. The collection includes digital reproductions of every page from every issue - cover to cover - in downloadable .pdf files. This newspaper database represents the first initiative

to not only reach back into the past to digitize historical newspaper information but also to provide that information as both full-page-images and as article images. That means researchers can use the database to find not only news, editorials, letters to the editor, obituaries, and birth and marriage announcements but also historical photos, stock photos, and advertisements. The date range searching tool allows searches on, before, or between two dates. Digitizing *The New York Times* involved scanning, digitizing, zoning, and editing over 3,400,000 pages from microfilm into digital files. The database covers *The New York Times* from its first issue in 1851 all the way to 2001 - a span of issues currently not covered by any other electronic resource.

Other newspapers

The library's electronic databases feature access to many other newspapers available online. For example, InfoTrac Custom Newspapers database enables online access to more than 150 newspapers. The scope of time coverage varies, however, and not all have archives available.

Additional Resources

The library has many resources to help facilitate patron access to and usage of library resources, and also provides reservable meeting spaces for Lawrence community groups and organizations.

ADA Computer

For patrons with disabilities or visual impairment, this computer, located on the first level by the Reference Desk near the online catalog computers, can be useful for accessing the electronic databases mentioned above. It features an oversize screen and large-text option, large-print keyboard, and has audio capabilities. A ZoomText program also enables color and magnifying adjustments to target individual needs. It is also wheelchair-accessible.

Enlarger

Located on the lower level by the elevator, the enlarger enables hands-free viewing of print items, an oversize CCTV screen, and extensive magnification and color adjustments for varying visual needs. It is also wheelchair-accessible.

Meeting rooms

The Library's auditorium (capacity 98, with tables and chairs; 210 without) and gallery (capacity 35) can be reserved and used by any Lawrence organization, without charge, any time during regular operating hours. Reservations are required to ensure availability. For more information, or to reserve a room, call Maria Butler, Community Relations Coordinator, at (785) 843-3833, ext. 123.

Basic Library information

Operating hours (except major holidays)

Monday – Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Saturday: 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Sunday: 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Obtaining a library card

Library cards are available to any Lawrence resident, though a picture ID and proof of current address is required. There is no charge, although cards are only issued at the Library. Residents of many neighboring counties are also eligible for an LPL library card; please contact (785) 843-3833 for more information.

lplsr111704

This is picture that the editor has. It can be claimed by either e-mailing me at burchill@ku.edu or calling at 843-9199.

It is of Kathleen Forsythe, 1231 Louisiana, Lawrence and is dated 2-20-26.



Paul Jordan has the following census indices on CD-Rom at his home. He will look up information for you if you give him a call at 842-4388.

These have been purchased by the Society for Paul to use in answering queries.

- 1910 Kansas
- 1920 Kansas
- 1930 Kansas East
- 1870 Kansas
- 1880 All of US Census and nationwide index.

Thanks to Paul for doing this.

OBITUARIES OF MEMBERS.

2 January 2004

DEATHS

KING SERVICES

Memorial services for Edwina Rose (Spielman) King, 82, Lawrence, will be at 10 a.m. Saturday at First United Methodist Church.

Mrs. King died Dec. 9, 2003, at Lawrence Memorial Hospital.

The family suggests memo-

rials to Douglas County Visiting Nurses Assn., Jefferson County Genealogical Society or Endacott Society's Expression of Appreciation Fund through the KU Alumni Association, sent in care of Warren-McElwain Mortuary.

2/12/04
5W

DEATHS

RICHARD L. KIDWELL

Services for Richard L. Kidwell, 87, Lawrence, will be at 3 p.m. Friday at Rumsey-Yost Funeral Home. Masonic graveside services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday in Jamestown Cemetery.

Mr. Kidwell died Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2004, at Lawrence Memorial Hospital.

He was born July 6, 1916, in Gove County, the son of Christopher Carson and Martha Frances (Rash) Kidwell. He graduated from Jamestown High School.

Mr. Kidwell was a sheet metal mechanic at Boeing in Wichita and taught sheet metal mechanics to prospective employees of the Army Air Corps, with which he served during World War II.



