

# UTAH GENEALOGICAL ASSOCIATION

# CROSSROADS

VOLUME 17, ISSUE 4

FALL 2022



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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It seems like the theme for the Utah Genealogical Association this year is change. We've had changes in leadership, as a few board members and officers have had to step down from their board service due to changing demands on their time. Fortunately, many of them will continue to serve UGA in other capacities. We have welcomed several new board members this year and look forward to the strength and talents they will bring to the organization. We've welcomed a new director for the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy, a new *Crossroads* editor, new chapters, chapter presidents, committee heads, and conference volunteers this year. For the first time since COVID-19 hit, our chapters are starting to hold in-person meetings again.

UGA is richly blessed by so many people who have given selflessly to the organization over the years. I am personally grateful for all who have served. Thank you to all of you. And thank you to the willing and capable professionals who have stepped in, rolled up their sleeves, and gotten to work in service of UGA this year! Our organization is in good hands.

Jeff Bezos, Executive Chairman of Amazon, acknowledged, "What's dangerous is not to evolve." And American inventor Charles Kettering (1876-1958) wisely noted, "The world hates change, yet it is the only thing that has brought progress." UGA is embracing the changes we're experiencing and looks forward to the growth and progress that come with it.

In line with the spirit of change, this issue of *Crossroads* introduces a fresh new look for the magazine. Although the look and format of the publication have changed, it is still loaded with the high-quality content that makes *Crossroads* great. This issue includes a feature on pandemics and death records, an article about Utah genealogy haunts, a DNA case study exploring unknown parentage in the South, research plans, a preview of SLIG, how Gen Z has tackled genealogy, new technology, and a great beginning genealogy book review. Enjoy!

*Tristan Tolman*

Tristan Tolman, AG®

President, Utah Genealogical Association



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## NEW UGA CHAPTER LEADERS NEEDED

Tired of the glazed look non-genealogist family members adopt when you start to talk about your research? Our existing chapters provide a unique opportunity to network with other genealogists whose passion for family history matches your own. If there is not an active chapter in your area we would love to help you start one.

## ACTIVE UGA CHAPTERS

All chapters resumed in-person meetings in September.

See UGA website, [UGAGenealogy.org](http://UGAGenealogy.org), "Local Chapters" for details.

### CACHE VALLEY CHAPTER

Teresa Brooks, President

[btrent1993@gmail.com](mailto:btrent1993@gmail.com)

Meetings: 4th Tuesday of each month.

Check UGA website for times.

### SALT LAKE VALLEY CHAPTER

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Meetings: 1st Thursday of each month.

Check UGA website for times.

### SOUTH DAVIS CHAPTER

Skye Cranor, President

[south-davis@ugagenealogy.org](mailto:south-davis@ugagenealogy.org)

Meetings: 3rd Wednesday of each month,

7pm MT at Centerville Branch Library,

45 S 400 W, Centerville, UT.

### UTAH VALLEY CHAPTER

Maggie Richards, President

[1familytreelady@gmail.com](mailto:1familytreelady@gmail.com)

Meetings: 2nd Thursday of each month,

7pm MT at Mount Timpanogos Family

Research Center, 835 N 900 E, American Fork, UT.

### VIRTUAL CHAPTER

Rob Wallace and Peggy Lauritzen, AG®,

Co-Presidents

[virtual-chapter@ugagenealogy.org](mailto:virtual-chapter@ugagenealogy.org)

Meetings: 3rd Thursday of each month,

7pm MT.

***For meeting updates and topics, please see "Local Chapters" at the UGA Website.***

*Note: There will be no chapter meetings in November, please check website in regards to December meetings.*

## UGA SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

### TECHNOLOGY SIG CHAPTER

Linda Debe, President

[geniebugs6396@gmail.com](mailto:geniebugs6396@gmail.com)

Check website for meeting dates/times.

### UGA DNA SIG

Tanner Tolman, AG®, President

[dna-sig@ugagenealogy.org](mailto:dna-sig@ugagenealogy.org)

Meetings: 2nd Wednesday each month,

7pm MT.

***The views expressed in this publication are those of the authors. They do not purport to reflect the opinion or views of the Utah Genealogical Association or its members.***





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To change your delivery address, email your name and both the old and new addresses to [info@ugagenealogy.org](mailto:info@ugagenealogy.org).

Please allow six weeks advance notice prior to *Crossroads* mailing.

## AUTHOR SUBMISSIONS

Submit manuscripts to the *Crossroads* editorial team. An upload link can be found at [UGAGenealogy.org](http://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.

## UGA MEMBERSHIP

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Please indicate whether this is an individual membership at \$35, a household membership at \$45, student membership at \$15, or an institutional/library membership at \$50. Add \$5 if outside of the continental USA. For further information, visit [www.infouga.org](http://www.infouga.org).

## ORDER FOR CROSSROADS

*Crossroads* is the official magazine of the Utah Genealogical Association. To receive the quarterly magazine simply join the Utah Genealogical Association at [UGAGenealogy.org](http://UGAGenealogy.org).

See website for membership details and more information.

# EDITOR'S MESSAGE

The past nine months have been a whirlwind preparing for this issue. As Tristan Tolman mentioned in her President's Message, this has truly been a season of change, for all of us. I have loved getting to know the amazing board, volunteers, and members that keep UGA running and working with so many amazing writers and genealogists as we put this issue together.

This issue introduces you to one of my favorite researchers, Allison Kotter, who shares her progress on untangling the Lewis and Beck families of Alabama and Laurie Martin previews a great beginning genealogy book that would be a perfect holiday gift for anyone interested in getting started. Shannon Sipes gives us a look at what's coming for SLIG this winter. (Speaking of which, I am insanely excited for the Metes and Bounds class.)

As we settle into fall, and the hustle of summer comes to an end, I hope that you will consider writing and submitting your articles for upcoming publications and sharing your genealogy journey with us! If you don't want to write but have an idea for an article that you would like to see in *Crossroads*, please reach out to me at [ksuzr@outlook.com](mailto:ksuzr@outlook.com).

I hope that you have a fantastic holiday season. Happy reading and researching!

Kelly Richardson, APR  
Executive Editor, *Crossroads*



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# RESTAURANTS AND RESEARCH PLANS

By Melanie A. Marsh

It's mid-afternoon. You've been steadily researching since the archive opened this morning and you're past hungry. It's time to eat something. You're in an unfamiliar city, but someone recommended a good place to eat. Knowing only the name of the restaurant, you get in your car. You love to explore new places, so what's wrong with just driving around until you find it?

Trying to find a restaurant in a new city when all you know is its name can be like trying to answer a genealogical research question without a research plan. You can easily explore the question by typing the name of the ancestor into a search engine or master search function on a website like *Ancestry* or *FamilySearch*, but filtering through the thousands of returns could take hours, or longer. This type of exploration also might miss some important records and may introduce many ways to become distracted. It's much like driving around a new city when you're hungry without knowing more than the name of a restaurant.

## There's a better way.

Spending a few minutes asking directions before getting into your car or entering the restaurant's name into your smartphone app will get you to the restaurant to satisfy your hunger more easily. It will allow you to avoid hunger's distraction of wondering if each of the restaurants you pass along the way would be "just as good." Likewise, spending a few minutes, or even an hour or two for those research questions in uncharted territory will allow you to be focused and your research more effective.

## How do you develop a research plan?

The simplest research question requires only knowing what you want to find and how to find it. If you only need to use records or repositories that are familiar, you may not even need to write it down. To find your answer, keep focused, search the records, and record the results.

A research plan for more complex questions, or ones that will require researching in records or repositories you are not familiar with, should be more formal and can be completed in a few steps. It's important to be organized and to record your plan. Use general notes, a table in a word processing program, a spreadsheet, or an online document system. Some of these tools have "sort" features that can come in handy when you analyze what you've learned or still need to learn. Whether the question is simple or complex, it should be as specific as possible to focus your search, like finding the restaurant.

Many researchers use about five steps to develop their research plan. These steps will be discussed using the example illustrated in Figure 1: Example of a Research Plan. The numbers within the figure represent the numbered discussion points following the figure.

### 1. Identify your research question or objective.

Broad questions are harder to research. For example, "Where did Rudolph Thomas Weideman live?" has no clues to begin the search. A more specific question gives clues, such as: "Was the Rudolph Weidemann of Chicago, Cook, Illinois, in the 1900 United States Federal Census<sup>1</sup> the same man as the Rudolph Weidmann who became a naturalized citizen of the United States on 18 June 1870 at the Court of Common Pleas, New York County, New York?"<sup>2</sup>



**Melanie Marsh** is a professional genealogist and owner of Marsh Genealogy based near Los Angeles, California. She has been researching for over 20 years and is experienced with records in England, Norway, and the United States. Melanie enjoys working with clients, writing, teaching, lecturing, and mentoring. She teaches online genealogy courses through Brigham Young University-Idaho and holds a Bachelor's Degree in Family History from Brigham Young University-Provo.





	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Research Plan						
2							
3	2	Name: Rudolph Thomas Weidemann			Spouse: Wilhelmine (Minnie) Agusta Ziefeldt		
4		Birth: September 1833, Prussia (source: US Censuses 1870-1900)			Birth: about 1842		
5		Death: 2 May 1904, Chicago, Cook, Illinois, United States (source: Death Certificate)			Death: about 1919		
6		Marriage: about 1866					
7		Immigration: 1863 (source: 1900 US Census)					
8		Residences: Chicago, Cook, Illinois, United States 1870-1904					
9		Occupation: Cabinetmaker					
10							
11	1	Objective: Was Rudolph Weidemann of Chicago, Cook, Illinois the same as Rudolph Weidmann who became a naturalized citizen of the United States on 18 June 1870 at the Court of Common Pleas, New York County, New York?					
12							
13	Date of Search	Repository   Website URL   Call #   Film #	Source Description	Citation	Notes	Next Steps	Doc #
14	12-Nov-21	<a href="https://www.archives.gov/research/immigration/naturalization">https://www.archives.gov/research/immigration/naturalization</a>	Naturalization - procedures, records, location, information; webpage	National Archives, webpage (https://archives.gov : accessed 12 Nov 2021), "Naturalization Records," National Archives and Records Administration, 2021.	2-step process over 5+ years: Declaration + Petition Possible information: name, dob, date of entry, date of naturalization, residence, country of origin 2 steps did not need to be in same court No central index NARA branch serving each state holds original federal records; other records held at state, county/local court, or historical society archives; if not online, copies can be ordered through court holding the record.		
15	12-Nov-21	<a href="https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/United_States_Naturalization_and_Citizenship">https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/United_States_Naturalization_and_Citizenship</a> Ancestry.com	Naturalization - procedures, records, location, online records; webpage	FamilySearch Wiki, webpage (https://familysearch.org/en/wiki : accessed 12 Nov 2021), "United States Naturalization and Citizenship," Intellectual Reserve, Inc., 2021.	Federal, state, local courts could grant citizenship: county, superior, common pleas, circuit, and district courts. Possible to begin at one court, finish at another - check all residences. Some indexes online: germanroots.com; familysearch.org; fold3.com; ancestry.com; finding aids only	Hyperlinks to online records: <a href="https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/United_States_Naturalization_and_Citizenship_Online_Genealogy_Records">https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/United_States_Naturalization_and_Citizenship_Online_Genealogy_Records</a>	

FIGURE 1: Example of a Research Plan. ©2021, Melanie A. Marsh

- Review all known information about the ancestor.** Analyze and correlate the records and information you have already located. Briefly record the information at the top of your research plan for quick reference.
- Do some homework.** Identify the most likely record sets to search for your answer and what potential information the records might provide. Note how you will access the records, any record losses, and contemporary events that might have generated other records that might be used to answer the question. Take notes. In this process, a strategy usually becomes clear, and you will know where to begin. This is your "map" to get to the "restaurant." Depending on the research question, you may sometimes need to repeat this step to identify new record sets and strategies.
- Search the records!** Follow the strategy you identified and record the results of each search. Keep in mind that even the best research plan cannot guarantee the answer to the question,

and you may need to change the question or do more homework. Good research plans will help you to keep focused and avoid the many distractions of "just as good restaurants" encountered as you research.

- Record your efforts as you go.** Take a few minutes at the end of each research session to summarize what you have done and write down your ideas for the next session. Giving yourself this kind of guidance is invaluable when you come back to a question after some time away from it.

Identifying a specific research question, developing a plan to answer that question, using that plan to keep focused during the research process, and recording your progress are important tools you can use to help unravel the mysteries of your ancestors' pasts. Not all questions can be answered "today" but using a research plan to stay focused and record your progress helps to eliminate duplicated effort and promotes efficient and manageable research sessions. Happy hunting!

<sup>1</sup> 1900 U.S. Federal Census, Chicago Ward 25, Cook, Illinois, population schedule, enumeration district 750, sheet 5 (penned), Osgood Street, dwelling #51, family #101, entry for Rudolph Weidemann; digital image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com : accessed 29 July 2021); citing NARA microfilm publication T623.

<sup>2</sup> "US, Naturalization Records Indexes, 1791-1992," digital image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com : accessed 12 November 2021), index card for Rudolph Weidmann, naturalized 18 June 1870, Common Pleas Court, New York County, New York; citing NARA M1674, W-355, Bundle 381, Record 101.

# BECK OR LEWIS?

## Uncovering Biological Family Members Using Documentary and Genetic Genealogy

By Allison Kotter

At first glance, the genealogy of Zilla Beck seems straightforward. She lived in the household of Jesse Beck in 1850,<sup>1</sup> and the other children who lived in that household have Jesse Beck listed as their father on their death certificates.<sup>2</sup> A death certificate does not exist for Zilla, but the circumstances seem to clearly point to Jesse Beck as the father of Zilla Beck. So, case closed, right? As often happens for avid genealogists, digging deeper into the Beck family led to some questions about Zilla's true origins. An intriguing record in the *Acts of the General Assembly of the State of Alabama* in 1849 states:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Alabama in General Assembly convened, that from and after the passage of this act the names of Matilda Jane Lewis, Mahala Susan Elizabeth Lewis, Jesse Bryant Lewis, Zilla Lewis, and Zelia Lewis, of the county of Covington, be and they are hereby changed to Matilda Jane Beck, Mahala Susan Elizabeth Beck, Jesse Bryant Beck, Zilla Beck, and Zelia Beck.<sup>3</sup>

The children listed in this record also appear in the household of Jesse Beck in the 1850 census (see Table 1). The records analyzed together implied Jesse Beck adopted Matilda Lewis, Mahala Lewis, Jesse Lewis, Zilla Lewis, and Zelia Lewis. If this is the case, then who are Zilla Beck's biological parents? Of the children whose names were changed from Lewis to Beck, only one has had a death certificate located for them. Zelia (Lewis/Beck) Penton, who is believed to be a twin of Zilla Beck, has her father listed as "Jessie Beck" on her death certificate.<sup>4</sup> She would have been about five when her name changed from

Lewis to Beck, so all things considered, Jesse Beck was the man who raised her and may have legally been her father. This was probably the case for all the children listed in the General Assembly record. They certainly viewed Jesse Beck as their father, and any documentary record of their biological father may not exist. Unfortunately, Covington County, Alabama, where the Beck family resided, has been victim to large record loss and there are no probate, land, court, or vital record, available before 1878 to aid in the documentary research.<sup>5</sup>

### What Does The DNA Say?

Seven descendants of Zilla Lewis/Beck have taken autosomal DNA tests, contributing results to this project. Using the formula to calculate DNA coverage, explained by Paul Woodbury,<sup>6</sup> these test-takers account for about 26% of Zilla's DNA.

TABLE 1: Jesse Beck Family in 1850 and General Assembly Record

1850 Census Covington County, Alabama		1849 General Assembly Covington County, Alabama
Jesse Beck	b. 1799	-----
Sarah Beck	b. 1814	-----
William Beck	b. 1837	-----
Mahla Beck	b. 1840	Mahala Susan Elizabeth Lewis
Jesse Beck	b. 1842	Jesse Bryant Lewis
Zillah Beck	b. 1844	Zilla Lewis
Zellah Beck	b. 1844	Zelia Lewis
Sarah Beck	b. 1846	-----
Isabella Beck	b. 1848	-----
-----	---	Matilda Jane Lewis

[-----] denotes that child was not on record



**Allison Kotter** is a professional genealogist pursuing accreditation in the Southeast US. She works with FamilyLocket Genealogists on multiple Southern research cases along with Lauth Investigations as an heir investigator. When she is not doing genealogy, she is focused on spending as much time with her two little girls as possible.



Creating network graphs for these test-takers' matches narrowed down the matches that shared DNA through Zilla Beck's side of the family. Many DNA matches appeared through Zilla Beck's direct line, along with many matches through her siblings' lines. Interestingly, DNA matches didn't only appear through the siblings listed as former Lewises, but there were also many matches through the other children listed in the household of Jesse Beck in 1850.

On average, Zilla's descendants shared 41cM with the descendants of Zelia, Mahala, and Jesse Bryant Lewis/Beck. As for the other children of Jesse Beck, Zilla shared 31cM on average with them. This indicates that Zilla did share DNA with the Beck family that she lived with in 1850.

One of the first thoughts with this realization was that Jesse Beck's wife, Sarah, had been previously married to a Lewis, then married Jesse Beck and he adopted her young children. This would imply that Jesse and Sarah were married around 1849. However, Zilla's descendants share DNA with Jesse's children who were born before 1849 as well. Along with that, Zilla's descendants also share DNA with descendants of Jesse Beck's brothers, indicating that Zilla Beck does share DNA with Jesse Beck. Perhaps Jesse Beck was an uncle of Zilla Lewis who adopted her?

Analyzing the pedigrees of the DNA matches in the same cluster of the Beck matches showed 20 matches with an average of 25cM descending from James Lewis and Elizabeth Feraby from Early County, Georgia. Could this couple be the parents or grandparents to Zilla?

Prior to research for this project, little was known about where Jesse Beck lived prior to Covington County, Alabama. It had been noted that many of Jesse's children reported birthplaces of Georgia, and the most specific locality had been found in his son William's pension record, which listed William's birthplace as Baker County, Georgia.<sup>7</sup> Baker County, Georgia, has also experienced much record loss and has few records available before 1873.<sup>8</sup> As such, no direct record of Jesse Beck or his family has been found in Baker County, Georgia.

However, finding the DNA matches to James Lewis

and Elizabeth Feraby from Early County, Georgia, led to an important discovery: Early County, Georgia, neighbors Baker County, Georgia. Could the Beck family have lived in Early County and interacted with the Lewis family?

A tax collectors' sale from 1840 notes the following property for sale:

250 acres of land, No. 267, in the 12th district of Baker County, levied on as the property of Jesse Beck, to satisfy his tax due the state of Georgia and county of Early for the year 1838.<sup>9</sup>

This record provides evidence that Jesse Beck owned land in Baker County, Georgia, and that he owed tax in Early County, Georgia. A page-by-page search of the surviving deeds in Early County, Georgia, did not show any property directly owned by Jesse Beck. However, he clearly had ties to Early County.<sup>10</sup>

As for how Jesse Beck could be connected to the Lewis family, a fellow Beck researcher had shared unsourced material that claimed that Jesse Beck had a sister who married a Mr. Lewis.<sup>11</sup> No sources or additional information was given on that couple. If this couple truly existed, they may be the answer as to why Zilla Lewis was adopted by Jesse Beck, and one reason her descendant share DNA with both the Lewis and Beck families.

No sources have confirmed that Jesse Beck had a sister who married a Mr. Lewis, but an interesting associate of the Becks' family has provided some evidence for this claim. Less than two miles away from the Becks' home in Covington County, Alabama, lived James Marion Lewis.<sup>12</sup> James Marion Lewis was born around 1833 and migrated with the Beck family, always staying only a few households away.<sup>13</sup> James Marion Lewis was also buried in the same cemetery as multiple members of the Beck family, indicating he attended the same church as well.<sup>14</sup> James Marion Lewis seemed to certainly be a close associate to the Beck family.

And as all genealogists' favorite records do, James Marion Lewis' death certificate provided the evidence that the Becks had a relationship to a Lewis family. James Marion Lewis's death certificate did not list his father's name, but instead only had the name of his mother written as "Beck."<sup>15</sup> The

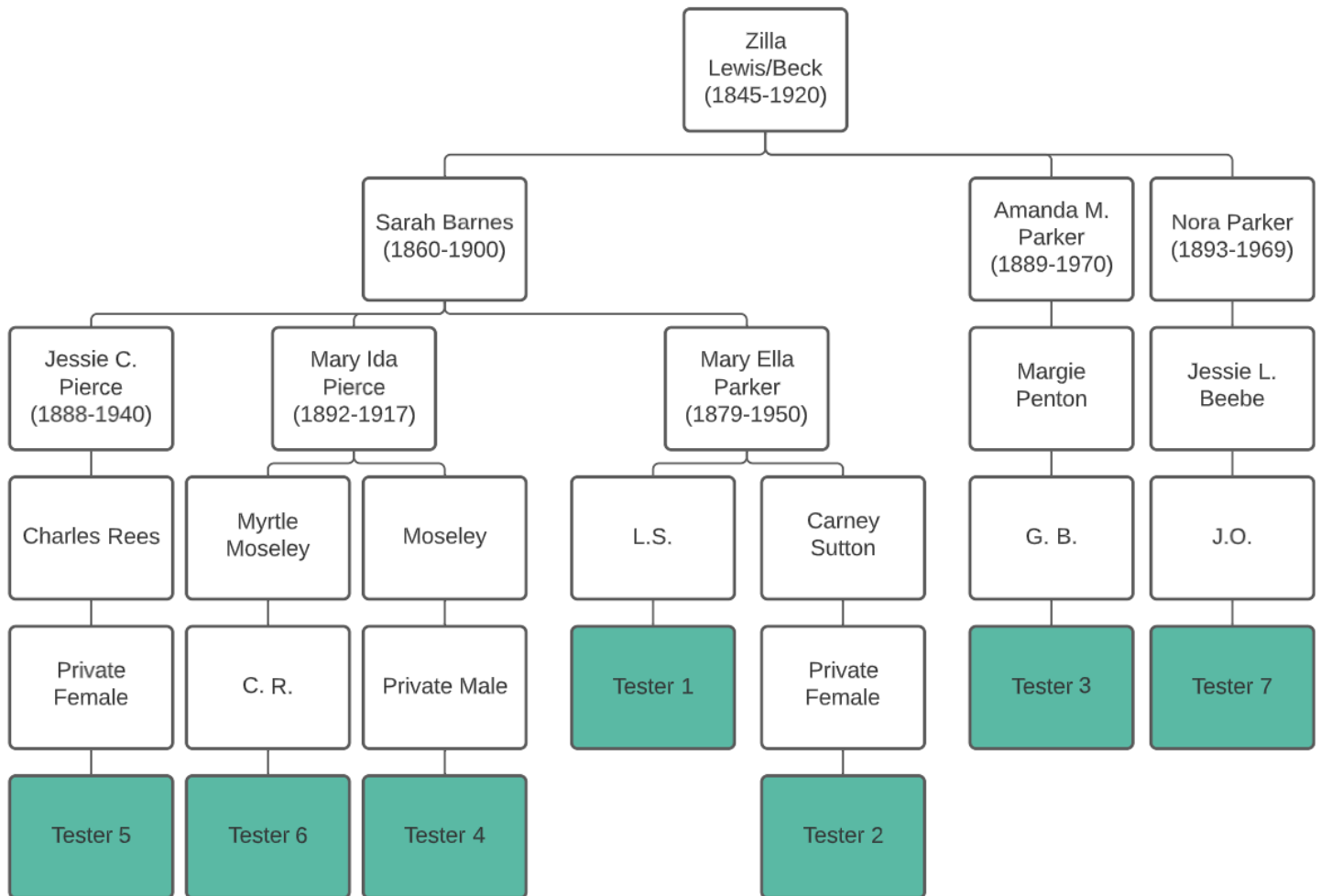


FIGURE 2: Test-Takers Descended from Zilla Lewis/Beck

relationship between James Marion Lewis and the informant on his death certificate is unclear, but the one thing the informant seemed to know was that James Marion Lewis was related to the Beck family.

Research for James Marion Lewis is still being conducted; there have been no direct descendants identified that are a DNA match to those that have tested in the Zilla family. However, uncovering his parentage may be the key to tying all these families together. Future research should collect DNA from direct descendants of James Marion Lewis and those of the other Lewis children who were adopted by Jesse Beck. Analyzing more DNA from more independent lines may provide further clarity into the exact relationships between the Lewis/Beck children, Jesse Beck, and James Lewis from Early County, Georgia.

While the exact relationships for this family have not been determined, DNA analysis helped a brick

wall become a brick stumbling block. Without DNA, the thought to find a connection between Jesse Beck and Early County, Georgia, may have not happened. DNA has also led Beck researchers to the couple of James Lewis and Elizabeth Feraby as possible grandparents for the Lewis/Beck children. Building this couple's descendency may show a child of theirs that could be a candidate for the Lewis/Beck children's father. DNA also encouraged correspondence between Beck researchers, allowing the hint of Jesse Beck's sister marrying a Mr. Lewis to come to light. While much more research needs to be conducted before this project can be put down, DNA took a record that raised questions and turned it into a researchable hypothesis. Whereas before Zilla's case seemed cut and dry, now her biological roots are being discovered, and her descendants are learning about a whole new side of the family they were unaware of.





<sup>1</sup> 1850 U.S. Census, Covington County, Alabama, population schedule, sheet 135A (penned), dwelling/family #117, entry for Jesse Beck; digital image, *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) : accessed 13 April 2020); citing NARA microfilm publication M432.

<sup>2</sup> "Florida Deaths, 1877-1939," database, *FamilySearch* ([www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) : accessed 15 September 2020), Zelig Penton, (1845 - 1927), Beulah, Escambia County, Florida; citing GS film 2135210.; also, "Texas Deaths, 1890-1976," database, *FamilySearch* ([www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) : accessed 15 September 2020), Isabel Dockens, (1845 - 1928), Center, Shelby County, Texas; citing FHL microfilm 2,114,664.; also, "Florida Deaths, 1877-1939," database, *FamilySearch* ([www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) : accessed 15 September 2020), Alfred Darling Beck, (1855 - 1935), Bay Springs, Escambia County, Florida; citing FHL film 2,135,812.; also, "Florida Deaths, 1877-1939," database with images, *FamilySearch* ([www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) : accessed 11 November 2020), Amanda B. McCurdy, (1853 - 1895), South Flomaton, Escambia, Florida; citing FHL microfilm 004,026,843.; also, "Alabama Deaths, 1908-1974," database, *FamilySearch* ([www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) : accessed 15 September 2020), Mary Francis Beck Lowery, (1857 - 1930), Atmore, Escambia County, Alabama; citing FHL microfilm 1,908,476.

<sup>3</sup> Alabama, *Acts of the General Assembly of the State of Alabama*, "An Act: To Change the Names of Certain Persons Named" (Montgomery: Brittan & DeWolf, State Printers 1850), 428.

<sup>4</sup> "Florida Deaths, 1877-1939," database, *FamilySearch* ([www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) : accessed 15 September 2020), Zelig Penton, (1845 - 1927), Beulah, Escambia County, Florida; citing FHL microfilm 2,135,210.

<sup>5</sup> "County of Covington - Alabama," *Covington History* ([www.covingtonhistory.co.uk](http://www.covingtonhistory.co.uk) : accessed 4 April 2021), para. 9.

<sup>6</sup> Paul Woodbury, "Covering Your Bases: Introduction to Autosomal DNA Coverage," published 2020; *Legacy Tree Genealogists* ([www.legacymtree.com](http://www.legacymtree.com) : accessed 22 January 2022), para.10.

<sup>7</sup> "Confederate Pension Applications," entry for Annie L. Collins widow of William C. Beck, 28 February 1918, Escambia County, Florida; database with images, *FloridaMemory* ([www.floridamemory.com](http://www.floridamemory.com) : accessed 27 August 2020); citing State Library and Archives of Florida, application #A04540.

<sup>8</sup> *FamilySearch Wiki*, "Baker County, Georgia, Genealogy" ([www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) : accessed 19 July 2022); section Record Loss.

<sup>9</sup> "Tax Collector's Sale," *Columbus Sentinel and Herald*, 18 Jan 1840, p. 1, col. 7; digital images, *Georgia Historic Newspapers: The Galileo Project* ([www.gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu](http://www.gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu) : accessed 12 February 2022).

<sup>10</sup> Searched for "Jesse Beck" in "Deeds, 1821-1900; numerical index to deeds, 1822-1920," Early County, Georgia; NIL.

<sup>11</sup> Private Researcher, "Modified Register for Charles Sr Beck," p. 6; report to Allison Kotter, Macon, Georgia, 22 February 2021; photocopy held by Allison Kotter, Macon, Georgia.

<sup>12</sup> Covington County, Alabama, Land Patent, accession AL2440\_033, document 21037, entry for Jesse Beck, 1 Nov 1858; digital images, *U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management: General Land Office* ([www.glorerecords.blm.gov](http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov) : accessed 15 September 2020) citing Bureau of Land Management, General Land Office Records; also, Covington County, Alabama, Land Patent, accession AL2440\_406, document 19278, entry for James M. Lewis, 1 November 1858; digital images, *U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management: General Land Office* ([www.glorerecords.blm.gov](http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov) : accessed 15 September 2020) citing Bureau of Land Management, General Land Office Records.

<sup>13</sup> 1910 U.S. Census, McKinnon, Escambia, Florida, population schedule, enumeration district 10, sheet 14A (penned), dwelling 53, family 53, James M. Lewis; digital image, *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) : accessed 29 August 2021); citing NARA microfilm publication T624, roll 160.; also, 1910 U.S. Census, McKinnon, Escambia, Florida, population schedule, Enumeration District 11, sheet 14A (penned), dwelling/family #56, entry for Alfred A. Beck household; digital image, *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) : accessed 9 November 2020); citing NARA microfilm publication T624, roll 160.

<sup>14</sup> *Find a Grave*, database with images ([www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com) : accessed 29 Aug 2021), memorial #31719592, James M. Lewis (1833-1919); Enon Baptist Church Cemetery, Enon, Escambia County, Florida; photo included.; also, *Find a Grave*, database with images ([www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com) : accessed 22 October 2020), memorial #31656617, Zelia Bell Beck Penton (1843-1927); Beulah Baptist Church Cemetery, Beulah, Escambia County, Florida, photo included.

<sup>15</sup> "Florida Deaths, 1877-1939," database with images, *FamilySearch* ([www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) : accessed 26 September 2021), James Marion Lewis, (1830 - 1919), Earnestville, Escambia, Florida; citing FHL microfilm 4,026,920.

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# PIONEER SPOTLIGHT:

## Lusannah Emiline Goodridge Hovey

Submitted by Tristan Tolman, AG®  
President, Utah Genealogical Association

On 24 March 1834 in Lunenburg, Worcester, Massachusetts, Lusannah Emiline Goodridge was born. She was the sixth child of her parents, Benjamin and Penelope Goodridge, and her father was a farmer. Lusannah was a sickly child until the age of nine. Her parents were poor, so the children had to go out and work for their support as soon as they were old enough.

The Goodridges belonged to the Methodist Church until Lenard W. Hardy and his wife came to the Goodridge home in 1849 and shared the gospel of Jesus Christ with them. On 2 September 1849, Lusannah, three of her sisters, and her mother were baptized in Whale Pond. The next year, the Goodridges started for Utah to unite with the Latter-day Saints. After a long and tedious journey, they arrived in the Salt Lake Valley in October. Lusannah's father, sister, and brother were baptized along the way.

The family settled in a home in Salt Lake City. Lusannah's sister Sarah married Joseph Grafton Hovey, but soon after giving birth to a son, she died. So Lusannah married Joseph and took care of Sarah's son. Lusannah and Joseph settled in Millville (Cache Valley) and had eight children between 1853 and 1868.

Lusannah's life was hard. She endured hunger, rations, harsh weather conditions, poor health, and difficult pregnancies. She lived in a wagon and a board shanty one summer, and when she finally moved into a log cabin, she had only a cloth for a window. In 1867, when she was thirty-four years old and expecting her eighth child, Joseph went on a trip to Salt Lake City. She received two letters from him saying his health was very poor, and on

May 5 she received a letter saying he was very sick. Two days later, Lusannah and Joseph Jr. started for Salt Lake City to see him. When they drove up to the house where he was staying, she asked how he was doing. She was told he had died and was buried last Thursday. Of this experience, Lusannah wrote, "Oh! What a prospect presented itself before me. Here I was a widow with a family of seven children, I at the age of thirty-four and soon to have another child born. No one can tell what my feelings were – only those that have passed through the same."

Ultimately Lusannah returned home to Millville, gave birth to her eighth child, and did the best she could to raise her children. Her health remained poor and times were tough, but this remarkable pioneer woman raised a noble and beautiful family. Having so much experience nursing her sick children over the years, Lusannah was called out to care for sick neighbors many times, both day and night, as there were no doctors in the area then.

In her declining years she recalled, "When I look back on my past life, it looks like a troubled dream, and I can hardly tell how I managed to get along. But the Lord was merciful and fitted the back for the burden." At the age of seventy-six, Lusannah passed away in Millville was buried in the Millville Cemetery. She is truly a pioneer ancestor to be proud of.



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# HONORING SALEM WITCHES

By Tammy Durston

When I was about ten years old, I found out from my great uncle that my ninth great grandmother, Rebecca Towne Nurse, was executed during the Salem Witch Trials.

It was perfect timing as we were studying them in the fourth grade. Back then, I was horrified. What? I am related to a witch. I made the mistake of mentioning this to a classmate and nothing was ever the same after that. "You're a witch!" they'd yell at me.

I had many questions. Were they really witches? If not, why were they accused? What evidence did they have? I was horrified about the thought of executions. But the biggest question was "Am I a witch?"

My family had no patience for me. My grandmother said that it was a family scar and did not want me to mention it. "Stop thinking about this," my mother said. I did not stop. Instead, I wrote my first research paper on the subject.

This was a long time before the Internet, so all we had in school was a social studies book that gave a brief glimpse of the Salem Witch Trials. I went to a rural school with a very limited library. We did, however, have Books-By-Mail from the County Library. We could fill out a little card with our request and the books would come to us in a box. Suddenly I was a Salem Witch expert, or so I thought. Most of the books were too advanced for me but I could understand a few things. My teacher was thrilled.

## Who Was Rebecca Nurse?

Rebecca Nurse was born in 1621 in Great Yarmouth, England. She came to the US around 1635 with her parents, William and Joanna Blessing Towne and five siblings. Two more children were born in Salem, Massachusetts. By 1645, Rebecca had married Francis Nurse and they had their first child, John, my eighth great grandfather. Francis was not a wealthy man. Much of his early history is unknown. It is known that the family had some financial difficulties. They eventually were able to sign a mortgage for a 300-acre farm in Danvers.

When she was arrested for witchcraft on 23 March 1691, Rebecca Nurse was 71 years old and the mother of eight children, grandmother to many. She was blind and confined to bed due to illness. Nevertheless, she was taken to jail.

At the time of her accusation, Rebecca was well respected in the community. She argued her innocence until her death. Reportedly Rebecca said, "The Lord knows I have not hurt them. I am an innocent person...You do not know my heart."

Rebecca's family rallied around to defend her. Her children, in-laws, friends, and neighbors testified of her character and true spirit. None of that worked. It has been told that after she was hanged with four other women (Sarah Good, Elizabeth Howe, Susannah Martin, and Sarah Wilder) on 19 July 1691, her family secretly collected her body at nightfall and took her back to her home for burial.

Rebecca's sister, Mary Towne Estey, was also



**Tammy Durston** is a published poet and the author of four regional history books. Besides a keen interest in genealogy and family history, she enjoys her family and photography.

Tammy's current research focus is on early Massachusetts and the East Coast. She is also actively working on expanding her tree through the Durston line originating near Somerset, UK.



arrested for witchcraft, released, then arrested again. She was eventually hanged in September of 1692. Another sister, Sarah Towne Cloyce, was accused and condemned but escaped death. There are many theories as to why these three women from one family were targeted, but the true reason is still unknown.

After the executions, the Towne family continued working to clear Rebecca, Mary, and Sarah's names. For years they petitioned the court and finally, in 1711, their convictions were overturned.



*Home of Rebecca Nurse in Danvers, Massachusetts, photo: Tammy Durston*

### My Journey

Rebecca and her story became a very important part of my life. After I grew older and learned more about what happened, she became a symbol of perseverance and strength. I felt proud to be related to her and her sisters.

I desperately wanted to go to Salem to see the town and where the family lived; however, it wasn't convenient travel, living in California. The Nurse homestead is still in existence in Danvers, Massachusetts. The last Nurse to live in the home was in 1784. The house was sold privately then eventually was sold to several historical groups and restored. It is now owned by the Danvers Alarm Company which is an 18th century reenactment group. The home is open to the public.

In 2011, when my eldest son chose to attend a college in Boston, I knew it was my chance to visit Salem. It was October and I was not prepared to see the entire town of Salem decorated with a witch theme, which apparently happens every Halloween. I was not sure how I felt about the mass commercialization of innocent people executed. When I drove up the long driveway

to the dark red, saltbox style house at Rebecca Nurse's homestead, I felt like I was coming home. The visit was short, and I vowed to come back.

While continuing my research, I learned of the Towne Family Association (TFA) and I immediately joined. The TFA has excellent resources: a searchable database, photos, a newsletter, and DNA projects. Many family groups have these organizations, and they can be very useful for further research.

Through the TFA, I learned about a ceremony to be held on 19 July 2017—the 325th anniversary of the hanging of five accused witches: Sarah Good, Elizabeth Howe, Susannah Martin, Rebecca Nurse, and Sarah Wildes. Until about 1930, it was thought all 19 executions that happened during the Salem Witch Trials were on the top of Gallows Hill. However, researchers discovered the actual hangings happened in another area called Proctor Ledge. A new memorial has been built in the location of where researchers believe the site to be. The Gallows Hill Project was initiated through Salem State University under the leadership of Dr. Emerson W. Baker. Dr. Baker is a public historian at Salem



State University and has written two books on the Witch Trials.

After much thought, I decided it was important for me to go to the anniversary commemoration and to take my family members with me.

It was a beautiful day in Salem when my daughter, husband and I arrived for the ceremony. (My sons could not attend.) There were speeches, readings, and many news crews. The new memorial was unveiled. Stones with inscribed names formed a semicircle along the hillside. It was amazing to see people posing for photos by their ancestor.

After the ceremony, we drove to the Nurse homestead for another commemoration. As the sun set, the descendants formed a procession down the trail to lay a wreath on Rebecca Nurse's grave. It was an extremely moving experience. Here we are, Rebecca's descendants, from all over the country, unknown to each other,

honoring her on the day of her death. The Governor of Massachusetts even proclaimed it to be Rebecca Nurse Day. I met many distant cousins and exchanged contact information and I continue to keep in touch with them today.

Recently, I met a graduate journalism student at UC Berkeley. She wanted to create a documentary on the descendants of the women and men involved in the Salem Witch Trials. Although I was nervous, I agreed to participate. Through that short film, I was able to hear other people's perspectives on how they feel about being a descendant. It was helpful to me to hear their feelings about an ancestor being accused, tortured, and executed. Most felt similarly to how I felt, and it bonded us together. I think that is the true power of genealogy—uniting people with others through their shared connections. The Salem Witch Trials also serve as a reminder of the injustice to innocent people.

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#### FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT REBECCA NURSE:

Towne Family Association  
TowneFolk.com  
Gallows Hill Project  
[w3.salemstate.edu/~ebaker/Gallows\\_Hill](http://w3.salemstate.edu/~ebaker/Gallows_Hill)

#### SUGGESTED READING:

*Currents of Malice* by Persis McMillen, who was a descendant of Mary Towne Estey. This book, which is now out of print, is very well researched and includes an incredible amount of detail. It is 600 pages and recreates life in the late 1600's. Available in some libraries and sometimes on eBay.

*Six Women of Salem* by Marilynne K. Roach. This is a unique book that is written from the viewpoints of six different women. It meshes nonfiction with fiction. Instead of focusing singularly on the victims, Ms. Roach also includes the perspective of accusers and other members in the community.

*In the Devil's Snare* by Mary Beth Norton. This is an extremely well researched book. It details the witch hysteria step-by-step.

*A Salem Witch – The Trial, Execution and Exoneration of Rebecca Nurse* by Daniel Gagnon. This book is a detailed biography of Rebecca Nurse and writes about the ramifications to the family. He discusses the various theories as to why the Towne sisters were targeted. It also contains an excellent bibliography.

*Towne Family: Five Generations of Descendants* published by Lois Payne Hoover in 2010. This book is perfect for researchers as it details family information for five generations. The third printing of this book is sold out, but the Towne Family Association may do another printing.

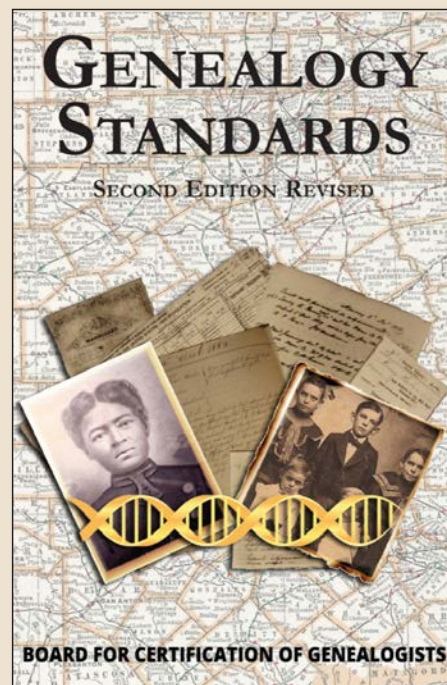


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# GENEALOGISTS OF THE DIGITAL AGE:

By Haley Marcum

## How Gen Z is Connecting Through Social Media

When COVID-19 first stepped into our lives, each of us had a unique reaction. Moving to the digital space was a difficult transition for students at the time the lockdowns began. A word was added to our vocabularies and repeated ad nauseam: “unprecedented.” The shuttered windows in our downtowns, the over-run hospitals, and the digital faces of classmates and peers that became ever-present were all summed up in this one underwhelming word. In response to this situation, we, as a society and as individual groups, did what we have always done: adapted and overcame. On TikTok, a social media app that is used to share a variety of short-form videos ranging from pranks and dances to trivia and informative clips, something remarkable happened.<sup>1</sup> In December of 2020, a young person posted about their interest in genealogy. This video sparked a flame that ignited the platform, bringing together young people from all walks of life to start something unique, and, above all else, fun.

For their article in *Journal Tourisimos*, authors Bharath M. Josiam and Richard Frazier conducted surveys that aimed to uncover the demographics and attitudes of genealogists in the states of Wisconsin and Minnesota. They discovered that their subjects were mostly over the age of 25, with their ages most commonly being within the 40–65-year-old age range.<sup>2</sup> Though the findings were published in 2008, they back up what many in the genealogical community know to be true: genealogy is overwhelmingly a hobby that is popular with older people. With the culture of modern-day genealogy in mind, it is not difficult to imagine that young people entering the community feel like outliers. As the older generations step back from their jobs as genealogists, historians, and archivists, the need for new blood in the field is growing more pertinent.

This is one of the reasons why in 2020 a young genealogist named Emme Pitts created and shared a TikTok about her experience doing genealogy. Pitts began researching her family history at the age of 14 after her mother had taken a DNA test via *Ancestry*. As of today, she has been conducting research for around five years. Pitts quickly took note of the fact that there were not many people her age who shared her fascination: “In an attempt to find other young people interested in genealogy, I posted a video on TikTok talking about my family tree.”<sup>3</sup>

In response to her video, hundreds of comments began to roll in, with a surprising consensus of: “I thought I was the only one who did this!”<sup>4</sup> It is from the metaphorical primordial soup we know as the Internet that Gen-Z Genealogy evolved. A viewer of the video and fellow young genealogist, Colin Brennan reached out and the online community, in its earliest form of a simple group chat, began. The two teens ended up establishing a Discord community together. Discord is a voice, video, and text chat application, available on computers and smartphones, that functions mostly to build digital communities.<sup>5</sup> The founders of the youth genealogy group were surprised by how quickly the Discord server grew, with it surpassing the 200-member mark early on in 2022.

For new members of the server there is a common trend: a shock at the discovery of other like-minded young family historians. Lilah, a content creator at Gen-Z Genealogy, shared her experience: “Being a member of the Gen-Z Genealogy Discord server has really given me a sense of community, as I went from being the only person I knew who was researching their ancestors to being in a group of hundreds of people my age who enjoy doing the same thing.”<sup>6</sup>

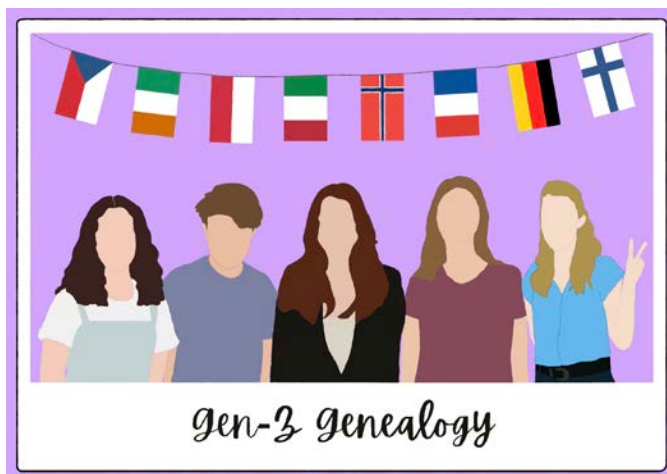


**Haley Marcum** is an amateur genealogist and college student currently studying Forestry in Ohio. Her main area of interest is Appalachian history and the Civil War. Haley has been researching her family history for ten years. She is also the Deputy Executive Director of Gen-Z Genealogy.

Today, the group is a space exclusively for young genealogists—members of Generation Z, who are between the ages of 13 and 25. In a hobby that generally takes on a somber and academic tone, the group holds a more lighthearted perspective on genealogy, while still acknowledging its gravity. Events such as LGBTQ+ History Month, Juneteenth, and cultural heritage months are observed and celebrated across platforms, with discussions being held on the topic of LGBTQ+ and minority ancestors as well as their existence in families and society. People with ancestors from all over the world discuss events in their history and their families. Chilean, Jamaican, Norwegian, German, and Native American ancestors are only a fraction of the ethnicities discussed, with others in the server sharing resources to assist their peers. As the community grows, the depth and breadth of discussions grow as well.

Gen-Z Genealogy has reached an unforeseen number of people through its TikTok, @genzgenealogy. As of July 2022, the collective outreach between all creators of the organization is a whopping three million impressions. This means that genealogical content aimed at young people has been seen by individuals (of all demographics) over three million times on the platform. This is mostly the result of multiple viral clips that propelled the group's videos into the TikTok app's most popular "For You" page. Whenever a video goes viral, the Discord server welcomes a swath of new and eager members.

Users may join the community by going to the Gen Z Genealogy Link Tree: <https://linktr.ee/genzgenealogy>. This page provides a direct invite link and other



Gen Z Genealogy artwork by Emma Svoboda

information about the server to help new users understand the community. TikTok and other apps such as Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter are revolutionary when it comes to reaching an audience. TikTok has made it amazingly easy to discuss issues on a global scale, with individuals from all around the world. The app can reach hundreds of thousands with just a few taps of a finger and has a far

larger reach than other social media sites.

Due to the global nature of the group and of genealogy, inclusionary language and discussion foster a warm environment and more activity between members. The organization's future hopes are to expand the server and provide educational resources and assistance to beginner young genealogists, as well as continue to support existing young researchers in their journeys.

The community serves as a sign of the direction young genealogists are taking as they come of age. The spirit of communal problem-solving is perhaps one of the more noticeable qualities of the newer generation. For as long as there has been genealogy, genealogists have celebrated this attitude because the nature of genealogy inherently calls for collaboration. In the Digital Age, cooperation has become even more accessible and has given young people, regardless of age or class, the chance to participate. A prevailing sentiment among many young genealogists is that family history should be accessible to everyone regardless of their background. While no one person can reflect on the attitudes of a generation, it seems clear that genealogy is not just alive and well but thriving as the newest family historians come into their own.

<sup>1</sup> Geyser Werner, "What is TikTok? - Everything You Need to Know in 2022," published 2022; *Influencer Marketing Hub* ([www.influencermarketinghub.com](http://www.influencermarketinghub.com) : accessed 6 July 2022).

<sup>2</sup> Bharath M. Josiam and Richard Frazier, 2008. "Who Am I? Where Did I Come From? Where Do I Go to Find Out? Genealogy, The Internet, and Tourism." *Tourismos: An International Multidisciplinary Journal Of Tourism*, Volume 3, no. Number 2 (Autumn): 35-56.

<sup>3</sup> Emme Pitts, Personal message to author, July 8, 2022.

<sup>4</sup> Emme Pitts, video posted to TikTok by @emmepitts, 4 December 2020, *TikTok* ([www.tiktok.com/@emmepitts](http://www.tiktok.com/@emmepitts) : accessed 19 July 2022).

<sup>5</sup> Jeremy Laukkonen, "What Is Discord and How Does It Work?" published 2021, *Lifewire* ([www.lifewire.com](http://www.lifewire.com) : accessed 6 July 2022).

<sup>6</sup> Lilah Dally, Personal message to author, July 6, 2022.



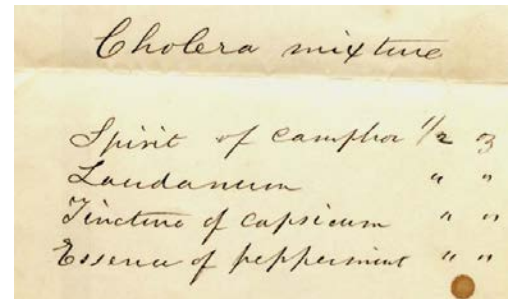
# OUTBREAK: Using Conventional Record Sets and Special Collections to Fully Understand the Role of Epidemics in Our Ancestors' Lives

By Erica Curtis

Eliza Duane, Mary Wells, and Fanny T. Wells maintained their family's recipes, as was the practice, throughout the 19th century. *The Duane Family Cookbooks*, archived by the New York City Historical Society, provide insight into the family's social status, traditions, and concerns in the mid-19th century. Between instructions for curing hams or preserving plums was a "cholera mixture" that consisted of ½ ounce spirit of camphor, ½ ounce laudanum, ½ ounce tincture of capsicum, and ½ ounce essence of peppermint.<sup>1</sup> Nothing else was written besides the ingredients, but it gives family historians some clue as to the weight infectious diseases played in the family's life.

Social history can be defined as understanding how historical events, or large-scale societal change, impacted the lives of ordinary people. For genealogists, understanding the impact of war, disease and familial, work, or community change can not only aid genealogists in better understanding their ancestors' lives, but will push them to think creatively about resources that may hold the key to that deeper understanding. Who volunteered to help influenza victims and how were these efforts documented? What occupations were involved in monitoring incoming ships to the port of Philadelphia in the 1790s and assuring they were free of yellow fever infestations? Who was vaccinated for smallpox in the 18th century and under what circumstances? If you have identified that an ancestor lived through an outbreak, social history minded questions like these will lead genealogists to seek out more diverse record sets.

**FIGURE 1:** Medicinal recipes like this one from the New York Historical Society's Duane Family Cookbooks 1840-1874 collection provide valuable social history context to genealogists researching families impacted by an epidemic outbreak.



Smallpox devastated indigenous populations, cholera spread through crowded tenements in major American cities, tuberculosis killed one in seven people alive prior to 1900, and COVID-19's comparison to the 1918 Influenza Pandemic has left us with a greater empathy for how these infectious diseases impacted our ancestors.<sup>2</sup> Whether they were directly impacted through illness or death, or altered their life through migration, employment changes, or supply shortages, diverse record sets exist for genealogical research. Conventionally reliable sources like census, church and cemetery records, newspapers, and city directories can provide information about familial epidemic deaths, while manuscripts and special collections will aid the family historian, in the very least, in learning context about their ancestors' battles against infectious disease.

## Standard Sources to Determine Epidemic Deaths and Illness

Much has been written about the use of census records; church, cemetery, and undertaker records;



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She specializes in Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, and Great Lakes research, Pennsylvania German and Scots-Irish ancestry, and forensic genealogy (heirship and genetic).

and city directories and newspapers when searching for information concerning an ancestor's death. These resources once again prove useful for understanding how our families were impacted by an infectious disease outbreak.

## Cemetery Records

While cemetery or undertaker records are useful in breaking down our research brick walls, they may be incomplete if your ancestor was a victim to a major U.S. epidemic. