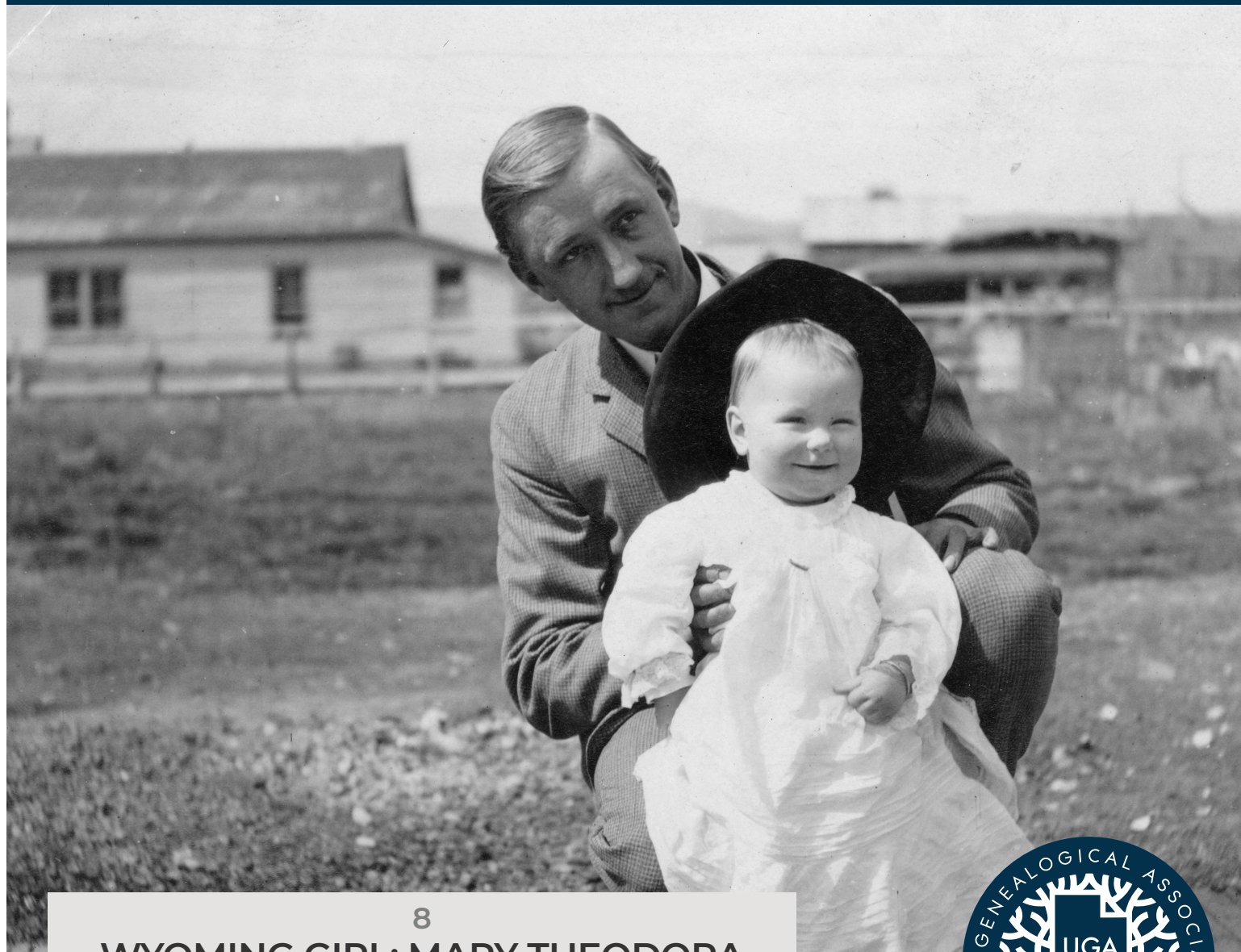


UTAH GENEALOGICAL ASSOCIATION

CROSSROADS

VOLUME 19, ISSUE 4

FALL 2024



8

WYOMING GIRL: MARY THEODORA WEDEMAYER'S CHILDHOOD

By Allyson Smith Maughan, AG



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We would like to bid farewell and express gratitude to Kelly Richardson, the outgoing editor of *Crossroads*. Kelly's dedicated work over the past two years produced journals that were both informational and a delight to read. Kelly oversaw a redesign that made *Crossroads* a top-notch publication, representing the varied interests of UGA members with the voices of well-known and new authors. We are grateful for the time and energy she put into *Crossroads* and wish her well in her future work. Her care and attention will be felt for a long time.

We are excited to work with our new *Crossroads* editor, Eva Holmes. Eva is an experienced genealogist with background as an author and writing mentor. With such skills, Eva will be excellent at working with *Crossroads* contributors, for both the experienced and novice. Eva also brings both project management and editorial experience to our team. We are excited to welcome her as she continues the line of excellent *Crossroads* editors.

I would also like to note the outstanding work of our board of directors and the other volunteers who run UGA. We have a hardworking team of volunteers who manage webinars, finances, the First Families program, our website, SLIG, and all of the other programs that UGA offers. I am grateful for all of them and their efforts to further UGA's educational mission.

It's not too late to sign up for your Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy (SLIG) Virtual and SLIG Spring Virtual courses. SLIG Virtual 2025 will be January 27th to 31st and will offer advanced genealogical education in our traditional one-week intensive format. SLIG Spring Virtual will begin in February 2025 and offer multi-week courses on a variety of genealogy topics that will further your knowledge and skills. You may find a course that fits perfectly with your educational goals. For more information, visit slig.ugagenealogy.org.

This season is a time for reflection, celebration, and planning for the upcoming year. Whether you are finding time to work on discovering new family members or sharing your discoveries with loved ones, I hope you will find fulfillment in your genealogical journey. Thank you for being part of the Utah Genealogical Association.

Enjoy this great edition of *Crossroads*!

Maria Wittwer

Maria Wittwer, CG, AG
President, Utah Genealogical Association

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COVER PHOTO

Mary and Fred Wedemeyer, Portrait, ca. 1908, Dixon, Wyoming, personal collection of Allyson Maughan, Salt Lake City, Utah.



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Submit manuscripts to the *Crossroads* editorial team. An upload link can be found at UGAGenealogy.org.

Text should follow the *Chicago Manual of Style* (16th edition, humanities form); footnotes should follow Elizabeth Shown Mills, *Evidence Explained: Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, Inc., 2007).

Feature articles should be between 1,500 and 3,000 words. Accompanying images are preferred.

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Crossroads is the official magazine of the Utah Genealogical Association. To receive the quarterly magazine simply join the Utah Genealogical Association at UGAGenealogy.org.

See website for membership details and more information.



EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Fall is a time of transition. Students return to the classroom while gardeners harvest their last crops and prepare for winter. As we move from one season to another, *Crossroads* changes hands from one editor to another. I am so grateful to Kelly Richardson for showing me the ropes and to all of the *Crossroads* volunteers and writers who have shaped this issue. I would also like to thank the UGA Board of Directors who have entrusted me with this task.

This issue features some wonderful articles. Allyson Maughan shares her grandmother's story and her own journey crafting it during a SLIG class she took last spring. Jenny Rizzo Irwin also writes about a grandparent to illustrate some of the information we can find in records created by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Jay Fonkert's case study illustrates the potential of the new FamilySearch full-text search feature and the importance of not jumping to a quick conclusion. For those with ancestors who mined in the Southwest, don't miss Eileen Rhine's tips for tracing these people who moved frequently for new opportunities.

We celebrate our Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy scholarship winners and Melissa Dailley interviews Gary Ball-Kilbourne about his intriguing new course on "Ethics and the Genealogist." The Salt Lake County Archives brings a top ten list about their collections, both offline and off, and Cynthia Vail Benson is our featured Pioneer. If you have an ancestor who arrived in Utah before 1896, please consider sharing their story with our readers.

This is your publication. If you have an idea for an article or a topic you'd like to see covered, please email me at eva@blindhopes.com.

Eva Holmes, CG, AG
Editor, *Crossroads*



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WYOMING GIRL

MARY THEODORA WEDEMEYER'S CHILDHOOD

By Allyson Smith Maughan, AG

The older I get, the more I understand my learning style. I am an auditory learner, meaning I like classes where people talk with each other. I am organized, meaning I am motivated by due dates. I have physical limitations because of my chronic illness. I don't always have the energy to work long hours. I have to keep projects simple and work load low. Positive reinforcement motivates me the most. If I hear that my work looks strong and I can finish, I will. When people tell me I can write a paper or get credentialed, I believe them.

These learning styles matched up with the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy (SLIG) writing course "Bring 'Em Back to Life: Writing Our Ancestors' Stories." Annette Burke Lyttle was the coordinator assisted by Jenifer Kahn Bakkala. Each class was live with time to talk with the teachers and each other. The syllabus outlined what would happen in each class and provided due dates for writing parts of the story. The classes were also recorded. I showed up when I could but could also leave when I wasn't feeling well and watch the rest later, on the recording. The instructors continued to remind us to "trust the process," moving forward at any pace, while praising our work each week. They encouraged us until we finished and celebrated our results during the last class.

If that sounds like something you'd like, "Bring 'Em Back to Life: Writing Our Ancestors' Stories" will be offered again as part

of the 2025 SLIG Spring Academy. There's still time to register at <https://slig.ugagenealogy.org/>.

The following story contains a condensed version of my writing creation from the course. My grandmother Mary died six months before my parents married. I wrote the story of her Wyoming childhood to learn about her life.

A Family Begins

As spring woke up the Little Snake River Valley, new life stirred in the small town of Dixon. Mary Theodora Wedemeyer made her start 10 May 1907 in the Dixon Hotel, Carbon, Wyoming. Her mother, Myrtle McCary, popular and educated, ran the Dixon Hotel with Myrtle's sister, Minnie. They had grown up in nearby Savery and returned home after education at the Normal School in Springfield, Missouri.¹ While Myrtle ran the hotel, Mary's father, Fred Wedemeyer, asked Myrtle for a room, having secured the bookkeeping position at Hugus and Company.² He had finished business school in Denver, Colorado, and returned to Wyoming. He had grown up in Cheyenne and on a ranch in Laramie County. "With his brand-new education... full of vim and vigor...he set out for parts unknown to him. [He] wound up in the wild and woolly little town [Dixon] tucked away in the southeast corner of Wy-



FIGURE 1: Mary Wedemeyer, Portrait, ca. 1907, Wm. G. Walker studio, Cheyenne, Wyoming, personal collection of Allyson Maughan, Salt Lake City, Utah.



Allyson is a genealogy speaker, writer, and consultant and Accredited Genealogist in the Southwest region. She completed Gen Proof in 2023, ProGen 53 in 2022, and a Genealogy Certificate from SLCC in 2019. She graduated from Idaho State University in 2001. She volunteers with UGA as a board member overseeing the Education Committee. She enjoys historical pictures and poetry writing and shares tips on familypicturesandpoetry.blogspot.com. Her genealogy website can be found at <https://rememberingrelatives.weebly.com/>. She lives in SLC with her husband and three girls.



oming." Sometime between January and July, Myrtle and Fred courted and became engaged. Episcopal Reverend William Toole, the brother-in-law of Minnie, married Myrtle and Fred in the Dixon Hotel parlor on 7 July 1906.³ My grandmother, Mary, was born the following year.

Family Life

Mary grew up with parents who could provide nicely for her. She had a comfortable life with money and connections to prominent families in the area. After her birth, her parents continued as proprietors of the Dixon Hotel for several years. Fred had his job as a bookkeeper and then became a salesman for the Harris Mercantile Company in 1908.⁴ Mary's first sibling, Bernice, was born 30 July 1909 in the same room of the Dixon Hotel as Mary had been born.⁵

An opportunity for Fred turned up with the Commercial Company in Baggs in 1907, but at the time he chose to stay in Dixon.⁶ However, more opportunities turned up in Baggs, and Fred decided to move his family there when Mary was four years old.

Her parents leased the Dixon Hotel to Lincoln Robi-nette, later trading it for Oscar Beeler's Ranch.⁷ Fred and Myrtle bought the Baggs Mercantile and the contract for the stage driver route from Wamsutter to Baggs, Dixon, and Slater.⁸

Fred strove to make his businesses profitable. Myrtle remembered, "It took all day with a four-horse team from Wamsutter to Baggs."⁹ To help with the stage line, Fred bought a twelve-passenger federal truck as well as new stage coaches to run the route. He also bought the stock from the Jeben's Mercantile to consolidate with the Baggs Mercantile. He and his brother, John, bought the controlling interest in the store from other investors.¹⁰

Fred became mayor of Baggs when Mary was eight years old. The newspaper noted that the "election proved small and quiet with only thirty-one votes cast."¹¹ Many in town considered Fred "one of the

progressive citizens in Baggs."¹² A year after the election, Fred moved his family onto his brother John's old ranch as John had bought a new ranch. Then, Fred began the Wedemeyer Ranch Company. He still worked as secretary-treasurer of the Baggs Mercantile, continued to run the stage line and the mail line, as well as being vice president of the First State Bank and a school board member.¹³

Myrtle had business skills which may have provided her opportunities to work at the Baggs Mercantile after they moved; however, it is unknown if she did such work. Likely, she led a life similar to women of her time, taking care of home and family. She had two more children while their family lived in Baggs. Fredrick Francis "Fritzie" was born 15 November 1912.¹⁴ Robert Theodore "Ted" was born there on 29 April 1917.¹⁵ Myrtle belonged to a women's society called the Royal Neighbors of America. The group aimed to support women and provide life insurance for mothers.¹⁶ She attended and hosted some of the meetings for the group at her house.¹⁷



FIGURE 2: Mary and Bernice Wedemeyer, Portrait, ca. 1910, unknown location, personal collection of Allyson Maughan, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Grace

Mary met her friend Grace when they were children living in the Snake River Valley, and they became life-long friends. Greta "Grace" Johnson immigrated to the United States from Sweden in 1908 with her parents and siblings. They lived in Chicago, Illinois, for a short time before moving to Wyoming in 1909 to be close to family.¹⁸

Grace and Mary were as close as sisters. Mary got along better with Grace than her sister, Bernice. Grace remembered "Bernice was a pest."¹⁹ Likely Bernice tried to tag along and listen to conversations between them, common things a younger sister would do when an older sister and friend were around.