Kidwell

After the war he worked for Singer Sewing Machine in Wichita, Coffeyville, Chanute, Emporia, Fort Scott, Pittsburg, Joplin and Lawrence. He also had sold insurance in Chanute, and he sold furniture in Lawrence until his retirement.

He married Irma Leola Gray on Feb. 2, 1937, in Concordia. She died Nov. 12, 1994.

A grandchild also died earlier.

Survivors include a son, Richard D., Broken Arrow, Okla.; three daughters, Joleen Severt, Wichita, Susan Jordan, Lawrence, and Victoria Martin, Salina; 10 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

The family suggests memorials to the Jayhawk Audubon Society or Disabled American Veterans, sent in care of Rumsey-Yost Funeral Home.

Online condolences may be sent at www.rumsey-yost.com.

**American Family Immigration History Center
Records for Port of New York 1892-1924
Tips to Help You Get the Most Out of Your
SEARCH Session**

Total Session time is approximately 35 minutes. SEARCH time is about 26 minutes. You can keep track of your time by the countdown clock on your screen. The remainder of the session is for directions and purchasing of Manifests and Ship Pictures.

Use "ADD to your Ellis Island File" at the bottom of the screen to save each document found (Passenger Records, Manifests and Ship Pictures).

Most Manifests after 1907 are 2 pages. An information sheet explaining two page manifests is posted at each station. Each of the two pages must be ADDED to your file individually. If you wish to order both pages, you must ADD each page individually during your search session and select each page individually to print during the CHECKOUT process. Each page counts as a Manifest. NOTE: In magnification mode, you cannot add a page to your Ellis Island file or turn from one page to another (that is, you clicked on the button to enlarge).

When your SEARCH time is over, you will see the checkout screen. This is the time to request your free Passenger Record and to order Manifest or Ship Pictures. You can request only one free Passenger Record. If you would like to print additional passenger records, you may do another search session, if a station is available, or continue searching at our web site at www.ellisland.org.

Be sure to fully complete the check, out process to order your free Passenger Record or any Manifests or Ship Pictures. Simply adding an item to your file will not process an order. You must press "Place This Order" at the end of the checkout process to receive copies.

Need help? Look for a Foundation Service Representative in a navy shirt who will help you as quickly as capacity allows.

If you run out of time, you can continue your SEARCH at our web site at www.ellisland.org. You will be able to access your file using the swipe card you receive today. Click on the "SIGN IN" link at the top right hand corner of the screen. Under "YES, I AM NEW TO THIS SITE". Next select the "VISITED AFIHC ON ELLIS ISLAND" option. You will be prompted for your last name and the number on your swipe card. This will allow you to create your own user name and password to be used whenever you log on to the site afterwards. You can also order through the web

Researching in Unfamiliar Territory

It all started with a call from a family friend who had a question about Family Tree Maker. From there the conversation turned to an ancestress she had been trying to locate. The family hailed from Georgia and had moved through several other southern states. I volunteered to do some preliminary poking around to see what I could find. (Yes, my obsession has reached the point where I'll hunt for just about anyone's ancestors!)

Starting a new research project is an exciting challenge and learning experience. It's like trying out a new recipe in someone else's kitchen. You're not sure where everything is kept, what tools are available or how it will turn out, but it's fun to try it. Today, I thought we'd take a look at some of the things we should consider when embarking on a research project in unfamiliar territory.

Get to Know Their Surroundings

This would be my first research expedition in Georgia, and I knew relatively little about Georgia history. Elizabeth Butcher was said to have been born in the "Cherokee Purchase," 21 March 1829. So what was the Cherokee Purchase? My first step was to Google it so that I would have a rough idea of where I was looking. My first search for Cherokee Purchase gave me a slew of hits, mainly for Jeep Cherokees and property for sale in Cherokee County. I got more specific and searched for:

"Cherokee Purchase" Georgia -jeep

The quotes told the search engine that Cherokee Purchase was an exact phrase that I wanted; Georgia narrowed it down further and "-jeep" eliminated any hits with the word "jeep" in it. I found several sites that told me that the Cherokee Purchase covered land from the Chattahoochee River west to Alabama, and north to Tennessee and North Carolina. I found a historical map of Georgia in the Perry Castañeda Library's online map collection at www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/historical/georgia_1895.jpg.

Although it was for a later period than what I was searching, it showed the Chattahoochee River and the counties as they were in 1895. Using *Red Book* (published by Ancestry), I could find out the dates the counties were formed and the parent counties for those that were formed later. *Red Book* would also be useful later in determining what records were available and when civil registration began in each county. It would also give me information as to any research peculiarities for Georgia.

Has It Been Done?

Now that I was a little more familiar with the geographical area in which I would be looking, my next step was to see if anyone had done work on this family. I found a tree that included an Elizabeth Butler in Ancestry.com's OneWorldTree (www.ancestry.com/trees). Although it listed her birth date as 21 March 1828, the fact that it was exactly one year off to the day, and that her birthplace was listed as Georgia, was enough to make me think she might be the right person. The father's name was listed as Henry P. Butcher and there were two spouses listed—Martha Wilkins, whose death date was listed as 22 May 1826, and Elizabeth Wilkins, whose first child was the Elizabeth I was looking at as a possible match.

There were six children listed with the first wife and fourteen by the second. Wow! That's quite a family. There was also an entry that said "Five Children Butcher." I also noted that one of the children was listed under both mothers. OneWorldTree pulls the records from the Ancestry World Tree and stitches possible matches together. The information found there is a compilation of what is found in the various databases submitted by users and is only as good as the underlying research. While there were these two obvious

problems with the entry, there were also a whole lot of clues that I could follow-up on—eighteen of them in the form of siblings.

Timeline

Next, I went to my favorite tool for organizing and drew up a timeline based on the tree I had found. ([Click here](#) for more on creating timelines)

Since there were birth dates and places for the family, I started with those and began plugging them into a word processing document. Arranging the births as listed chronologically, I could see roughly where I would need to look to locate them in the census. The migration path they took matched what my friend had told me, so I was even more encouraged that I had perhaps found the right family.

Gathering and Organizing

At this point I went on a searching spree at Ancestry.com. I found census records for the father, Henry P. Butcher, from 1830-1860 and entries in a number of other databases as well. The pile on my desk began mounting, and I decided it was time to step back and organize what I had located. I opened a new family file in Family Tree Maker and began entering the information I had at that point, noting the sources as well. Since I had already noted discrepancies in some areas, I didn't want to have to keep going through the stack looking for where I had found a particular date.

I chose Family Tree Maker because it comes with the ability to search all of the Ancestry.com databases for all of the people I had entered into that family file. This was a timesaver when it came to searching for the siblings, and when I found records that matched the family, I was able to merge them into the file through the web merge tool. This made citing the sources a breeze.

More Creative Searches

Recognizing that I'd also want to do some more creative searches, particularly for years in which I wasn't able to locate the family, I also went directly to the databases in some cases. I went to the main search page at Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com/search/) and selected Georgia on the map. This allowed me to see a list of the databases that were available for that state.

I spied two databases of early Georgia marriages and tried a search for Butcher. I wasn't able to find Henry and either of his wives using the exact search and the Soundex option. To be thorough, I also checked under the bride's maiden name, and sure enough I found an entry for Elizabeth Wilkins and Henry Bucher. While it was a slight variation, it was enough to change the Soundex code from B326 to B260.

Another search that I needed to be creative with was a census search for Henry. The online tree listed Henry's place of death as Quachita Co., Arkansas in 1864. There is no Quachita County in Arkansas, but there is Ouachita County. I searched the 1860 census for the surname Butcher in Ouachita County in Arkansas and found Henry listed as H.P. Butcher. Another son was listed on the next page with only initials for his given and middle name as well, as were other people in that area. So if you are unable to locate an individual with a given name, try an initial. Since most of the census indexes at Ancestry.com are every-name indexes, you could also try the name of another member of the household.

Next Steps

The next steps will be up to my friend. Once I get her the information, she may wish to contact the person who submitted the tree online and exchange information. That person may have sources that we have not been able to access.

She can also check the Family History Library Catalog (FHLC), as well as libraries and archives that hold the original copies of the records. A quick check of the FHLC has already told me that the marriage records for the county where I found Henry and Elizabeth in the index are available on microfilm at the Family History Library. The film can also be ordered through a Family History Center near her for a nominal fee.

Research should also be done on siblings (and there are plenty of them!). Records available for Elizabeth's brothers and sisters may lead to more clues.

The cool part about this search was that all of it was done from home over the course of a few nights with resources that are available online. Now my friend has follow-ups that will keep her busy for quite a while.

It has also whetted my appetite and made me anxious to dive into my own family history again. And now that my column for this week is done, that is exactly what I plan on doing!

Juliana Smith is the editor of the *Ancestry Daily News* and author of *The Ancestry Family Historian's Address Book*. She has written for *Ancestry Magazine* and *Genealogical Computing*. Juliana can be reached by e-mail at ADNeditor@ancestry.com, but she regrets that she is unable to assist with personal research.

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Ancestry.com - Lessons I Learned at the Family History Library

Page 1 of 3

Ancestry.com
The No. 1 Source for Family History Online

 **Ancestry Daily News**
Michael John Neill - 2/2/2005

Lessons I Learned at the Family History Library

Professional responsibilities afforded me the opportunity to research sporadically at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah, for three days this January. This week we will look at some suggestions for readers who are lucky enough to make a trek to a distant research facility.

Catalog Dates May Be Awry

The online card catalog for the Family History Library was a wonderful and a great tool in helping me plan for my trip. However, sometimes the catalog can be slightly incorrect.

I encountered this on two occasions with two entirely separate sets of records. The catalog entry for some Catholic baptismal records indicated the time span covered was up to 1885. While looking at the records, the baptismal entries did only go through 1885. However, when I continued to view the materials, there was an index to entries that covered an additional fifteen years not noted in the card catalog. While the actual records for this later time frame were not on the microfilm, the index did tell me that there were entries afterwards and in what years those entries were recorded. If I had stopped when the actual christening records ended, I would have missed additional information.

A set of emigration papers from Ostfriesland, Germany, was also very high on my to-do list. With one-half of my ancestors coming from that area between 1850 and 1883, I had high hopes for the records. The catalog entry indicated the information from the records started as early as the 1850s. There were references in the emigration records to births as early as the 1840s. The emigration records themselves however actually dated from the mid-1880s, too late for my ancestors. Fortunately, my search list contained the names of aunts and uncles who had emigrated later, and I was able to find an entry for relative Tjark Janssen who emigrated in 1893. The record contained four pages of information on Tjark and his family.

Be Organized

Not only was my research time limited, it was spread out over three days in two hours increments. Consequently, lengthy projects were not practical (at least not for me). As a result I compiled a list of lookups in records from five countries over a two-hundred-year time period. I would need to be organized. The lookups I needed were fairly specific. To make the best use of my time, I put each lookup in a file folder that included the following pieces of information:

- Call numbers for the source being used
- Reasons why I was using the record
- Details that were needed to search the record
- Pedigree and family group charts where appropriate

As I prepared over a two-week time period, I kept thinking of new things to look for. As I added folders with new lookups, I wrote in pencil on the outside of each folder what information I needed to complete the lookup (names of parents, a date, a village, etc.) so that I had all the information I needed in the folder when I finally arrived at the library. As I prepared, I put the folders in two stacks: one with folders that were "complete" and one with folders where I needed to get some facts or additional printouts from my database before I left.

Before I went to the library, I visited the library's website to determine exactly what materials were on what floor. I did not want to be running from one floor to another and did not want to drag all my lookup folders with me each time I went to the library. My lookups included family histories, British records, German

records, Swiss records, and United States records. I sorted the folders by the floor where the records would be located. There was no need to make unnecessary trips up and down stairs!

Use the Internet Wisely

The Family History Library has numerous computer stations with Internet access as well as locations throughout the library where a laptop computer can be connected to the Internet. I used the Internet minimally at the library. There are millions of records at the library—I can use the Internet at home.

However, it was very convenient to have the library card catalog accessible in so many locations and to be able to perform quick lookups in some online sources if a discovery warranted. There were times where a "hot" or unexpected find required me to perform some quick searches online to make better use of my library time.

Read Directions

The library has a relatively new machine that makes digital copies from microfilm, and I was anxious to try it out. Unfortunately in my haste, I did not read all the directions and failed to complete the "burn" of my CD. I thought I had saved my images on the CD I purchased at the Family History Library, but I did not. However, since I kept precise track of what records were searched (and for whom I was searching), reproducing the searches was relatively easy. Adequate preparation makes library research easier and facilitates the tracking of what work has been done.

Is It in Storage?

Not everything the Family History Library has in its collection is located on site. The library has some materials in storage that must be retrieved. The online card catalog will indicate what materials are not housed at the main library. Patrons can e-mail the library in advance of their visit and have the materials ready when they arrive. These items in storage cannot be requested immediately just because I flew 1,000 miles and missed three connecting flights to arrive in Salt Lake (oops...that's another story). If there had been any items I needed from storage, I should have made the request before I left on my trip.

Decide How You Work

Having led research trips and having prepared for numerous library trips myself, I have read more about trip preparation than a person probably should. However, I tend to stick to research practices that work well for me—the way I am, and the way my mind works. This does not mean that I ignore sound methodology or good genealogical practice. What it does mean is that I do not radically change the way I organize or plan my research. I constantly tweak how I organize and plan, but do not make major changes. My ancestors confuse me enough without using a new process to confuse me even more.

Since I do little of my initial analysis on a computer, I opted to not take my laptop in the library. For me, it was one more thing to drag around, and I was constantly afraid I was going to leave it somewhere and forget it.

Since I hate to take handwritten notes, I make copies whenever possible. I decided since my time was so short that if a record would not copy well (but was legible) that I would make a note to order the same film from my local branch library. Then I could transcribe it when I could take my time and would not feel rushed.

Write Your Name on Your Hard Copy Card

Copies and printouts can be made at the library at a nominal cost. Some machines take actual money, but all will use a copy card which can be charged up with money at several stations throughout the library. The card is more convenient than carrying change or running to get change. The suggestion to put your name on your card is one that should be heeded. I did not. Somewhere in the library was a copy card with nearly ten dollars of unused copy money on it—without my name on it.

A Great Experience

The Family History Library in Salt Lake is an excellent place to research, if the opportunity presents itself. As for me, I'll be returning in September of this year when the Federation of Genealogical Societies hosts its annual conference at the Salt Palace Convention Center. And I'll be running around doing more quick lookups in two-hour increments. You can be assured I'll write my name on my copy card this time!

 **Ancestry.com**
The No. 1 Source for Family History Online

 **Ancestry Daily News**
Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak - 1/28/2005

Networking via MyFamily.com Sites

It's no secret that one of the most effective ways to move your research forward is networking—finding and interacting with the many others who hold pieces of your family history puzzle or at least have easier access to them. The Internet has made it easier than ever to find those scattered third and fifth cousins you want to swap details and photos with. But sometimes the sheer volume of distant cousins can overwhelm an avid genealogist, especially if you find yourself in the middleman position, trying to keep everyone informed of the latest discoveries.

Been There, Done That

In the early 1990s, I found myself in exactly this situation. Thanks to a CD phone directory (state of the art at the time!), I finally stumbled across some other Smolenyaks. Better yet, one of them was as enthusiastic about pursuing our roots as I was. When we compared notes, we realized that there were still more of us out there, so we both made a lot of phone calls and wrote a lot of letters. In short order, we were blissfully inundated with new contacts and genealogical data.

We felt an obligation to keep all who had contributed in the loop with our progress, but this soon became a time-consuming task. We launched a newsletter for those with Smolenyak connections. Since we all hail from a village where everyone is related, our little newsletter was passed around, and our community developed into a village-based society. This was good news, but also caused our costs to soar. After a few years, we realized that we needed to look for another way to communicate. That's when we discovered an online solution.

MyFamily.com

With the growing popularity of the Internet, we thought it might be a good idea to steer members of our community to an online home where our costs would be more manageable. Recognizing that it would take folks some time to make the transition, we decided to continue the newsletter as we did so, and, in all, we overlapped for three years. But in December 1998, we boldly staked our claim to a piece of cyberspace for our village, and "The Osturna Family Homepage" was launched on MyFamily.com.

Why MyFamily? While I'm an ace detective when it comes to finding information on the Internet, I'm not as handy at putting it out there. I wanted to concentrate more on content and less on layout, so I looked for pre-fab solutions. I also wanted to at least partially extricate myself from the middleman role, if only because I was becoming a bit of a bottleneck due to all my travel. MyFamily provided what I needed—a private site (password-protected, so only fellow Osturnites can get in) where we could all easily share our genealogical gems, photos, and news of everyday lives.

ADN Editor's Note: The FGS 2005 Conference program is expected to be available online later this month at www.fgs.org.

Michael John Neill is the Course I Coordinator at the Genealogical Institute of Mid America (GIMA) held annually in Springfield, Illinois, and is also on the faculty of Carl Sandburg College in Galesburg, Illinois. Michael is the Web columnist for the FGS FORUM and is on the editorial board of the *Illinois State Genealogical Society Quarterly*. He conducts seminars and lectures on a wide variety of genealogical and computer topics and contributes to several genealogical publications, including *Ancestry Magazine* and *Genealogical Computing*. You can e-mail him at mjnrootdig@myfamily.com or visit his website at www.rootdig.com, but he regrets that he is unable to assist with personal research.

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Six Years Later

Has it worked? Having recently passed our sixth anniversary milestone, I took stock:

- 300 members with a core 50 or so being the regulars (and given our current home page photo of sextuplets recently born into our community, we can anticipate more members in the future!)
- 525 images (photos and documents) uploaded and organized into albums so members can go straight to items of interest to them
- A calendar that shares our birthdays, anniversaries, and other special events
- A "News" section with almost 1,300 postings, also organized by topic
- A Family-Tree section where one of our tech-genius members periodically posts an updated master database for the entire village

- A "File Cabinet" that includes digitized video and songs, as well as articles we've published, family histories, DNA analysis, and lists of immigrants from Osturna

When I decided to write this article, I naturally posted to our site for input, and this comment from Denise Kovalchik Mollo is typical:

"I am very happy with the Osturna website. My Dad, Emil, was the second youngest of 11 children. I really did not know my grandfather too well as he passed away when I was only 4. My dad knew little about Osturna and his relatives. The Osturna website and the family tree all helped put together a story about my grandfather and his life. It brought back memories of stories my grandfather had told my dad and my uncles and really helped me to know what kind of person my grandfather was. He wanted a better life for himself and his family. He came over with very little money and built a new life. He was very proud of Osturna and proud of his family."

One Is Not Enough

I suppose the fact that one of our members—Lisa Alzo (my husband's third cousin)—recently wrote "Making the Most of MyFamily.com" for the November/December 2004 issue of *Ancestry* magazine is another indicator of how useful our Osturna clan has found our Internet home! Lisa now administers three family sites, plus five additional ones for online classes she conducts (which apparently rely heavily on the chat, file cabinet, and news features). I also administer three sites, and belong to six others—including some professional ones (such as the International Society of Family History Writers and Editors) and some geographically-oriented ones (such as Rusyn Villages Under Dukla).

The sites are easy to establish and require no web design skills. And the cost is modest, but you can try it free for thirty days to be sure it works for your purposes. If you've got an extended family group or belong to a genealogical organization of some sort, you just might want to take a peek. In five minutes, you can be up and running!

[Incidentally, many of you are aware of the Ancestry.com/MyFamily.com affiliation and know that *Ancestry Daily News* is a part of this corporate family, but I'd like to make it clear that writing on this topic was my own idea—and with six years and nine sites, I hope it's obvious that I'm genuinely a satisfied customer!]

A Musical P.S.

I greatly enjoyed Beau Sharbrough's recent article, "Genealogy Music" and would like to take this opportunity to mention that a song on Steve Lanza's "Ancestral Songs" (www.ancestralsongs.com), featured in an earlier article, recently received an award (second place) for Americana Song of the Year. Over 140,000 songs and 10,000 CDs were considered, so that's quite an honor!

- Oklahoma Genealogical Society Spring Seminar
(April 30, 2005, Oklahoma City, OK)
- Orange County Genealogical Society
(May 14, 2005, Goshen, NY)
- New York Genealogical & Biographical Society
(June 18, 2005, New York, NY)
- Iowa Genealogical Society Annual Fall Conference
(October 6-8, 2005, Clive, IA)
- Monmouth County Genealogical Society
(November 13, 2005, NJ)

Details and links to upcoming events: www.honoringourancestors.com/schedule.html

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Who Took This Picture?

How many times have you looked at your unidentified family pictures and wanted to know when they were taken or who's depicted? Like many genealogists, I use the databases on Ancestry.com to search for family information, but I have a secret. I collect unidentified photographs to use as examples in my writings and often need to know when a photographer was in business. A variety of the Ancestry.com databases help me determine that information. You too can use these databases to establish a tentative date range for your family photographs based on the material you collect on the person who took the picture.

Standard photo identification techniques include identifying the photographic method, examining costume clues, using genealogical material, and investigating a photographer's imprints. An imprint is the printed or embossed information on the photograph that appears on an image. This includes partial or full names, street addresses and town of operation, services, and even patent clues. You can find imprints on the front or the back of a card photograph (a paper print mounted on cardboard).

If an imprint mentions where a photographer had his studio, I'll skip to the advanced search page of the Ancestry website to select databases for a specific state or a particular type of resource. Here are a few that I find helpful.

Directories and Membership Lists

One of the best ways to establish a time frame for a photographer is to search city directories for a span of years. Thankfully, a wide range of these volumes has been digitized by Ancestry.com. Select the state, then the resource--"Directories and Membership Lists," as well as the specific one you want to consult. The search page then allows you to type in the surname or full name of a photographer along with a keyword like the specific term they used to describe themselves such as daguerreotypist or the name of the street on which they were located. Business sections of the directories as well as the name listings are scanned for matches. It's important to check several year's worth of directories because you are trying to verify exactly how long a photographer operated their studio at a particular street address. For instance, you may have several pictures taken by a photographer, but each imprint has him on a different street. Finding that photographer at the exact address as the one on your picture provides you with a date range frame for the image.

Directories are also useful for filling in missing information. If you have only a surname for the photographer, a directory search provides their first name--information you can use in the future.

To effectively search for a photographer you need the following:

- A surname or company name
- A locality

Use directories to:

- Verify a photographer's dates of operation
- Discover their full name
- Find a business listing for their studio

Census Records

Since directory coverage isn't complete for rural areas and not every directory is accessible online, a series of census records for a photographer can act as a substitute source with some caveats. For instance, a census won't tell you the address of their studio because you'll find them listed within a household rather than at a business address; however, a census record will confirm their town of their residence. Hopefully this will match the data on your photograph.

There is another caution. In the early days of photography, many shop owners offered portraits to attract customers and extra revenue. When the census enumerator asked for their occupation, instead of "photographer" these individuals usually stated their full-time job.

Family and Local Histories

Since June 2004 researchers have been able to search digitized versions of published genealogies and local histories using the Family and Local Histories Collection on Ancestry.com. If you subscribe, try searching for a photographer's name instead of Uncle Earl. You might be surprised at what you locate. Sure, you won't need the genealogy of the photographer's family (unless they are a relative), but you might discover a biographical sketch of that photographer that details when he had a studio. It's even possible that your ancestor's visit was more than a business transaction. A photographer might have emigrated from the same area as your relative or belonged to the same social groups.

Newspapers

Not having any luck finding your photographer using the above resources? Try the Historical Newspaper Collection for stories, advertisements, or an obituary.

Photo identification is about adding up the facts. No one piece of information dates a photograph. It's the accumulation of the details that provide a time frame for an image. Knowing when the photographer who took your grandfather's picture was in business is just the first step. You'll still have to examine the clothing worn in the picture for a possible date and consult your genealogy to see if your identification is correct. You'll probably need to research clothing styles and ask relatives for family data to solve your photo mystery.

Let's face it. Not everything you'll need is online, but it's a good start. Treating photographers like a relative might lead to your next big family history discovery. You may find that the picture you've always thought was your great-grandmother might be older than you think--all because you took the time to learn more about the photographer who took it.

Send your preservation questions to Maureen at mtaylor@taylorandstrong.com. She is the author of *Preserving Your Family Photographs* (Betterway 2001) and *Scrapbooking Your Family History* (Betterway 2003).

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Douglas County, KS Genealogical Society

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Surname Index, Vol 27, no.3&4

Bailery, 56
Baker, 56
Bare, 56
Barnes, 56
Blainy, 56
Bodewell, 56
Bristow, 56
Brown, 82
Burchill, 54
Burchill, 53
Butcher, 74
Butcher, 75
Butler, 74
Carter, 56
Cary, 56
Chapman, 82
Chapman, 53
Crooks, 56
Crosby, 56
Curkeimer, 82
Cutler, 56
Davis, 56
Deming, 56
Eaton, 56
Featherston, 56
Fisher, 56
Flanders, 54
Flora, 56
Forsythe, 71
Funk, 56
Gantz, 56
German, 56
Graden, 66
Granger, 82
Gray, 72
Hair, 56
Hall, 66
Hand, 66
Hanson, 55
Harpster, 56
Harris, 53
Harris, 54
Hatcher, 65
Hein, 56
Holderman, 82
Hone, 66
Hoover, 82
Huff, 56
Hyde, 56
Iliff, 56

Ives, 56
Jardon, 82
Jordan, 71
Jordan, 53
Jordan, 72
Jordan, 82
Jordan, 54
Junkins, 56
Kerns, 56
Kidwell, 72
King, 72
Kirchner, 56
Kochane, 56
Lake, 56
Lang, 53
Lanza, 79
Leach, 56
Leake, 56
Leggett, 56
Lehew, 56
Lockwood, 56
Markham, 56
Markham, 56
Martin, 55
Martin, 56
Martin, 72
McClure, 56
McDonald, 56
Melick, 82
Messinger, 56
Metzger, 56
Miller, 56
Misemer, 56
Mohr, 54
Mohr, 82
Mohr, 53
Moore, 53
Motter, 56
Murray, 56
Neagles, 65
Neill, 76
Newton, 56
Oliver, 56
Osborn, 56
Osturna, 78
Owen, 56
Perrine, 56
Pfeiffer, 66
Polk, 56
Powell, 56
Preshaw, 56
Preston, 56
Quale, 56
Rader, 82
Rash, 72
Roberts, 56
Rooney, 82
Schell, 55
Schott, 56
Schultz, 56

Sevart, 72
Sharbrough, 79
Shinkle, 56
Shinkle, 56
Smith, 74
Smolenyak, 78
Smolenyak, 65
Spencer, 82
Spielman, 72
Starr, 56
Stephens, 56
Stewart, 56
Stiff, 56
Sturdivan, 56
Sturdy, 56
Taylor, 80
Thomas, 56
Thompson, 56
Tryon, 56
Ulrich, 56
Ulrich, 56
VanKuren, 56
Vaughn, 53
Vaughn, 82
Walker, 56
Webster, 56
Wellman, 53
Wellman, 55
Wellman, 54
Wheeler, 56
Wilkins, 74
Wilkins, 56
Williams, 56
Worley, 54