The girls spent lots of time together and enjoyed life in Baggs. Mary's birthday was May 10th and Grace's birthday was May 15th. Mary's mom, Myrtle, always had a birthday party for both girls. Grace remembers



"She always included me." They had sleepovers at Mary's house. Grace remembered how she and Mary would sleep together on the feather bed and whisper to each other under the blankets so Bernice wouldn't hear. Mary and Grace were friends with everyone, and one of their favorite things to do was go to all the dances held in town.²⁰ The girls belonged to the Girls Friendly Society (GFS). The GFS's history encompassed "a week-day group work organization within the Protestant Episcopal Church, whose members except [accept] the Christian faith and seek in the fellowship of worship, study, work, and play to serve God and extend His Kingdom."²¹ Both girls participated in a play run by the GFS for their town.²²

Baggs School

Both girls went to the small, rural school in Baggs. Mary likely attended from about six years old in 1913 until they moved to Long Beach in 1921. In 1913 the school had sixty-six students, and the following year attendance grew by 10 percent to about seventy-three students.²³ Families were asked to support the school by encouraging obedience to teachers and good behavior from students. The school year often started in September and ended in May or June.²⁴ Soon after Mary began going to school, Baggs planned for a new school to be built that would house all grades

from elementary through high school. The town sold \$12,000 in bonds, and the school started construction in 1914 and opened to students in 1915.²⁵

Mary's school days were likely filled with learning to read, write, and finish math problems. However, there were a few exciting events. "One day the furnace blew up, and to the students' delight they lost three weeks of school before it could be repaired," teacher Agnes Johnson Ostling remembered.²⁶ One year, the school had a fun Christmas play in Vernon Hall. The children presented the play to the adults followed by an appearance from Santa. Santa handed out presents and treats, and the evening ended with a dance for everyone.²⁷ Once the manager of the picture show in Baggs gave a free ticket to the show to the student with the highest marks in class.²⁸ Another year the school had a program and end-of-year picnic.²⁹

Saint Luke's Episcopal Church

Mary enjoyed religion. Her daughter, Janet remembers, "She liked to go to church. It didn't matter what church or where. She didn't go particularly regularly, but she enjoyed it. Sometimes she would watch one of the Christian shows on television on Sunday, and she even went to the drive-in church....I remember one Sunday when I was giving a talk; she snuck in to hear me."³⁰

In June 1921, before they moved to California, Mary received her confirmation from St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Baggs.³¹ Her uncle Reverend William Toole was one of the Episcopal Ministers in the Snake River Valley.³² He founded and promoted the building of St. Luke's.³³

The Baggs community was known for being friendly and engaging, a place where everyone was well acquainted.³⁴ The community and church worked together often. The Ladies of St. Luke's Guild held activities for the young people associated with the church.³⁵ One year they threw a Halloween party, which had a picture show, a dance, treats of apples, candies, and cookies, and games. They played "Bobbing for Apples," "Telling Fortunes," "The Witches Cauldron," "Going to Jerusalem," and "Blow out the Candles."³⁶ Another year the Odd Fellows group came to a Sunday service and gave offerings for a new baptismal font after service ended.³⁷

Services were held in Baggs at a variety of times.



FIGURE 3: "Old Time Picture," *The Snake River Press*, clipped article, posted on FB by Little Snake River Museum 14 March 2021, (<https://www.facebook.com/photo>: accessed 9 March 2024).



Some years the services were at 11 a.m. or 7:30 p.m. In other years Sunday School was held early at 9:45 a.m. and morning prayer followed at 11.³⁸ When Mary had her communion, it was held the first Thursday, 9 June 1921.³⁹

1918 Flu Epidemic

The 1918 Spanish flu epidemic hit Baggs in October 1918 when Mary was eleven years old. Baggs was the first town hit in the Snake River Valley area. Everyone in the area was affected including doctors, schools, and the Wedemeyer family.

A very serious condition due to influenza exists in Baggs at present. Nearly fifty cases of the disease are reported and eight serious cases of pneumonia. Dr. E.F. Noyes and Dr. A.E. White are loyally working day and night and with the assistance of Mrs. W.G. Reader and Miss Hilda McCarger, both excellent trained nurses are giving each patient the best care possible.⁴⁰

The Baggs School closed for eight weeks between 22 October 1918 and 16 December 1918 to prevent the spread of the flu.⁴¹ From the end of November to the beginning of December decisions about when to open the school vacillated. It seemed that maybe they would open in early December but the date continued to be pushed back. Dr. Noyes continued to see sickness in the Little Snake River Valley and opted for the schools to stay closed while the pandemic lingered. Grace remembered the time of the epidemic stating, "People were dropping like flies."⁴² Mary's younger brother, Fritz, fell ill and died from complications.

A very sad death occurred last Tuesday, November 12th at 6:45 p.m., when little Frederick Francis Wedemeyer, the six-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Wedemeyer was taken away. Little "Fritz" as he was generally known, became ill with influenza several days ago and was on the road to recovery when he had an attack of appendicitis. Dr. Arhegast, a well-known surgeon of Rock Springs, was called and the operation was performed last Sunday afternoon. Several hours after the operation double pneumonia developed. Little Fritz was an exceptionally bright child and had the prospect of a promising future. Rev. Wm. Toole conducted the funeral services which were held last Wednesday afternoon.⁴³



FIGURE 4: Baggs Mercantile, Portrait, Fred owned in 1910s, Baggs, Wyoming, personal collection of Allyson Maughan, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Fritz died three days before his sixth birthday. It is unknown if other family members were sick or how they might have quarantined during this time. Fritz was buried in Reader Cemetery near Savery where most of the McCary family is buried. By February of 1919, the flu had run its course and left the Snake River Valley.⁴⁴ School and business resumed, and life moved on. However, it made its mark on the Wedemeyer family as Fred and Myrtle with Mary, eleven, Bernice, nine, and Ted, nineteen months, were left to grieve the loss of Fritz.

Move to California

Mary's family visited Dorothea Wedemeyer, Mary's paternal grandmother, and her Aunt Bertha (Wedemeyer) Boomer in Long Beach, California in 1916. Myrtle remembered:

We left Baggs in very cold, freezing weather and our first stop was at Dad, [Wyoming], where the thermometer registered thirty-eight degrees below zero. When we arrived in California, the sun was shining, it was warm and everything looked just beautiful to us....We held a family conference and decided that California was where we wanted to live.⁴⁵

It is unknown why Mary's family spent five more years in Wyoming before they moved. Perhaps they felt like they needed to fulfill obligations as Fred had been elected mayor the previous year. They may have wanted to save more money and finish business deals. However, in 1921, they began to sell, trade, and lease their property and businesses. Fred traded three hundred and twenty acres of his farm to Tom Kilgore in exchange for the Savery Mercantile Company.⁴⁶



Fred knew he was done with the mercantile business, so he sold the Savery Store to the Harris Mercantile of Dixon.⁴⁷ After the business finished, friends held a party in the Amusement Hall to say goodbye to Mary's family.⁴⁸ Myrtle wrote of the trip:

We started for California, 16 August 1921, in a seven-passenger Case car. There were no paved roads, only the main streets of Salt Lake and Nephi, Utah were paved. There were no hotels and very few filling stations. We were eleven- and one-half days on the road making about one hundred miles a day. We carried a five-gallon can of water along with us in case of emergency and camped

out every night. The wheels of the car were made of wood and as they went down some of the canyons, we sometimes wondered if they would make it. When we reached Barstow, California it was 100 degrees. We were very glad to drive the other one hundred fifty miles to get to Long Beach.⁴⁹

Mary said goodbye to friends, family, and Wyoming. After she moved to California, she graduated from high school and business school. She married and raised three children. She lies at rest in Forest Lawn Memorial Park. Throughout her life, Mary spent some of her summers reconnecting with friends and family in Wyoming.

¹ Helen Morgan, *Snake River Profiles* (H. Morgan, Baggs, WY), vol. 2, p. 66-67, copy of pages in possession of Allyson Maughan, Salt Lake City, Utah.

² "Ads," *Snake River Sentinel*, 1907, col. 2, and col. 5-6. See also "Dixon Doings," *Routt County Courier*, (Colorado), 16 Aug 1906, p. 4, col. 2.

³ Morgan, *Snake River Profiles*, 66-67. "Fred Wedemeyer Weds," *The Wyoming Tribune*, Tuesday 17 July 1906, p. 2, col. 3.

⁴ "Dixon, Carbon County, Wyoming," *The Wyoming Tribune*, Tuesday, 23 June 1908, p. 5, col. 4.

⁵ Morgan, *Snake River Profiles*, 66-67. "Local Happenings," *The Wheatland World*, Friday, 8 Aug 1910, col. 2.

⁶ "Round About Us," *Routt County Courier*, (Colorado), 7 Nov 1907, p. 3, col. 2.

⁷ "Stage Sold," "Hotel Leased," *Tribune-Stockman-Farmer*, Tuesday 9 May 1911, p. 3, col. 5. Morgan, *Snake River Profiles*, 66-67.

⁸ Morgan, *Snake River Profiles*, 66-67. "Stage Sold" and "Hotel Leased," *Tribune-Stockman-Farmer*, 9 May 1911, p. 3, col. 5.

⁹ Morgan, *Snake River Profiles*, 66-67.

¹⁰ "Neighboring Note," *Moffat County Courier*, (Colorado), 8 May 1913, p. 1, col. 2.

¹¹ "Some Sorted News," *Moffat County Courier*, (Colorado), 20 May 1915, p. 1, col. 1.

¹² "Snake River Valley is one of West's Fertile Garden Spots," *The Craig Empire*, (Colorado), 28 Jan 1920, p. 13, col. 2-3.

¹³ "Wedemeyer Moves," *Wyoming Semi-Weekly Tribune*, Tuesday, 18 April 1916, p. 3, col. 3. Neighborhood Gossip," *The Craig Empire*, (Colorado), 15 Dec 1920, p. 5, col. 2. "F.F. Wedemeyer in Savery Store," *The Craig Empire*, (Colorado), 13 Apr 1921, p. 5, col. 3. "Notice of Incorporation," *The Wyoming Tribune*, Friday, 18 May 1917, p. 9, col. 6.

¹⁴ "Local Happenings," *The Wheatland World*, Friday, 29 Nov 1912, col. 1.

¹⁵ Donald Wedemeyer, "Johann Georg Wedemeier," unpublished and undocumented genealogy, p. 27, giving the birth of Robert Wedemeyer, 12 April 1917, Baggs, Wyoming, copy in possession of Allyson Maughan.

¹⁶ "History," *RoyalNeighborsOfAmerica* (<https://www.royalneighbors.org/about-us/history>), accessed 9 April 2024.

¹⁷ "untitled," *The Craig Empire*, (Colorado), 13 July 1921, p. 13.

¹⁸ 1910 U.S. federal census, Snake River, Carbon, Wyoming, population schedule, e.d. 40, sheet 4A, dwelling 19, family 20, household of Emma C. Johnson, digital image, *Ancestry* (<http://ancestry.com>: accessed 19 Feb 2024), microfilm publication T624, roll 1,745. Suzette Smith, "untitled story of Mary Wedemeyer and Grace Johnson's friendship", (unpublished manuscript), written in 1994, four pages unnumbered by author, personal collection of Allyson Maughan, Salt Lake City, Utah, 2024.

¹⁹ Suzette Smith, "untitled story"

²⁰ Suzette Smith, "untitled story".

²¹ "A History of GFS in England and America," *The Girls Friendly Society*, (<https://www.gfsus.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/GFSHistory.pdf>: accessed 9 April 2024.)

²² "G.F.S. to Entertain," *The Craig Empire*, (Colorado), 20 Apr 1921, p. 13.

²³ "untitled," *Rawlins Republican*, (Wyoming), 18 Sep 1913, p. 5. "Brief Neighborhood Happenings," *The Craig Empire*, (Colorado), 3 Oct 1914, p. 1, col. 3

²⁴ "untitled," *Rawlins Republican*, (Wyoming), 19 Oct 1916, p. 5 "Neighborhood Brief," *The Craig Empire*, (Colorado), 8 Jun 1912, p. 1, Col. 3. "Snake River News," *The Craig Empire*, (Colorado), 25 May 1921, p. 5, col. 2

²⁵ "LHS," *The Laramie Republican*, (Wyoming), 10 Oct 1914, p. 7 "Brief Neighborhood Happenings," *The Craig Empire*, (Colorado), 13 Feb 1915, p. 1, col. 3..

²⁶ "Agnes Ostling, a much-loved Baggs School Teacher in the early 1900s," *The Snake River Press*, 7 July 1983, p. 1, posted on FB as a reply by Lynn Ball to Little Snake River Museum 14 Mar 2021, (<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php>: accessed 9 Mar 2024).

²⁷ "They Had a Good Time," *Rawlins Republican*, (Wyoming), 1 Jan 1914, p. 3.

²⁸ "Neighborhood Gossip," *The Craig Empire*, (Colorado), 13 Oct 1920, p. 4, col. 4.

²⁹ "Neighborhood Brief," *The Craig Empire*, (Colorado), 8 Jun 1912, p. 1, Col. 3.

³⁰ Janet Lopossa Smith, "untitled story of Lopossa family memories", (unpublished manuscript), written 19 Dec 1995, p. 1-8, personal collection of Allyson Maughan, Salt Lake City, Utah, 2024.

³¹ Saint Luke's Episcopal Church, Baggs, Wyoming, Mary Theodora Wedemeyer, baptism 9 June 1921, personal collection of Allyson Maughan, Salt Lake City, Utah.

³² "Huntington-Toole," *Rawlins Republican*, (Wyoming), 3 Sep 1902, clipped article. "Rev. Toole Bids Farewell," *Rawlins Republican*, (Wyoming), 23 Oct 1907.

³³ "Huntington-Toole," *Rawlins Republican*, (Wyoming), 3 Sep 1902.

³⁴ "Agnes Ostling, a much-loved Baggs School Teacher in the early 1900s," *The Snake River Press*, 7 July 1983, p. 1, posted on FB as a reply by Lynn Ball to Little Snake River Museum 14 Mar 2021, (<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php>: accessed 9 Mar 2024).

³⁵ "untitled," *Rawlins Republican*, (Wyoming), 8 Jan 1914. "untitled," *Rawlins Republican*, (Wyoming), 29 Jan 1914.

³⁶ "untitled," *Rawlins Republican*, (Wyoming), 6 Nov 1913, p. 8.

³⁷ "untitled," *Rawlins Republican*, (Wyoming), 6 Nov 1913, p. 8.

³⁸ "untitled," *Rawlins Republican*, (Wyoming), 19 Mar 1914, p. 10, col. *GenealogyBank* (<https://genealogybank.com/>: accessed 12 Mar 2024).

³⁹ Saint Luke's Episcopal Church, Baggs, Wyoming, Mary Theodora Wedemeyer, baptism 9 June 1921, personal collection of Allyson Maughan, Salt Lake City, Utah. "Church Services," *The Craig Empire*, (Colorado), 13 Apr 1921, p. 5, col. 3.

⁴⁰ "Snake River Items," *The Rawlins Republican*, (Wyoming), 21 Nov 1918, p. 6, col. 5-6.

⁴¹ "Snake River Items," *The Rawlins Republican*, (Wyoming), 24 Oct 1918, p. 6, col. 4. "Snake River Items," *The Rawlins Republican*, (Wyoming), 19 Dec 1918, p. 8, col. 5

⁴² Suzette Smith, "untitled story of Mary Wedemeyer and Grace Johnson's friendship", (unpublished manuscript), written in 1994, four pages unnumbered by author, personal collection of Allyson Maughan, Salt Lake City, Utah, 2024.

⁴³ "Snake River Items," *The Rawlins Republican*, (Wyoming), 21 Nov 1918, p. 6, col. 5-6.

⁴⁴ "untitled," *Rawlins Republican*, (Wyoming), 2 Feb 1919, p. 5.

⁴⁵ "County Profile-Fred and Myrtle Wedemeyer," *The Snake River Press*, 7 May 1970, p. 3 & 10, col. 1-5.

⁴⁶ "F.F. Wedemeyer in Savery Store," *The Craig Empire*, (Colorado), 13 Apr 1921, p. 5, col. 3.

⁴⁷ "Harris Merc. Co. in Savery Store," *The Craig Empire*, (Colorado), 4 May 1921, p. 3, col. 4.

⁴⁸ "Society Notes," *The Craig Empire*, (Colorado), 10 Aug 1921, p. 3, col. 4. "Mrs. Blackmore Entertains," *Snake River Sentinel*, Friday, 12 Aug 1921, p. 1, col. 1. "Baggs," *The Craig Empire*, (Colorado), 30 Aug 1921, p. 3, col. 4.

⁴⁹ "County Profile-Fred and Myrtle Wedemeyer," *The Snake River Press*, 7 May 1970, p. 3 & 10, col. 1-5.



PROSPECTING FOR MINING ANCESTORS IN THE SOUTHWEST

By Eileen Rhine

The history of western expansion in the United States would not be complete without the story of the California Gold Rush of 1848-49. It was part of a glamorous, exotic moment that advanced the legend of the American Dream. But not all western mining booms were for glittering precious metals. Many types of mining “booms” or trends influenced expansion and migration to the west. The California Gold Rush was, of course, the superstar of the mining boom trend, and gets the most attention. Four other western states experienced mining booms, and those states are the ones we’ll look at here: Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, and Utah.

As America grew after the Civil War, a shift occurred away from agriculture to an industrial economy, particularly in cities of the eastern states. The number of manufacturing and industrial jobs grew, but so did competition. Immigrants and citizens turned to western states after the Homestead Act of 1862 passed, which offered cheap land. Some joined the crowds who moved westward to work in the mining industry.¹

The industrial age brought about a greater need for power and machinery, leading to an increased demand for natural resources. Speculators and prospectors migrating west sought to turn coal, oil, gas, and nonprecious metal reserves in the Western states into fortunes. Industry followed. Not only did the miners migrate, but others also moved to build the towns that popped up all over the west, creating businesses that supported the miners: stores, saloons, hotels, livery, churches, and schools.

¹ “Rise of Industrial America, 1876-1900,” especially “The American West, 1865-1900,” Library of Congress Classroom materials, *U.S. History Primary Source Timeline*, (<https://www.loc.gov/classroom-materials/united-states-history-primary-source-timeline/>).

Genealogists can find valuable context and clues in the unique paper trail left by the mining industry, whether by individual prospectors or businesses.

Staking a claim required several steps:

1. Prospecting and Discovery

- Individuals searched for valuable minerals, and once found, the prospector would “stake a claim” to assert rights to the minerals. The claimant marked the claim boundaries and posted a notice at the site.

2. Recording the Claim

- The claimant then recorded the claim with local authorities, typically at the county recorder’s office or mining district office. Such recordings were frequently announced in local newspapers.

3. Maintenance

- The claimant filed an annual affidavit with the county recorder to prove active work continued within the claim, including a description of the work done or the improvements made.

If your ancestor was a prospector, there are many places to look for records. Claims and filings of maintenance were frequently published as legal notices in local newspapers. These notices include the name of the mine, mining district, county and the persons or corporation responsible.

Bureau of Land Management

Miners frequently staked claims on federal land through the Bureau of Land Management General Land Office (BLM/GLO). Digitized records, including



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mining claims, can be accessed online through the BLM/GLO Records website (<https://glorerecords.blm.gov/search/default.aspx>).

BLM offices in each state may hold additional records for mining claims in that state. Look on the BLM website for the public room in your state of interest to see what they may offer (<https://www.blm.gov/public-rooms>).

The websites below serve as a “card catalog” you can access from home to prepare for an in-person visit to the repository. Some collections may not be available for searching. Dive deep into the finding aids to locate the information you are seeking and gather as much detail as possible. Familiarize yourself with the “collection organization.” Some repositories will search and retrieve information for you. Carefully review the information and instructions about requesting records in-person or online before contacting the repository. Advance notice is often suggested and sometimes required.

Arizona

In Arizona, mining claims were filed with the county recorder’s office alongside ordinary property deeds from the formation of the territory in 1862. A few Arizona counties have online access to historical deeds or deed indexes. The FamilySearch Wiki has helpful information about researching land records in Arizona (https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Arizona_Land_and_Property).

Both mining district and mining company records may be found in repositories throughout Arizona by searching Arizona Archives Online, which provides access to descriptions of archival collections from several Arizona repositories, including libraries, special collections, archives, historical societies, and museums (<http://www.azarchivesonline.org/xtf/search>).

The Arizona Memory Project (<https://azmemory.azlibrary.gov/>) is an online archive of a wide variety of materials donated by over one hundred contributors. Its collection includes newspa-

pers, photographs, documents, maps, and correspondence. Arizona researchers may want to register for a free account and invest some time to learn the tricks to navigate this site. A helpful introduction can be found at (<https://azmemory.azlibrary.gov/pages/just-browsing>). It begins, “If you have never visited the Arizona Memory Project, it can seem overwhelming and confusing where to begin. If you are a fan of rabbit holes...”

Colorado

The Colorado State Archives is the major repository for documents created at the county and local level in the state and houses many archival collections for genealogical research. Mining district records that were held at the county can be located using Colorado State Archives Finding Aids Quick Index, accessible through a link on the collections landing page (<https://archives.colorado.gov/collections>). However, not all counties are represented. Some records may be stored locally. A list of county recorders and websites can be found at the Secretary of State’s website: (<https://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/elections/Resources/files/CountyClerkRosterWebsite.pdf>).

The Denver Public Library has mining district and mining company records in its special collection. Some are from other western states; however most are for places in Colorado. The collection includes the personal papers of Edward Lawrence Doyle, a key labor organizer in Colorado, whose papers include information on the coal strikes in the early twentieth century (<https://archives.denverlibrary.org/repositories/3>).

The Colorado Fuel and Iron Company (CF&I) was founded in Pueblo, Colorado, in 1892, and it owned many iron and coal mines throughout the west. In 2003, the Bessemer Historical Society acquired the entire archives of CF&I, including photographs, ledgers, maps, and employee records. The collection is now the focus of The Steelworks Museum and Archives, in Pueblo. While its manuscript collection is still a work in progress, there are over 5,000 items, mostly photographs, that are



FIGURE 1: Drilling copper ore one mile underground the Wilson Mine, Metcalf, Arizona, digital file from b&w film copy neg. right half stereo.

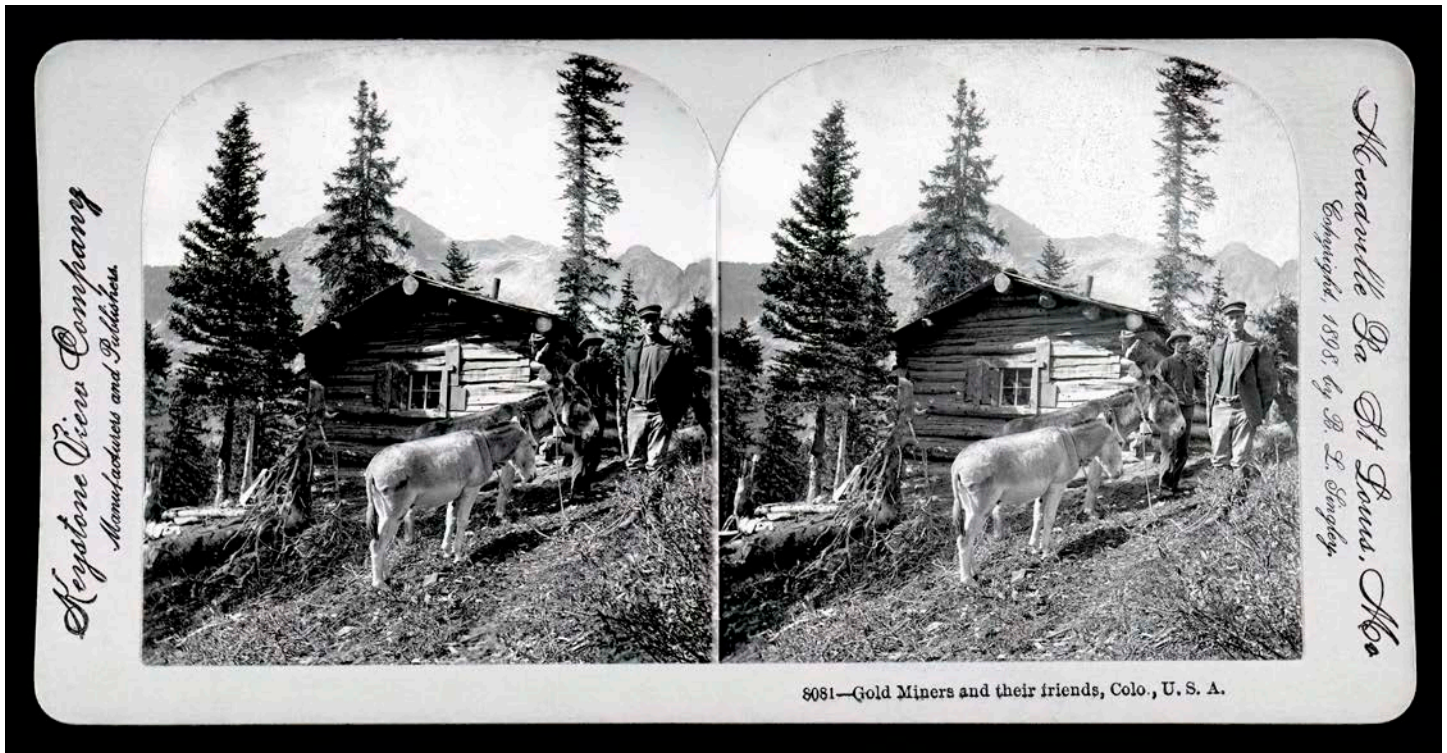


FIGURE 2: Gold Miners and their friends, Colo., U. S. A.

viewable online (<https://steelworks.pastperfectonline.com/photo>). It is a unique collection of records, which can be searched in-person or requested from the archivist for a fee.

Nevada

The University of Nevada Library's Special Collections (<https://archive.library.unr.edu/public>) has over 100 collections of materials related to "mining districts." Most of these collections have record books for mining claims that may include both individual and corporate records. Some are identified by the name of the district, while others may be part of a collection of corporate or personal papers.

The Nevada Historical Society has several ledger books from mining districts and some collections of personal papers of county recorders, mining officials, and company records. It has an impressive collection of archival photographs. Start with "Tips for Searching" at (<https://nevadahistory.pastperfectonline.com/>).

Utah

Utah has a comprehensive collection of county recorder's records. These were turned over to the county governments in 1897. Most can be found at the Utah Division of Archives and Records Service in Salt Lake City. Take advantage of the finding aid avail-

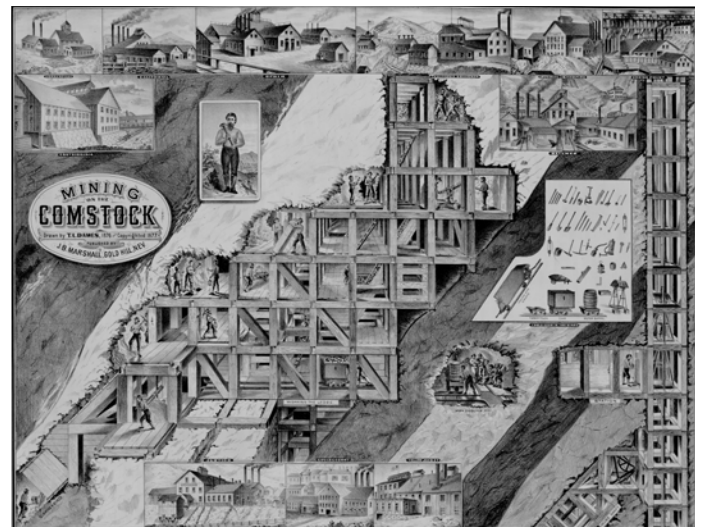


FIGURE 3: Mining on the Comstock / drawn by T.L. Dawes ; engraved and printed by Le Count Bros, San Francisco. Digital file from original print.

able by county at (<https://archives.utah.gov/research/guides/mining-records/>). The alphabetical list of counties includes a list of the mining districts within them. Finding aids for the Salt Lake County mining district records are held separately at the Salt Lake County Records Management & Archives (<https://slco.org/archives/additional-records/>). A finding aid for their records can be found at (https://slco.org/globalassets/1-site-files/archives/additional_records/guide-to-mining.pdf).



FIGURE 4: Ore train and Dry Fork Bridge, Bingham, Utah.

Special Collections at J. Willard Marriott Library at the University of Utah also has a few records from mining districts, as well as corporate records for mining companies. Finding aids for these resources can be found at ArchivesWest, (<https://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/>). The website provides access to records held at a consortium of archives in the western U.S. through a directory, with finding aids for member archives in Utah, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Oregon, and Washington. Searching records at *ArchivesWest* is useful if the company had holdings in multiple states.

National Digital Newspaper Program

The National Endowment for the Arts has sponsored grants for institutions to scan local newspaper collections and provide them for research at the Library of Congress's Chronicling America website. Many of these local papers are not available elsewhere, and targeted local research might be easier on the individual program websites than on Chronicling America. (Note that LOC is rolling out a new search interface, now in beta testing.)

Arizona:

Arizona Department of Libraries, Archives,
and Public Records
<https://azmemory.azlibrary.gov/>

Colorado:

History Colorado
<https://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org/>

Nevada:

University of Nevada, Las Vegas
<https://nvdnp.wordpress.com/>

Utah:

University of Utah, Marriott Libraries
<https://digitalnewspapers.org/>

Other Local and National Websites for Electronic Archives

ArchiveGrid: <http://beta.worldcat.org/archivegrid>

Mountain West Digital Library: <http://mwdl.org>

Online Archives of California:
<http://www.oac.cdlib.org>

Texas Archival Resources Online:
<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro>

Nevada Historical Society Archives:
<https://nevadahistory.pastperfectonline.com/Archive>

National Mine Map Repository

If you have found a mining claim of interest and you know the name, the National Mine Map Repository is a great resource. Search for the name of the mine or company on their website and see its location on a web map. If they have a physical map, they will send it to you free (<https://www.osmre.gov/programs/national-mine-map-repository>). From their website: "The facility stores over 246,000 mine records of closed or abandoned, surface, and underground mines throughout the United States. The repository contains mines from the 1790s to the present day. These maps are archived digitally and on microfilm (aperture cards). The database system allows visitors to search for mine maps available through the NMMR."

If you like rabbit holes, you may find mine shafts challenging too. Enjoy digging for your miner ancestor!

CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS (CCC) PERSONNEL RECORDS PROVIDE INSIGHT

to an Immigrant's Arrival during the Great Depression

By Jenny Rizzo Irwin, CC

Sixteen-year-old, Italian born Giovanni Rizzo arrived at the port of New York on 29 September 1930 with his eighteen-year-old brother, Antonio.¹ Neither Giovanni nor Antonio had ever traveled beyond their small, southern-Italian town of Albi, Catanzaro, Calabria—yet both were born as United States citizens. The boys' father, Francesco Rizzo, obtained United States citizenship in 1899.² After naturalizing, Francesco returned to his hometown of Albi, married, and fathered five children.³ Francesco's children, all born in Italy, derived citizenship through their father upon their birth.⁴ Francesco's motivation in obtaining United States citizenship prior to starting a family was likely to provide his future children with better economic opportunities.

By the time Giovanni and Antonio arrived in America, the country was in the throes of the Great Depression. Jobs were scarce, unemployment was at an all-time high, and many families struggled to provide the basic necessities for survival. It would have been a challenge to find work for a recent immigrant with little education or employment skills and a limited grasp of the English language.

Now known as John and Tony, the brothers settled in East Rochester, Monroe County, New York, with their father. Tony was a carpenter, but John and their ailing father were unemployed.⁵ The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) under Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal program provided an opportunity for John to gain skills and earn some money.



FIGURE 1: United States Consulate, Palermo, Italy, passport, Antonio Rizzo, born 23 April 1912, issued 12 July 1930. Giovanni was a minor, accompanying his brother Antonio on their voyage to New York.

Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)

A mere three weeks after taking office, President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 6101, "An act for the relief of unemployment through the performance of useful public work, and for other purposes."⁶ The order authorized the creation of a federal work relief program, later known as the Civilian Conservation Corps, that would simultaneously provide work for millions of young men while generating a labor force to address conservation needs throughout the country. Between 1933 and 1942, the CCC employed more than 2.5 million men



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In addition to her client work, Jenny serves as Editorial Assistant for the National Genealogical Society Quarterly. Jenny is the current President of the New England Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists and is a Trustee on the Board for Certification of Genealogists Education Fund.

at 4,500 locations throughout the country.⁷

To be eligible to enroll in the CCC, one needed to be male, unemployed, unmarried, and a US citizen between the ages of eighteen and twenty-five. Once accepted, the initial term was six months, with the option to continue for up to two years. Enrollees earned thirty dollars a month, of which twenty-five dollars needed to be sent home to a family member.⁸

Enrollees lived in military-style housing and followed a 40-hour work week, Monday through Friday. Non-working hours were filled with recreational and sporting activities, religious services, and viewing motion pictures. In the later years of the program, the camps also provided educational opportunities.⁹ The CCC even published a weekly newspaper, *Happy Days*, for the enjoyment of the enrollees.¹⁰

Men could be assigned to several different projects during their service. In addition to conservation projects such as reforestation, construction of recreational areas, and fish and wildlife aid, the CCC also provided disaster relief for hurricanes, forest fires, and floods.¹¹

The Records

The activities of the CCC generated records created by multiple federal agencies, including the National Park Service, the Forest Service, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The War Department handled the logistics of providing supplies, lodging, and meals.¹² The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) holds the organizational and operational records of the CCC, along with camp reports and personnel records of the men who served.¹³ For more information see the NARA catalog (<https://catalog.archives.gov/>).

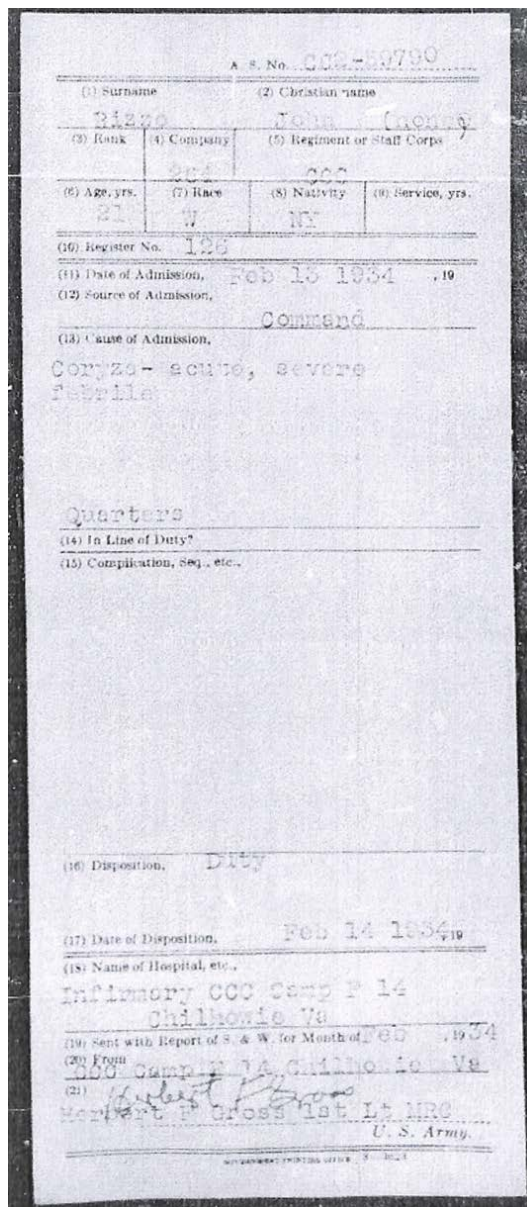


FIGURE 2: Infirmiry card, Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Personnel Records, John Rizzo, No. CCC2-59790; National Archives, St. Louis.

The most genealogically rich records are the CCC Enrollee Records, also referred to as personnel records. In addition to biographical information such as name, date and place of birth, address, and closest relative, the enrollee records include detailed information from the enrollee's service record. Service records indicate the precise dates, camp location(s), and type of work the enrollee performed.

John Rizzo's CCC Experience

John took the Oath of Enrollment at Camp Dix, New Jersey, on 25 October 1933, where he committed to "obey those in authority and observe all the rules and regulations thereof to the best of [his] ability."¹⁴ He remained at Camp Dix for three weeks of conditioning, after which he was transferred 550 miles south to work on a road construction crew in Konnarock, Washington County, Virginia.¹⁵ Konnarock lies in a mountainous region a few miles from the state's southwest border with North Carolina and Tennessee.¹⁶ For six months John built roads. His performance was deemed "satisfactory." At the end of his term, he opted to continue working through the CCC.

In May 1934 John was transferred closer to home and worked as an orderly in Castile, Wyoming County, New York. An orderly served as an administrative assistant within the camp.¹⁷ He was honorably discharged on 30 September 1934, eleven months after he began his service. During his service John earned about \$330, the equivalent of \$7,669 in 2024.¹⁸ He sent home about \$275 to his brother Tony in East Rochester for the support of their father.¹⁹ A notation in John's enrollee record indicates "transportation furnished from Castile, N.Y. to Rochester, N.Y."²⁰ Tony may have driven the approximately 100-mile round trip to pick up John after his discharge from service.²¹

Medical Records

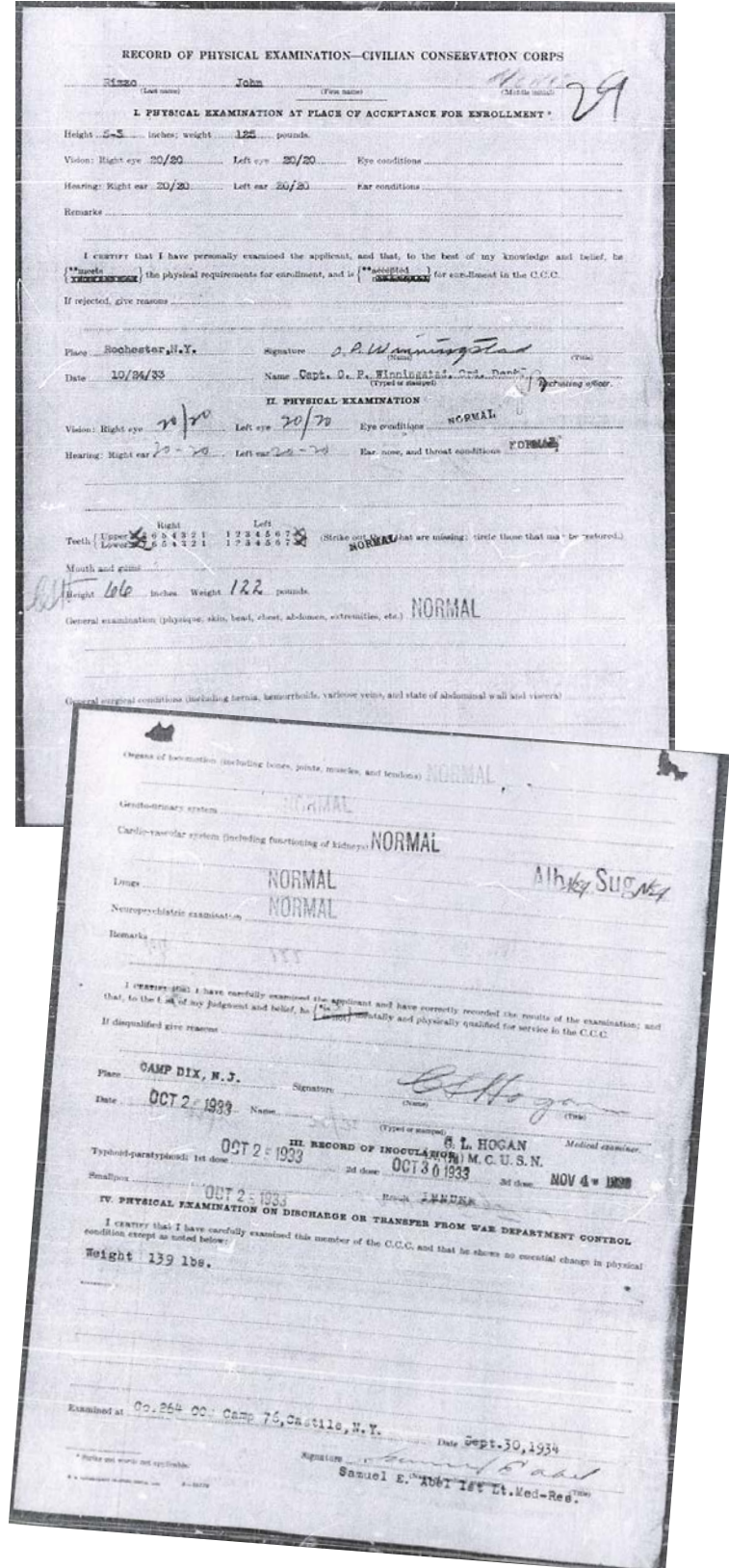
Due to the physical nature of the CCC work, enrollees were subjected to physical examinations upon enrollment and discharge. Records were kept of infirmary visits. The medical reports in John's personnel record indicate his height as five feet, five inches. He had normal vision and hearing, his four wisdom teeth were missing, and his general health was normal. He was inoculated against typhoid and smallpox upon his enrollment. An infirmary card indicates John spent one February day confined to his quarters due to a fever and runny nose.

Perhaps most interesting is that John's weight went from 122 pounds to 139 pounds during the eleven months of his service. Clearly, he enjoyed the meals! John wasn't alone in his weight gain. At the beginning of the program, food rations were increased because so many of the men were undernourished. President Roosevelt, while touring a Virginia CCC camp jokingly remarked, "I am told you men have put on an average of twelve pounds each. I am trying to lose twelve pounds."²²

The Lasting Impact of Eleven Months in a CCC Camp

Enrollee records offer researchers a glimpse into a research subject's life that extends beyond names, places, and dates. Although something as mundane as a head cold keeping someone from a day's work is a forgettable occurrence, learning that an ancestor's minor illness kept him from working on a road crew in Virginia for one day *ninety years ago* is significant in its ordinariness. It's a small tidbit of information that adds richness to an ancestor's story, almost as though the ancestor was recollecting it himself.

John's descendants recall his love of cornbread—a somewhat unusual favorite food for an Italian born and raised man who lived his adult life in upstate New York. He must have eaten a lot of cornbread during those months he spent laboring on the roads in southern Virginia. Along with seventeen pounds, John gained things from his CCC service that likely stayed with him the rest of his life. He experienced parts of the country he would not have seen otherwise. He met other young men from all over the United States. He developed a strong work ethic and sense of responsibility that helped him in his career as a welder.



RECORD OF PHYSICAL EXAMINATION—CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS

Name: John (Last name) Rizzo (First name) 29 (Middle initial)

I. PHYSICAL EXAMINATION AT PLACE OF ACCEPTANCE FOR ENROLLMENT

Height: 5-5 inches; weight: 122 pounds

Vision: Right eye: 20/20 Left eye: 20/20 Eye conditions: _____

Hearing: Right ear: 20/20 Left ear: 20/20 Ear conditions: _____

Remarks: _____

I certify that I have personally examined the applicant, and that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, he meets the physical requirements for enrollment, and is accepted for enrollment in the C.C.C.

If rejected, give reasons: _____

Place: Rochester, N.Y. Signature: G. P. Wainwright (Name) (Type or stamp)

Date: 10/24/33 Name: Capt. G. P. Wainwright (Type or stamp)

II. PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

Vision: Right eye: 20/20 Left eye: 20/20 Eye conditions: NORMAL

Hearing: Right ear: 20/20 Left ear: 20/20 Ear, nose, and throat conditions: NORMAL

Tooth: Upper: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 Lower: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 (Strike out tooth that is missing; circle those that are "retained")

Mouth and gums: _____

Height: 5-5 inches Weight: 122 pounds

General examination (physique, skin, head, chest, abdomen, extremities, etc.): NORMAL

General surgical conditions (including hernia, hemorrhoids, varicose veins, and state of abdominal wall and viscera): _____

Exposure of incision (including lacerations, punctures, and lacerations): NORMAL

Gastrointestinal system: NORMAL

Cardio-vascular system (including functioning of kidneys): NORMAL

Lungs: NORMAL

Neuro-psychiatric examination: NORMAL

Remarks: YES

I certify that I have carefully examined the applicant and have correctly recorded the results of the examination; and that, to the best of my judgment and belief, he is mentally and physically qualified for service in the C.C.C.

If disqualified give reasons: _____

Place: CAMP DIX, N. J. Signature: G. L. Hogan (Name) (Type or stamp)

Date: OCT 2 1933 Name: G. L. HOGAN (Type or stamp)

III. RECORD OF INOCULATIONS M. C. U. S. N.

Typhoid-paratyphoid: 1st dose: OCT 2 1933 2d dose: OCT 3 1933 3d dose: NOV 4 1933

Smallpox: OCT 2 1933 Result: IMMUNE

IV. PHYSICAL EXAMINATION ON DISCHARGE OR TRANSFER FROM WAR DEPARTMENT CONTROL

I certify that I have carefully examined this member of the C.C.C. and that he shows no essential change in physical condition except as noted below:

Weight: 139 lbs.

Examined at: Co. 264 CC Camp 75, Castle, N. Y. Date: Sept. 30, 1934

Signature: Samuel E. Abbott (Name) (Type or stamp)

Samuel E. Abbott 1st Lt. Med-Reg.

FIGURE 3: "Record of Physical Examination," Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Personnel Records, John Rizzo, No. CCC2-59790; National Archives, St. Louis.



FIGURE 4: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Forestry, RG 95, Photographs Relating to National Forests, Resource Management Practices, Personnel, and Cultural and Economic History, NAID 7110591; W. H. Shaffer, photo, "Removing rocks & preparing to build a road," *Civilian Conservation Corps., Camp No. 110, Kansas Valley, Pennsylvania*, neg. 278553; database, *National Archives and Records Administration* (<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/7110591> : accessed July 2024).

How to Obtain a CCC record

If your research subject was born between 1908 and 1925, he may have served in the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). CCC Enrollee Records contain a wealth of biographical and contextual information that isn't documented elsewhere. Records are held at the National Archives, St. Louis and can be obtained by submitting a written request or a completed form NA 14136 to: National Archives & Records Administration, Attn: Archival Programs, P.O. Box 38757, St. Louis, MO 63138. The flat fee schedule is \$25 for five pages or less and \$70 for six pages or more.

As of May 2024, the CCC Enrollee Records are being digitized and will be added to the National Archives Catalog on a rolling basis upon completion. This will impact processing time for requests.

Additional records available through NARA include operational reports of the CCC and camp reports. For additional information visit: <https://www.archives.gov/st-louis/civilian-personnel/ccc-holdings-access>.

¹ All websites were accessed in June or July 2024. "New York, U.S., Arriving Passenger and Crew Lists (including Castle Garden and Ellis Island), 1820–1957," database images, *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7488/images/NYT715_4837-0731), entry for Giovanni Rizzo, age 16, arrived 29 September 1930 aboard the S.S. *Conte Biancamano*; citing NARA microfilm publication T715, roll 1847.

² Chenango County, New York, County Court Naturalization Book 5: 33, John Rizzo, 1899; Chenango County Court, Norwich.

³ For marriage, see Albi, Catanzaro, "Registro Degli Atti di Matrimonio [Register of the Acts of Matrimoni], 1905," part 1, entry 9, Francesco Rizzo and Teresa Potrasio; database images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-8945-QZFW>). For children's births, see Albi, Catanzaro, "Certificato di Nascita [Birth Certificate]," Carmela Rizzo (1910), issued 5 September 1975; L'Ufficiale dello Stato Civile [Civil Registry Office], Albi. Also, Albi, Catanzaro, "Certificato di Nascita," Antonio Rizzo (1912), issued 11 January 1973; L'Ufficiale dello Stato Civile, Albi. Also, Albi, Catanzaro, "Certificato di Nascita," Giovanni Rizzo (1913), issued 5 September 1975; L'Ufficiale dello Stato Civile, Albi. Also, Albi, Catanzaro, "Certificato di Nascita," Nicola Rocco Rizzo (1915), issued 5 September 1975; L'Ufficiale dello Stato Civile, Albi. Also, Albi, Catanzaro, "Certificato di Nascita Salvatore Rizzo (1918), issued 5 September 1975; L'Ufficiale dello Stato Civile, Albi.

⁴ 10 Stat. 604 (1855).

⁵ For Tony's occupation see United States Consulate, Palermo, Italy, passport, Antonio Rizzo, born 23 April 1912, issued 12 July 1930. Giovanni was a minor, accompanying his brother Antonio on their voyage to New York. For address in East Rochester and John's and Frank's status as unemployed see "Application Addendum," Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Personnel Records, John Rizzo, No. CCC2-59790; National Archives, St. Louis.

⁶ Ashley Mattingly, "Question 22: 1940 Census Provides a Glimpse of the Demographics of the New Deal," *Prologue Magazine* 44 (Summer 2012); *National Archives* (<https://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2006/fall/ccl.html>).

⁷ Joseph M. Speakman, "Into the Woods: The First Year of the Civilian Conservation Corps," *Prologue Magazine* 38 (Fall 2006); *National Archives* (<https://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2006/fall/ccl.html>).

⁸ "Civilian Conservation Corps," *National Park Service* (<https://www.nps.gov/thro/learn/historyculture/civilian-conservation-corps.htm>).

⁹ Ashley Mattingly, "Question 22: 1940 Census Provides a Glimpse of the Demographics of the New Deal," *Prologue Magazine* 44 (Summer 2012); *National Archives* (<https://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2006/fall/ccl.html>).

¹⁰ Civilian Conservation Corps, *Happy Days* weekly newspaper, 12 January 1935, p. 1; database images, *National Archives and Records Administration* (<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/208137171>).

¹¹ Ashley Mattingly, "Question 22: 1940 Census Provides a Glimpse of the Demographics of the New Deal," *Prologue Magazine* 44 (Summer 2012); *National Archives* (<https://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2006/fall/ccl.html>).

¹² Joseph M. Speakman, "Into the Woods: The First Year of the Civilian Conservation Corps," *Prologue Magazine* 38 (Fall 2006); *National Archives* (<https://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2006/fall/ccl.html>).

¹³ "Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Enrollee Records, Archival Holdings and Access," *National Archives* (<https://www.archives.gov/st-louis/civilian-personnel/ccl-holdings-access>).

¹⁴ "Individual Record—Civilian Conservation Corps," Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Personnel Records, John Rizzo, No. CCC2-59790; National Archives, St. Louis.

¹⁵ "Individual Record—Civilian Conservation Corps," Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Personnel Records, John Rizzo, No. CCC2-59790; National Archives, St. Louis.

¹⁶ *Google Maps* (<https://www.google.com/maps>), Konnarock, Virginia.

¹⁷ Stan B. Cohen, *The Tree Army: A Pictorial History of the Civilian Conservation Corps, 1933-1942* (Missoula, Montana: Pictorial Histories, 1980).

¹⁸ Inflation calculator, *Amortization.org* (<https://www.amortization.org/inflation/>).

¹⁹ "Application Addendum," Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Personnel Records, John Rizzo, No. CCC2-59790; National Archives, St. Louis.

²⁰ "Individual Record—Civilian Conservation Corps," Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Personnel Records, John Rizzo, No. CCC2-59790; National Archives, St. Louis.

²¹ *Google Maps* (<https://www.google.com/maps>), distance from East Rochester, New York to Castile, New York.

²² Joseph M. Speakman, "Into the Woods: The First Year of the Civilian Conservation Corps," *Prologue Magazine* 38 (Fall 2006); *National Archives* (<https://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2006/fall/ccl.html>).



A SECOND LOOK, A NEW SEARCH TOOL, AND AN IDENTITY FOR ELIZA A. FAULKNER OF ST. LOUIS

By J. H. Fonkert, CG



FIGURE 1: James C. Fawkner, half-brother of Cornelius Faulkner

Here's the thing...it sometimes pays to go back to a research project to see if anything new has popped up. Another thing...*FamilySearch's* new full-text search utility can help you find documents in places you might not otherwise think to search. And, when you find a record involving your guy or gal, remember that it is just an identity fragment. You still need to do the work of establishing that you've found the right person.

Prologue

My article about Elizabeth (Stephens) Fawkner and Oliver Dresser appeared in the Winter 2011 issue of *Minnesota Genealogist*.¹ The focus was on Elizabeth, her first husband James C. Fawkner, and her second husband, Oliver. At that time, the storyline went something like this:

- The 1850 census recorded Cornelius Faulkner in Montrose, Iowa, hard on the west bank of the Mississippi River. He was a single twenty-seven-year-old boatsman in the household of William Owens, an Indiana-born carpenter.²
- Cornelius had a half-brother, James Coleman Fawkner, who married Elizabeth A. Stephens in 1854 in Hendricks County, Indiana, about 20 miles west of Indianapolis.
- James followed Cornelius to Montrose. The 1856 Iowa state census enumerated James and

Elizabeth next door to the same William Owens, now a steamboat pilot. Cornelius was no longer in Montrose.

- By 1860, James deserted his wife and two daughters, Josephine and Ida. Elizabeth secured a divorce in May 1861. A month later, she married vagabond Oliver Dresser. Oliver took the family back east to Indianapolis, where he was in the liquor business, but he soon disappeared.
- James C. Fawkner served in the 2nd Missouri Cavalry in the Civil War. In 1862 he married Julia Ann Angell in Boone County, Missouri. By 1880, they went back east to Coles County, Illinois.

Focus on Cornelius

There is much more to the story of James and Elizabeth, but this article focuses on Cornelius. He married Elizabeth Kite on 22 April 1841 in Hendricks County, In-



J. H. ("Jay") Fonkert, CG, specializes in 19th-century Kentucky and Midwest family history research. His passions are family migrations and historical geography. When time permits, he dabbles in Dutch, English, and Scandinavian genealogy. He has been Editor of *Minnesota Genealogist* (now *Generations*) for 15 years, and he has published five articles in the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* (NGSQ). He is Coordinator for the Midwest course for the 2024 GRIP Institute, and he has taught in the Practicum and the Great Plains courses at the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy.



diana, but was single when the 1850 census-taker visited on 28 August.³ A gravestone for Elizabeth “Falkner” in the St. Barnabas Church cemetery states that she died 15 July.⁴ Census-day was 1 July; Elizabeth should have been enumerated, but she was not.

Cornelius was gone from Montrose in 1856 and seems to have escaped the 1860 census, but he reappeared in 1863 some 200 river miles downstream in St. Louis, where a Civil War draft registration listed him as a forty-two-year-old river pilot—possibly explaining why the census missed him.⁵ Cornelius died in St. Louis 14 May 1865.⁶ As far as anyone knew, he had never remarried.

New Discoveries

In the spring of 2024, *FamilySearch* launched a test version of a full-text search utility for U.S. land and probate records. *FamilySearch* used optical character recognition to generate transcriptions of land and probate records. The great thing about the full-text search utility is that a researcher can now find records not previously indexed. A researcher may find records in locales where they might never otherwise think to search.

Optical character recognition can make errors when reading handwriting. Keeping this in mind as well as possible spelling variations—Fawkner, Faulkner, Falkner—a search for the more uncommon spelling of “Fawkner” brought up records in expected locations in Missouri, Illinois, and Indiana. However, this time an unexpected record appeared.

On 16 June 1865—a month after Cornelius’s death—James C. Fawkner entered into a five-year lease for an eight-acre tract owned by Mary A. Jackson in St. Louis County, Missouri. The lease is long and rambling, with provisions for interest due on late payments, prohibitions against cutting persimmon trees, and a guaran-

tee of Mary’s access to her home via a private road. The lease was signed by James C. Fawkner and Eliza A. Faulkner.⁷

Three questions arose:

- Was this really the James C. Fawkner who was raising a family 150 miles to the northwest in Boone County?
- Who was Eliza A. Faulkner?
- Why was James C. Fawkner signing a lease for Eliza?

An initial hypothesis was that, for some inexplicable reason, James C. Fawkner of Boone County was securing a place for his former wife, Elizabeth to live.

Her whereabouts in the mid-1860s were unknown, and steamboats made passage from Montrose to St. Louis easy.

Yet it seemed improbable that Eliza A. Faulkner was James’s earlier wife. In a short family history, their

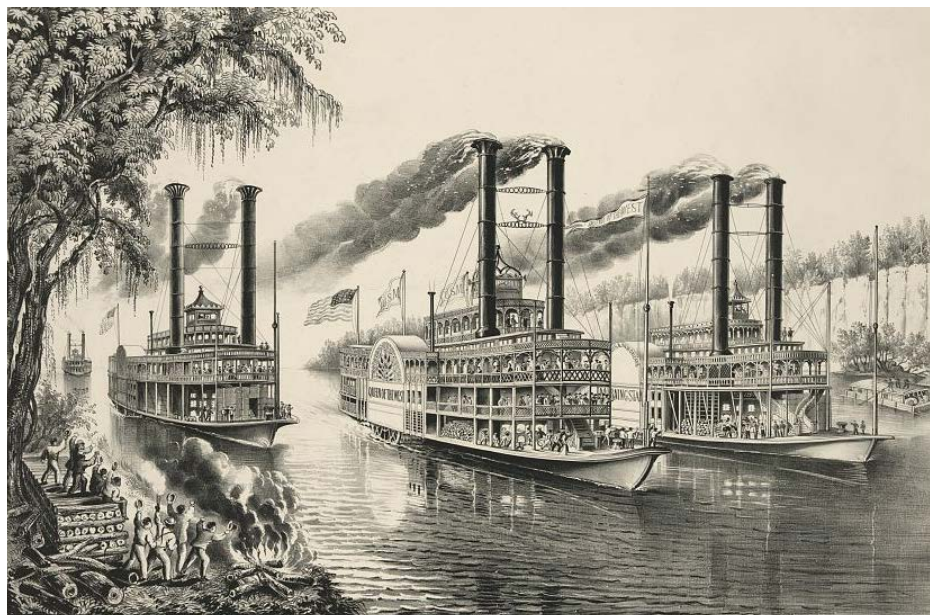
daughter Ida mentioned the family’s move back to Indiana, but not the divorce or Elizabeth’s marriage to Oliver Dresser. She did add one important detail: her mother, Elizabeth Dresser, died in March 1870 and was interred in Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield, Illinois.⁸ She was buried as Elizabeth Dresser.⁹

Ida also identified her mother as Elizabeth T. (for Turner) Stephens. Elizabeth used the middle initial “T” when she married in 1854.¹⁰

The hypothesis was wrong. Eliza A. Faulkner was not James’s first wife. Who was she?

The focus returns on Cornelius. The 1864 and 1865 city directories listed Cornelius Faulkner, river pilot, living at 67 N. 10th St. in St. Louis.¹¹ Then, after Cornelius’s 1865 death, there is a surprise. Living at the same address in 1867 was Eliza A. Faulkner, “wid. Cornelius.”¹²

It was time for a new hypothesis: Eliza A. Faulkner was



the wife of Cornelius Faulkner. Searches have produced no record of a marriage, but St. Louis censuses, directories and deeds prove the relationship.

An Eliza Faulkner, aged 37 and born in Illinois, lived in Ward 9 of St. Louis in 1870. She was apparently single, was keeping house, and had \$3,500 in real estate. She possibly had two children: Harry Raymond, 17, and Mary Raymond, 16.¹³ This implies that she might have been married to a Raymond before 1855.

In 1880, this Eliza Faulkner, 46, was living at the corner of Washington and 9th Street. She was a teacher at the Free Mission School and lived with an apparent daughter, Mary, 22, born in Missouri. Eliza said her father was born in New York and her mother in Ohio.¹⁴

The question now arises: Did Cornelius marry Eliza sometime between 1850 and 1865? Another *FamilySearch* full-text search leads to an answer.

In a long and convoluted deed dated 28 May 1861,

Washington Hight and his wife Fannie conveyed property to William P. Hight, to support “Eliza A. Faulkner wife of Cornelius Faulkner” and her minor children James Harvey Gage Raymond and Mary Elizabeth Raymond. The deed specifically forbade any control of the property or benefit to Cornelius Faulkner, and specified in great detail how the property and rents were to be distributed in event of the death of Eliza or either of her children.¹⁵

When did Cornelius marry Eliza? A first step to answering the question is to find Eliza in the 1860 census. Presumably, she was previously married to a man with the surname Raymond. The 1860 census enumerated Eliza Raymond, 27, with apparent children Harvey and Mary, in the St. Louis home of forty-year-old river pilot Wm. P. Height.¹⁶ Eliza’s presumed husband was not there, suggesting he may have died.

Apparently, Cornelius Fawkner married Eliza Raymond

Eliza (Hight) Raymond Fawkner in St. Louis, Missouri 1850-1880

1850 ^a	1860 ^b	1870 ^c	1880 ^d
<i>In the same household are:</i>	<i>In the same household are:</i>	<i>In the same household are:</i>	<i>In the same household are:</i>
Mary Height..... 56 b. Pennsylvania			
William Height..... 29 b. Ohio riverman	Wm. P. Hight..... 40 b. Indiana pilot listed with wife, children		
Washington Height... 19 b. Illinois riverman			
Eliza Height..... 17 b. Illinois	Eliza Raymond..... 27 b. Indiana no occupation listed	Eliza Faulkner37 b. Illinois keeping house	Eliza Fauckner 46 b. Illinois teacher
	Harvey Raymond.....7 b. Missouri	Harry Raymond 17 b. Missouri	
	Mary Raymond6 b. Missouri	Marey Raymond16 b. Missouri	Mary Faulkner 22 b. Missouri

a. 1850 U.S. census, St. Louis (independent city), Missouri, population schedule, Ward 6, sheet 874, dwelling 1229, family 75, Mary Height, *Ancestry.com* (accessed 8 July 2024); NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 418; in household are: Mary Height 56, William Height 29, Washington Height 29, Eliza Height 17.
b. 1860 U.S. census, St. Louis (independent city), Missouri, population schedule, Ward 8, page 5 (313 penned), dwelling 26, family 33, Wm. P. Hight, *FamilySearch.org* (accessed 8 July 2024); NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 652; *FamilySearch* film 803652, image group number 4234001, image 9 of 577; in household are: Wm. P. Hight 40 pilot, Carrie 26, Wm. 8, Sallie 6, Alonzo 5, Nettie 1,...Eliza Raymond 27, Nettie Hight 13, Harvey Raymond 7, Mary Raymond 6.
c. 1870 U.S. census, St. Louis County, Missouri, population schedule, Ward 9, Subdivision 16, p. 319 (sheet 494A), dwelling 1767, family 2775, Eliza Faulkner, *Ancestry.com* (accessed 8 July 2024); NARA microfilm publication M593, roll 819; in household are: Eliza Faulkner 37 keeping house, Harry Raymond 17 clerk in state commission store, Marey Raymond 16.
d. 1880 U.S. census, St. Louis (independent city), Missouri, population schedule, St. Louis township, Enumeration District 42, page 14 (sheet 332b), dwelling 79, family 166, Mary Fauckner, *Ancestry.com* (accessed 8 July 2024); NARA microfilm publication T9, roll 727; in household are: Eliza Fauckner 46, Mary Faulkner 22.



sometime between July 1860 and May 1861. Who was Eliza?

The answer comes from the 1850 census. William "Height," 29, Washington, 19, and Eliza Hight, 17, lived in household of Mary Hight, 56, in St. Louis Ward 6 in 1850. William and Washington's occupations were recorded as "riverman."¹⁷ William and Washington were older brothers of Eliza. She presumably married a Raymond sometime between 1850 and 1853. She was widowed or divorced by June 1860.

The 1880 census recorded Mary Elizabeth's father's birthplace as New York. The 1850 census recorded three New York-born Raymonds living in St. Louis. One was a shoemaker born about 1827.¹⁸ D. S. Raymond, born about 1823, was a clerk on a steamboat.¹⁹ J. Raymond, born about 1824, was a pastry cook on a steamboat.²⁰ Given the steamboat lives of Cornelius Faulkner and the Hights, the latter two are good candidates for Eliza's first husband.

A largely undocumented online tree suggests the rest of the story. Eliza Ann Height was a daughter of George Washington Height Sr. and Mary Vance. Her first husband was Daniel Raymond.²¹ In 1841, her father made preemption claims for 320 acres in Section 29 of Burlington Township—just 30 miles upstream from Montrose.²² He died intestate 21 April 1845 in Des Moines County, Iowa Territory.²³

It can't be known exactly how, when, or where Cornelius Fawcner met the Height family, but it was definite-

ly a Mississippi River steamboat story. Eliza's brother, Washington, was a well-known St. Louis river pilot. A 1906 St. Louis newspaper eulogy stated, "there are few of our leading citizens who have not made the delightful trip to St. Paul during the past 50 years, when 'Wash' was at the wheel."²⁴ Perhaps, Cornelius Fawcner's first passage to St. Louis in the 1850s was on Washington Height's steamboat.

Epilogue

An inquiry into the identity of the James C. Fawcner who signed a lease in St. Louis in 1865 led to a treasure trove of information about his half-brother, Cornelius, and Cornelius's second wife.

One hypothesis was debunked before a second was put forward and validated. Eliza A. Faulkner was not James C. Fawcner's divorced wife. Rather, she was the widowed wife of Cornelius Faulkner—James C. Fawcner's half-brother.

It paid to return to research that had been put on the shelf several years earlier. *FamilySearch's* full-text search utility brought previously unknown records to "the author's" attention. Following all the characters forward and backward in time separated and merged identities.

A full-text search found numerous other deeds involving Eliza and her children over more than twenty years. Surely, there are stories to be discovered, but a researcher can bite off only so much at a time.

¹ J. H. Fonkert, "A Genealogical Side-Trip: Elizabeth Stephens Fawcner of Montrose, Lee County, Iowa," *Minnesota Genealogist*, 42:4 (Winter 2011). For more on Oliver Dresser, see "Reconstructing a Life from Biographical Fragments: Oliver Dresser, Who Hails from Maine," *Crossroads*, 15:1 (Winter 2020), 6-16.

² 1850 U.S. census, Lee County, Iowa, Montrose, dwelling 46, William Owens.

³ Hendricks County, Ind., Clerk of the Circuit Court, Marriage Book 2, p. 121, Cornelius Fawcner and Elizabeth Kite, license and return, 20 April 1841; *FamilySearch*, IGN 47414911, image 310.

⁴ Elizabeth Falkner gravestone, St. Barnabas Churchyard, Montrose, Iowa; photo by author.

⁵ Missouri, 1st. Congressional District, Class 2, A-Z by Subd., Volume 8 of 10, Cornelius Faulkner; "U.S., Civil War Draft Registrations Records, 1863-1865," database with images, *Ancestry*; National Archives, NAID 4213514, record group 110.

⁶ St. Louis, Missouri, Death Registrations, Vol. L, p. 86; St. Louis Genealogical Society, microfilm 307.

⁷ St. Louis City Recorder, Deeds, Vol. 301, pp. 301-2; *FamilySearch*, IGN 8114070, image 187.

⁸ Ida Kemp Fawcner, "Fawcner Family" ("from old papers now [1941] in possession of Mrs. Fannie Armstrong Rogers"), in Illinois Society, D.A.R. Genealogy Records, 1940-41 (Urbana, Ill.: Alliance Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, 1941).

⁹ Oak Ridge Cemetery Interment Records, vol. 1, p. 64, Elizabeth Dresser, 7 March 1870.]

¹⁰ Hendricks County, Ind, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Marriage Book 4B, p. 467; *FamilySearch*, IGN 4714912, image 265.

¹¹ *Edwards' Annual Directory*, St. Louis, 1864, p. 280, and *Edwards' Directory*, 1865, p. 327.

¹² *Edwards' Annual Directory*, St. Louis, 1867, p. 329.

¹³ 1870 U.S. Census, St. Louis, Missouri, Ward 9, Subdivision 16, p. 319, dwelling 1767, family 2775, Eliza Faulkner.

¹⁴ 1880 U.S. census, St. Louis, Missouri, Enumeration District 42, p. 14, dwelling 79, family 166, Mary Faulkner. The enumerator did not record relationships to heads of households.

¹⁵ City and County of St. Louis County, Missouri, City Recorder, Deed Book 269, p. 521; IGN 8114053, image 589.

¹⁶ 1860 U.S. Census, St. Louis (independent city), Missouri, Ward 8, p. 5, dwelling 26, family 33, Wm. P. Height.

¹⁷ 1850 U.S. census, St. Louis (independent city), Missouri, Ward 6, dwelling 1229, family 75, Mary Height.

¹⁸ 1850 U.S. census, St. Louis, Missouri, p. 518, dwelling 95, family 99, John Raymond.

¹⁹ 1850 U.S. census, St. Louis, Missouri, p. 261, dwelling 1185, family 1474, D. S. Raymond.

²⁰ 1850 U.S. census, St. Louis, Missouri, p. 276, dwelling 1202, family 1491, J. Raymond.

²¹ Mary Vance, Vance Family Tree, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/24818089/person/372367350899/facts>; accessed 20 May 2024).

²² Pre-emption certificates 3279 3483, Burlington, Iowa, land office, George Washington Hight; U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, General Land Office Records, <https://glorerecords.blm.gov/search/default.aspx>.

²³ Des Moines County, Iowa, District Court, Geo. W. Hight estate, papers in box B-115; *FamilySearch*, IGN 7594670, image 1119.

²⁴ "How Capt. Hight Stuck To Pilot Wheel in a Riot," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 13 April 1906, page 10, column 4.



A CONVERSATION ABOUT ETHICS FOR GENEALOGY

By Melissa Dalley

Gary Ball-Kilbourne, MDiv, PhD, CG, CGLSM, has created a brand-new course for the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy (SLIG) called "Ethics for Genealogy." The course will be held virtually in January 2025. I sat down to talk with him about the course.



What made you interested in designing this new course?

I've always been interested in ethics. My PhD from Vanderbilt University is in religious and ethical studies, with a collateral discipline in normative political analysis.

Where do ethics come from?

People ultimately act in accordance with some sort of foundation when they seek to act ethically. One way of understanding this is with an iceberg analogy:

- Actions—What one does.
- Ethics—Our thoughtful reflection upon our actions, especially in terms of what those actions should be for us to consider those actions as good or right or moral.
- Principles—Our "go-to" rules for making ethical judgments.
- Foundation—Our worldview that forms the basis or grounding for our principles.

Who is this course for?

There are no pre-requisites for the course. Students should come with an openness and a desire to be challenged to be the most ethical genealogist they can be. It's really for anyone, whether hobbyist, professional, or in-between.

Why this course? And why now?

This is a first-of-its-kind week-long institute course on ethics for genealogy. One can find stand-alone lectures at conferences and webinars, but not this extent of collected thought on the theme of ethics. It will address many topics of ethical concern for genealogists.

Ethical issues often arise at the cutting-edge, where people are pushing the envelope. Our ever-changing world continually brings us new issues to confront. For example, many of us have mixed feelings about law enforcement's use of third-party DNA tools. Genealogists have faced the dilemma of how to manage a previously hidden secret that has now been revealed. Perhaps we wonder how to balance the interests of a birth parent's desire for privacy against the adoptee wanting to know his or her medical history. Each of us needs to be prepared to handle these and other challenging situations.



Melissa Dalley has been actively researching her family history for more than fifteen years. In 2019, she started Legacy Research Services to help others discover and share their own family history. Her genealogical clients come to her to solve tough genealogy questions, or simply because they want to pass on their family stories and heritage to the generations that follow. Melissa volunteers as Syllabus Coordinator for the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy. She also manages an NGSQ study group made up of her ProGen cohort. She lives in Rochester, Minnesota, with her husband and two daughters.



ICEBERG THEORY OF ETHICS



Why should genealogists consider a course in ethics?

We typically go about our genealogical work without a lot of reflection. I think all of us want to be good people, and we usually think of ourselves as being good people. Sometimes we might need to be challenged to think about what we are doing, whether someone might be harmed by what we're doing, or if there is some kind of unjustness or unfairness that results.

Participants will be challenged and helped to think through these issues. We are better able to protect ourselves and our clients if we can draw on our established principles when difficult situations arise.

Could you give us an overview of the course content?

We will look at the Codes of Ethics from several major organizations, including the Board for Certification of Genealogists, the International Commission for the Accreditation of Professional Genealogists, and the Association of Professional Genealogists. A panel of

representatives from these organizations will speak to us regarding their respective codes. Participants will then have hands-on time to deeply examine these Codes of Ethics.

We have a wonderful cast of experts who will talk about ethical considerations in specific fields of genealogy: Law, Copyright, and Plagiarism (Judy Russell, JD, CG, CGLSM), Forensic Genealogy (Michael Ramage, JD, CG), Genetic Genealogy (Karen Stanbary, LCSW, MA, CG, CGGSM), Diversity and Bias (Darcie Hind Posz, CG, FASG), Social Media (Gena Philibert-Ortega, MA, MAR), Artificial Intelligence (Steve Little), Historic Genealogical Scams (Ball-Kilbourne, MDiv, PhD, CG, CGLSM), and other topics.

We'll consider our ethical choices in our interactions with family, with clients, and with colleagues. We learn from each other and we learn together. Participants will have the opportunity to suggest topics for future versions of this course. Students are encouraged to think ethically for themselves, and by the end of the week will define their own framework for ethics in their genealogical work.

Registration for SLIG 2025 is open now.

Visit <https://slig.ugagenealogy.org/> to get started.



SLIG 2024 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



Congratulations to Claudia Sudweeks, Winner of the UGA Jimmy B. Parker Scholarship

Claudia Gibb Sudweeks is the research manager for a small genealogy company. She loves the chal-

lenge of using records around the world, from a variety of cultures. She is finishing her AG credential in the US Mid-Atlantic region and has earned her certificate with the GenProof 83 group. Formerly the secretary for the Utah Genealogical Association, Claudia is now a member of the UGA board, serving as the NGS delegate. She is also the president of her local community historical society in Highland, Utah.

Claudia grew up in the Washington, D.C. area, where she learned to love history and historic preservation. She has loved genealogy as long as she can remember and is grateful for school assignments and family trips to reunions, cemeteries, and libraries, which amplified her interest. Claudia took genealogy classes in college and has helped others with family history in the 30+ years since, professionally taking clients since 2013. She and her husband, Sterling, also ran a small video biography company. They have six children, plus four gained by children's marriages, and several bonus children who have lived with them over the years. They also have seven wonderful grandchildren, plus some extras.

About the UGA Jimmy B. Parker Scholarship

Named in honor of Jimmy B. Parker, whose legacy of service to the genealogical community covered more than 50 years, this full-tuition scholarship is awarded to an individual who has demonstrated commitment to genealogical excellence and community involvement. The scholarship originated in 2012.

As the scholarship recipient, Claudia will receive full tuition to one Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy 2025 or SLIG Spring Virtual 2025 course.



Congratulations to Bonnie Wade Mucia, Winner of the Laura G. Prescott SLIG Scholarship

The Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy wishes to congratulate Bonnie Wade Mucia, winner of this year's Laura G.

Prescott Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy Scholarship.

Bonnie Wade Mucia is the owner of Keeper of the Past Genealogy, LLC, and a professional genealogist focusing on New England research, particularly during the colonial period. She serves as Director of the Mayflower Families Silver Books Project for the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, concentrating on Mayflower passengers' descendants.

An experienced speaker and lecturer, Bonnie is a member of the Genealogical Speakers Guild. She has published articles in respected genealogical journals, including the *New England Historic Genealogical Society's Mayflower Descendant*, *Rhode Island Roots Journal of the Rhode Island Genealogical Society*, *The Maine Genealogist*, *The Nova Scotia Genealogist* and others.

Besides attending several genealogy institutes such as SLIG, IGHR, GRIP, she is an alumna of the GenProof 91, ProGen 34, and a graduate of the Boston University Genealogical Certificate OL23 program. Bonnie is actively pursuing her Accreditation with the International Commission for the Accreditation of Professional Genealogists (ICAPGen), specializing in the New England Region. Originally from Rhode Island, Bonnie lives with her husband, Joseph, in South Carolina.

About the Laura G. Prescott SLIG Scholarship

Laura G. Prescott's bright smile, gracious friendship, positive attitude, and many contributions as a teacher, writer, researcher, mentor, society leader, APG president, and director of Ancestry Academy made a significant mark on the genealogical community. In recognition of her friendship to all, her professional accomplishments, and her passion for genealogical education, the genealogical community established the Laura G. Prescott SLIG Scholarship.

Thanks to the many people who donated to the fund, the scholarship awards full tuition for one candidate to attend the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy or one of its affiliated programs (SLIG Fall Virtual or SLIG Spring Virtual).

TEN FUN FACTS ABOUT THE SALT LAKE COUNTY ARCHIVES

By Karri Krattley and Maren Slaugh

Welcome to the Salt Lake County Archives! We proudly serve as the county's official repository for a rich variety of historically significant records. Our collection spans territorial documents like minutes, correspondence, and ledgers from key county offices, as well as contemporary materials such as annual reports, building permits, property appraisals, photographs, tax ledgers, official meeting minutes, and administrative records.

Our story began in 1986 with the relocation of Salt Lake County records from the City and County Building to the new County Government Center. Staff worked tirelessly until the stroke of midnight on December 31, 1986, searching every nook and cranny, including the tower of the City and County Building, to ensure all records were safely transferred. This move marked a pivotal moment in preserving and sharing the county's history.



FIGURE 1: Image taken by the Salt Lake County Assessor in 1934 of a house located at 3305 South 6400 West.

Check out these fun and interesting facts about us and our diverse collections!

1. Yes, Salt Lake County has archives! Salt Lake County is unique in Utah for having its own dedicated archives, making it the only county with such a resource. At our archives, we take pride in our role as the primary repository for preserving a wide range of historically significant, administrative, and fiscal records. Our collection not only documents the evolution of Salt Lake County but also provides
- valuable insights into its cultural and governmental heritage. (Note: We are independent from the Utah State Archives.)
2. Accessing history is easy with us! Most historical records created by Salt Lake County are available in one convenient location. Schedule an appointment by email or phone to explore our records in our reading room or explore some of them digitally on our website.



Karri Krattley is the Manager of the Salt Lake County Archives, where she preserves and provides access to records of enduring value. She has worked for the Salt Lake County Library System, and as a librarian at Vanderbilt University. She holds a master's degree in Information Resources and Library Science from the University of Arizona.



Maren Slaugh has spent nine years at the Salt Lake County Records Management and Archives Division and is currently serving as Division Director. Her dedication to preserving vital records ensures efficient access and compliance, highlighting the importance of transparency in our community's heritage.

3. Our archives house over 15,000 cubic feet of records available for public research in a variety of formats. You can explore paper documents, maps, surveys, photographs capturing moments in history, microfilm, and modern “born digital” records. This diverse collection offers a fascinating glimpse into Salt Lake County’s history and is accessible to all who are eager to delve into our community’s past.
4. In our archives, you’ll uncover Salt Lake County’s earliest records dating back to 1847. Each document offers a glimpse into the county’s early history, vividly capturing the spirit of adventure and perseverance of that era. These records serve as a window into the past, chronicling the lives and experiences of pioneers who journeyed overland to Utah.
5. Explore your family’s history with our accessible online database. Discover birth records ranging from 1890–1911, death records spanning from 1847–1949, and marriage records from 1887–1904. All records are easily searchable and available for free to download, making it easier to connect with your roots.



FIGURE 3: The Auerbach/Boyd Park Building on 162-166 South Main Street in downtown Salt Lake City as it appeared in 1939.

6. Explore Salt Lake County’s past visually with photographs of residential and commercial buildings spanning from the 1930s–1980s. Request images and details from Tax Appraisal Cards and Photographs by providing the address, even if the property no longer exists.
7. Looking for early land records for the county? Trace land ownership back to the 1850s through Land Title Certificates issued in the 1870s.
8. Our interactive digital exhibit, “The Ghosts of West Temple,” explores the history of a small section of downtown Salt Lake City, where West Temple meets North Temple, using 1911 fire maps, 1930s appraisal photos, and other historical documents. Take a virtual stroll through a neighborhood that no longer exists.
9. Explore our extensive collection of tax records dating all the way back to 1853. These records are not only a valuable resource for genealogists tracing their family histories but also for house historians investigating the evolution of properties and neighborhoods throughout Salt Lake County’s vibrant past. Whether you’re delving into your ancestry or researching the historical development of local communities, our tax records provide a unique window into the economic and social fabric of our county over the decades.
10. Our public collections also include Civil and Criminal Case Files detailing divorces, Declarations of Intent for citizenship, Hansen Planetarium history, building permits, library history, and many more. Check out our website at <https://slco.org/archives>.

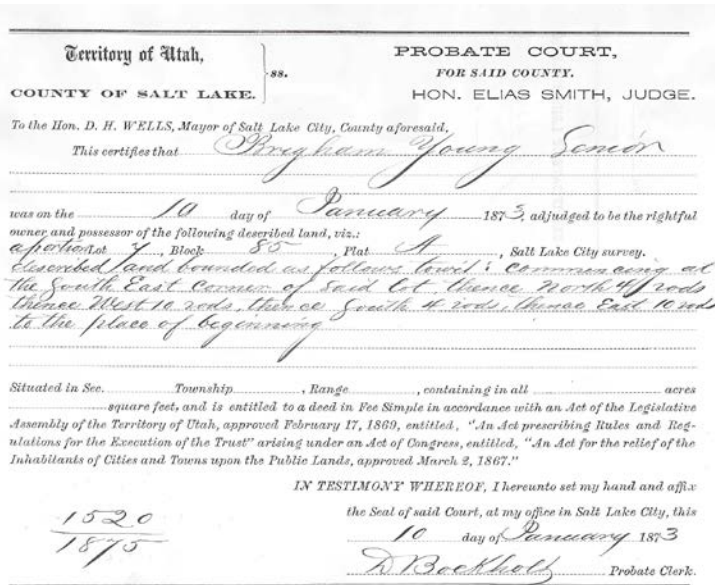


FIGURE 2: 1873 Land Title Certificate for Brigham Young, Senior.

Bonus Fact! Stay updated with our latest discoveries and insights by subscribing to our blog. Follow us on Facebook  (Salt Lake County Archives) and Instagram  (@slcoarchives) for more fascinating facts about Salt Lake County’s rich history!

ADJUST YOUR FEEDBACK ATTITUDE

By Pam Pracser Anderson, CG

My first experience with receiving feedback on my genealogical writing was in ProGen 26. I thought I was a pretty good writer, but I had to adjust my attitude to be positive and accept constructive comments that I perceived as negative. Reviewers share your common goal—to make your written product the best it can be.

Developing a positive attitude toward receiving feedback on genealogical writing can be a transformative experience that improves your final manuscript, future writing skills, and overall approach to growth as an author. Attitude adjustment is a three-step process: preparation, implementation, and looking to the future.

Prepare to Receive Feedback

Submitting a written narrative without any prior review risks rejection by publications and family. While writers appreciate positive feedback that points out strengths, vague comments are of no benefit. Authors require much more. Constructive critiques include specific suggestions to improve a work product. Feedback ensures that they are presenting the best work possible for their readers. Experienced writers also request specific recommendations to help them grow as authors. Requests can include overall organization, grammatical sentence structure, proofreading, etc.

The first step in adjusting your feedback attitude is embracing a learning approach which cultivates a growth mindset. Writing is a process of continuous improvement. A desire to learn and grow results in increased knowledge and skills. The key to growth is a desire to change.

Ask yourself what you can alter or modify. Start with small, focused goals and changes that make a big impact, e.g., examining formatting, spelling, and redundan-

cies. Most people want to improve their writing but resist change at the same time. However, improvements cannot occur without change.

All written products should go through several drafts and revisions. However, the goal is positive improvement, not perfection. No matter the amount of time or effort put into writing, nothing is perfect. No author has ever written the perfect first draft of a book or article. When submitting a manuscript to reviewers, let go of any expectations—positive or negative. Write your best, focus on the positive experience, and don't expect flawlessness. The best way to help manage perfectionism is to develop emotional resistance through managing emotional reactions.

Receiving perceived negative feedback that is truly constructive can be uncomfortable because it's unfamiliar and feels discouraging. However, it becomes familiar with practice and experience. The best writers request and look forward to critiques. Modification and change begin when people recognize and deal with their emotions. Start by checking in with yourself to determine how the editing process makes you feel. When you review your own work, you likely feel great that you've caught and fixed problems. When you review another's work, you are probably excited that you were able to help improve a colleague's work. But how do you feel when you receive others' comments on your own work? Defensive, vulnerable, insecure, disheartened, frustrated, imposter syndrome? Evaluate your current attitude and identify negative feelings and thoughts. To do this, allow yourself to be vulnerable—and don't take yourself too seriously.

Developing an attitude of optimism and enthusiasm results in growth opportunities to improve writing. But



Pam Anderson, Certified Genealogist, is the owner of Anderson CoGen in Franklin County, Pennsylvania. She mentored ProGen 47 in 2020–2021 and taught a twelve-hour AppGen Institute course on “The Art of Self-Editing for Genealogists” in 2024. Pam is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, National Genealogical Society, New England Historical and Genealogical Society, New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, and the Maryland Genealogical Society. Pam has written articles for, and presented to, many of these and other local organizations.

the positive mindset isn't always easy to conjure up. You may need to analyze your emotions to determine what is causing negative feelings. In *Thanks for the Feedback: The Science and Art of Receiving Feedback Well*, authors Stone and Douglas identify three triggers that interfere with the feedback process and the strategies for dealing with them:¹

- Truth Triggers that are set off by the feedback itself:
 - Recognize coaching that is meant to help us grow.
 - Find useful suggestions by shifting from "What's wrong" to "Tell me more."
 - Identify issues in your writing that you don't see as problems.
- Relationship Triggers that are tripped by the person providing the feedback:
 - Separate what you think about the feedback from who provided it.
 - Identify the relationship: What is your desired outcome? What is their goal?
- Identity Triggers that are not about the reviewer, but about us:
 - Recognize your personal temperament and how you react to other types of feedback.
 - Dismantle distortions to see feedback as it is truly meant.
 - Develop a growth identity to see critiques as coaching that help you improve.

Identifying these triggers begins with separating yourself from your work. Feedback is about the writing, not the author. Don't take it personally. Focus on the content of the suggestions rather than internalizing and personalizing critiques. Approach each new recommendation with an open and receptive mind. Remain flexible and adaptable to evolving writing practices. Changing our mindset toward feedback moves us forward, helping us learn and grow with help from others.

It takes a team to help solve problems or see issues that we cannot see in our own work. We receive feedback every day from friends, family, bosses, mentors, and even strangers. These people genuinely believe their comments are helping us. Similarly, reviewers are sincere in

their intentions to improve and strengthen our writing. We must meet them halfway by assuming that all feedback is offered with positive intent.

Strong writing is the result of collaboration—giving and receiving feedback on our writing. It may also be hard to see the value in another's suggestion if it's coming from someone who we don't think has experience equal to or greater than our own. We may judge a peer's comments as less beneficial than an editor's comments. After all, an editor supposedly has the last word when it comes to publication. Lucky authors can choose trusted reviewers who provide legitimate critiques in positive, safe environments. This may include people from your personal genealogy network, informal writing groups, individual mentors or coaches, or formal classes such as ProGen Study Groups.² Begin with the mindset that all reviewers contribute useful feedback that we can use to help our writing growth and development.

Implement Feedback

Implementing feedback begins with open minded self-reflection. After reviews arrive in your inbox, take time to process the comments before acting. Let yourself react. It's OK to feel anxious about pages and pages of critiques. Sleep on the feedback and judge it fresh the next day when you can be more objective. Better yet, give it a few days, or even weeks.

Once you are in a positive mindset, reflect on the feedback:

1. Read it several times without focusing on the negative.
2. Determine what the reviewer is trying to say rather than how comments are presented.
3. Consider how the suggestions align with your writing goals.
4. Reflect on how incorporating feedback can improve your writing skills.
5. Digest all critiques before deciding how to address them.

Before tackling the next revision, you may need to seek clarification from the reviewer(s). Reviewers come in all shapes and sizes. Forgive any perceived limitations or inexperience and look at the comments objectively. It's also important to determine if the reviewer is in sync

¹ Douglas Stone and Sheila Heen, "Three Triggers that Block Feedback," *Thanks for the Feedback: The Science and Art of Receiving Feedback Well* (New York City: Penguin Books, 2014), 15-26.

² "Program: Feedback," *ProGen Study Groups* (<https://progenstudygroups.com>).



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with your writing goal(s). If you want another opinion to gain additional insights, consider discussing the proposed changes with peers or mentors.

Engage in a dialogue to understand the reviewer's perspective. Minimize defensiveness through true listening and communication, and don't be afraid to ask questions:

- What are the specific problems that you see?
- What do you see are the biggest issues?
- What are the easiest problems to address?
- Can you provide examples or suggestions to improve these concerns?
- I'm not clear on _____. Can you provide further explanation?

Finally, if you can't accept a reviewer's feedback, thank them for their time and effort, then move on. However, when you recognize the benefits of their constructive critiques, acknowledge their contributions in a letter or article footnote.

You are now ready to implement your review process. Before making any changes, save your original and track each version by date and/or number. Then make the big decisions. After reviewing all comments with a positive frame of mind, determine what items you want to modify or keep, accept or reject totally, incorporate, or ignore. You are the author and don't have to use any feedback. At the same time, an editor can choose to reject your work without changes. Assuming you are not prepared to walk away, it's time to analyze the feedback objectively.

Look to Future Writing Projects

Once the final draft is finished, be sure to acknowledge and celebrate your improvements and achievements. Take time to reflect on your efforts and progress. Look back at your first draft and where you came from. Cheer yourself on and be sure to honor the positive changes and growth that resulted from receiving and incorporating reviewers' feedback.

Then get to work on your next project by building a support network. Enroll in writing classes or institutes. Join writers' groups to share experiences with fellow writers and provide mutual feedback and encouragement. Find a trusted mentor or coach who will provide guidance

Using Feedback Step by Step

1. When looking at the reviewer's comments, identify their key points. Which suggestions are actionable and relevant?
2. Look for patterns. If you have multiple reviewers, note both similar and contradictory feedback. What areas were misunderstood or misinterpreted?
3. Note strengths that you can continue building on.
4. Develop a plan for addressing each critique.
5. Create a list of changes you want to make and work through it. Prioritize these changes based on impact and feasibility.

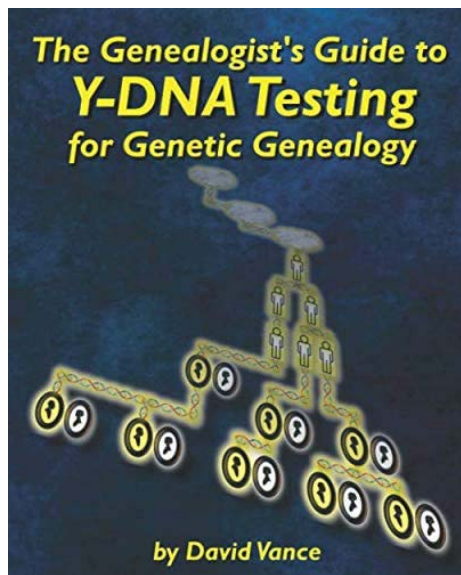
Fix one thing at a time. Some revisions, like typos, are easier to make than others. Remember that not all suggestions will resonate immediately but may make sense in the future.

and constructive critiques. Leverage everyone's skills to help evaluate and interpret future feedback effectively.

Above all, nurture your newly discovered positive attitude toward future feedback. Document your progress by reviewing past suggestions. Recognize and track improvements and recurring issues. Take note of what is under your control for future projects. Determine what you want to write about and who you want to write for. Set personal goals to continuously strive for growth and development. Rather than feeling bad, proactively use perceived setbacks to improve your skills. Use feedback to set new writing goals and challenges. Stretch yourself and submit to genealogical publications.

No matter your audience, stay open-minded. Approach each suggestion with a receptive and positive mindset. Remain flexible and adaptable to evolving writing practices. But most importantly, build review resilience, because it does get easier over time. Practice acceptance and remain grateful for any critiques you receive. Remember to roll with the punches rather than fixating on negativity. Adjusting your feedback attitude is an ongoing process that occurs only through continuously practicing and reinforcing strategies for positively handling constructive criticism.

*The author thanks Kelley Lear and Jan Joyce, CG, AG
for their review and feedback prior to submission for publication.*



**The Genealogist's Guide
to Y-DNA Testing for
Genetic Genealogy
By David Vance**

Second Edition
ISBN 979-8857052211
2024, Independently Published

THE GENEALOGIST'S GUIDE TO Y-DNA TESTING FOR GENETIC GENEALOGY

Reviewed by Kelly Richardson, APR, AG

The Genealogist's Guide to Y-DNA Testing for Genetic Genealogy is an approachable guide to Y-DNA testing designed to appeal to both a beginner and intermediate audience. Readers will come away knowing what they can expect to learn from a Y-DNA test and how they can use those test results to further their genealogical research.

What sets this book apart is that it is entirely devoted to Y-DNA. Other DNA books may include chapters on Y-DNA, but this book has over 400 pages on the topic.

The Genealogist's Guide to Y-DNA Testing for Genetic Genealogy is broken up into three sections with progressively advanced subject matter. One nice feature is that the book doesn't need to be read from start to finish. The introduction directs readers to chapters that may be of particular interest given previous experience or specific questions or problems they might have. Additionally, each chapter includes a brief heading to let readers know the difficulty level and any pre-requisite knowledge they might need.

The book is well laid out with plenty of charts, figures, and headings. Y-DNA concepts are explained at a high level using easy to understand examples and analogies, often paired with images. It's also written in a conversational, humorous tone. The intent is to engage readers who are brand new to the subject or who are put off by math and science. Topics in the advanced section include specifics.

The book includes flowcharts for decision-making and interpretation of results, and an overview of the different Y-DNA tests available at the time of publication. A chapter on "Using Y-DNA for Genealogy Conclusions" includes discussion of incorporating this kind of evidence in the context of the Genealogical Proof Standard.

What one person considers a strength, another might see as a weakness. Some readers may be put off by the conversational approach but

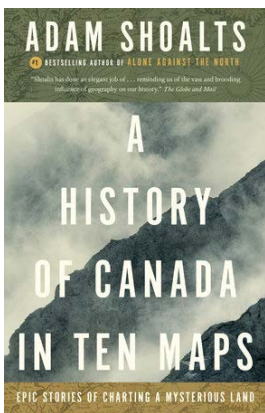


Eva Holmes, CG, AG, is a life-long resident of Portland, Maine. She has been published in several periodicals and is the author of the Research in the States Guide to Maine published by the National Genealogical Society in 2024, as well as the editor of Crossroads. She supports genealogical education as a mentor for programs such as ProGen and as a trustee of the BCG Education Fund. Her research interests include New England, Atlantic Canadian, and Italian American families as well as DNA.

those people are not the right audience for this book. Reading the sample chapter available on Amazon will make it clear whether the writing style and content is for you. The book does not include an index but the chapter headings and subheadings make finding topics easy. A glossary would be a welcome addition to a future edition.

Overall, *The Genealogist's Guide to Y-DNA Testing for Genetic Genealogy* achieves its goal of helping readers understand Y-DNA in a fun way. Anyone who is curious about how Y-DNA could help, or who took a test and never did anything with it will find reading this book a good use of their time.

ALSO ON OUR BOOKSHELVES...



Explorer Adam Shoalts uses ten different maps of Canada as a starting point to dive into stories of exploration, history, and the land. Each chapter, based on a specific map, stands on its own. The maps are reproduced in color, but it is difficult to appreciate the fine detail given their small size. Luckily, most of the maps may be found online.

We start with the Viking's Vinland and their settlement at L'Anse aux Meadows in Newfoundland. The book moves forward through time, centered around stories about Cartier, Champlain, Hearne and other European explorers. Readers will enjoy the broad background Shoalts provides, weaving in information about European events which influenced these voyages. The explorers traveled through land already populated by the First Nations. The stories of the First Nations and their ever-evolving relationships with the new arrivals are also detailed.

The focus, however, is on the adventure. Both those who enjoy a good yarn about exploring the great unknown and those who have an interest in Canadian history will find this an enjoyable read.

A History of Canada in Ten Maps: Epic Stories of Charting a Mysterious Land

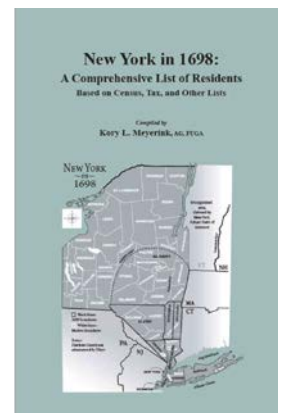
Author: Adam Shoalts

ISBN: 978-0143193982

Publisher: Penguin Canada

Publication Date: 2018

The 1698 census of New York is unique in that it attempted to name every individual inhabitant of the state, not just the head of household. The original records have been lost, but about half of the census lists survive in published form. These remnants, combined with statistical overviews and alternative sources, made it possible for the author to recreate these lists of people living in New York.



The book is divided into chapters by county. Each chapter provides information about the status of the original census, notes on formatting, statistics, and other comments. When names from the 1698 census are not available, the next best source is used with information about why that source was chosen and potential drawbacks. The author superbly explains the methodology used to reconstruct the census, using examples to illustrate his points. Recommendations for further research are also included for each county.

The book includes an every-name index and an appendix to look up the Dutch equivalents for English names and vis versa.

This is a must have resource for anyone researching New York during this period, providing not only names but inspiration about where to take the search next. People without research interests in this area will appreciate the volume for showing how to approach the problem of recreating lost records.

New York in 1698: A Comprehensive List of Residents Based on Census, Tax, and Other Lists by

Author: Kory L. Meyerink, AG, FUGA

ISBN: 978-0-8063-2138-7

Publisher: Genealogical Publishing Company

Publication Date: 2024



CROSSROADS FOR KIDS

inviting kids to connect with their ancestors

BACK TO BASICS

Like reviewing old information at the beginning of each school year, it's time for Crossroads for Kids to take a trip back to the basics and review (or learn for the first time) family history and genealogy. We're glad you're here!

FAMILY HISTORY is the study of your family origins or ancestry.

GENEALOGY is part of family history that refers to specifically tracing the line of people (or your lineage) that came before you by identifying their birth, marriage, and death dates and places.




Genealogists and family historians use a variety of records and tools to discover ancestors. Some frequently used ones are:

- vital records (birth, marriage, and death records)
- church records (christening, marriage, and burial records)
- census records (an official count or list of people in an area)
- land and property records
- probate records (legal records created upon someone's death like a will)
- military records



WHAT IS FAMILY HISTORY?

How you do genealogy and family history research can change based on where your ancestors were from and what time they lived. While it's nearly impossible to know everything there is to know about finding ancestors, what's most important is to never be afraid to ask questions, to know where to go to learn how to find your answers, and to never give up. Some puzzles are solved in a day and some may take years to solve.



Research Tip!
Start with what you know
and move back to what you
don't know.

Why should you research your ancestry?

Knowing where we come from is an important and fascinating part of our lives. It connects us when we feel lonely and gives us purpose when we feel lost. It encourages us to do more than we thought we could when we face difficult times. Researching our family histories makes us thoughtful about our own lives and the impact they have on others.



FAMILY GROUP RECORD

Part of discovering your ancestors is asking questions and writing down what you know/discover, just like a detective discovering clues. Family group records are a common way to collect and organize vital information about your ancestors. Start creating your own family group record by filling out the chart below.

Family Group Sheet

Your Father's Name: _____

	Day/Month/Year	Place
Born:	_____	_____
Married:	_____	_____
Died:	_____	_____

Father's father (your paternal grandfather): _____

Father's mother (your paternal grandmother): _____

Your Mother's Name: _____

	Day/Month/Year	Place
Born:	_____	_____
Married:	_____	_____
Died:	_____	_____

Mother's father (your maternal grandfather): _____

Mother's mother (your maternal grandmother): _____

Names of Children (your siblings)	Born	Birthplace
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

PERSONAL TIMELINE

Writing a personal history is a fun and valuable way to preserve some of your own family history. When beginning your personal history, it can be very useful to start with a timeline that records major events in your life.

Brainstorm or draw pictures of important events in your life in the space below. Then, on your own or with the help of an adult, fill out the timeline. Some examples you might include are: your birth, moves, family marriages, births of siblings, deaths, pivotal moments, important memories, family trips, when you first met someone, when you started a sport or hobby, things that happened in the world that impacted you, etc.



○ ————— |
Birth

————— | ○
Today



HISTORY OF CYNTHIA VAIL BENSON

b. 28 February 1801 at Palmer, New York

m. Alva Benson, 11 August 1820 at Clark County, Indiana

d. 10 October 1877 at Hyrum, Utah

Submitted by Rob Wallace

Cynthia Vail Benson, daughter of Gamaliel and Lucy (Manning) Vail, was born in Palmer, New York, into a home of culture and refinement. Her father was a physician who practiced in Indiana, Kentucky, and Illinois. As a girl, she knew what it meant to move from place to place in frontier country.

In 1820, Cynthia married Alva Benson of Onondaga, New York. They had ten children.

On 14 February 1832, Cynthia and her husband joined the "Mormon Church." It was on this date that Cynthia's husband began his history. He wrote, "That same winter we sold our lands, I and my father and brother Jerome moved to Missouri, Jackson County. Got there on November 17th. I built me a house on public land and lived there one year."

On 25 July 1833, Cynthia gave birth to their sixth child, a son named Moroni. Two weeks later, the family was driven from their home by an angry mob. They hid in the woods. Keziah, the eldest daughter, remembered having an earache and her mother telling her not to cry or the mob would hear.

In 1838, they moved to Caldwell County, Missouri. They passed through Haun's Mill. While talking with some people, Alva felt impelled to move on. So that night, they made camp some distance from the settlement. The next day, Colonel Jennings gathered about 240 men and went to Haun's Mill. Without any warning, troops began to fire. Seventeen people were killed, and others were wounded. When the Benson family heard of this, they were very thankful they had moved on.

Driven by mobs, the Bensons moved to Clay County, Missouri, and eventually to Illinois.

After six years in Illinois, Alva wrote in his history, "In May 1846, I started with my family and two other families, the widow Nate [Martha Nate and her four children], and Joseph and Polly Bartholomew, my sister, to go with the church of Jesus Christ to the West."

They stopped for five years when they got to Pottawattamie County, Iowa. Alva did farm work, worked on mills, and made a fit-out for crossing the plains. They started on their trek west in 1852 with the company led by Uriah C. Curtis. They had two wagons, two yokes of oxen, two cows, and the necessary provisions. There were twelve persons in these two wagons.

They arrived in Salt Lake City on 29 September 1852. The Bensons were immediately sent to Springville, Utah. The next year, 1853, the Bensons were called to go south along with 100 other families to reinforce Cedar City, where they lived for seven years.

On 10 March 1860, the Benson and Allen families left Cedar City. They made their way to Cache Valley. Alva, the oldest man in the camp, built the first house in the new town that they named Hyrum.

In the atmosphere of peace, this sweet, refined woman died on 10 October 1877, at the age of 76.



Rob Wallace started doing family history research back in high school, in the 1970s. I worked on my family history off and on until the early 2000s when I decide to make it a serious hobby. Since then, I have logged well over 3000 hours of research. I have studied family history extensively, reading, taking courses, and attending conferences. I have been and still am a member in several regional and national genealogical societies. I have served as a consultant in our community family history library and taught community family history classes (in California). I have extensive leadership experience professionally, in church, and in youth organizations. I am a retired engineer, living in Cedar Hills.

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2024 CALENDAR

UGA Virtual Chapter (3rd Thursdays)

October 17	7pm MT	On The Road Again: Traveling the World Doing Genealogy Research <i>Judy Nimer Muhn, Ed.M., FSA Scot</i>	online
November 21	7pm MT	TBA	online
December 19		No meeting	

Genealogy ProTalk Webinars (1st Tuesdays)

October 1	6pm MT	Expanding Your Horizons: How to Succeed in Genealogy Networking <i>Alina Khuda</i>	online
November 5	6pm MT	Writing for Crossroads <i>Eva Holmes CG, AG</i>	online
December 3	6pm MT	Diversify Your Talents to Build a Better Genealogy Business <i>Katherine R. Willson</i>	online

UGA DNA (2nd Wednesdays)

October 9	6pm MT	BanyanDNA: A New Tool for Genetic Genealogy and Complex Trees <i>Leah Larkin, PhD</i>	online
November 13	6pm MT	DNA Shared Matches, Maternal Grandfather <i>Seema-Jayne Kenney</i>	online
December 11		No meeting	

Chapter Meetings

Hybrid Chapter (4th Wednesdays)

October 23	10am MT	Family Folklore: A Quest for Truth <i>Teresa Brooks</i>	online
November 27	10am MT	No Meeting	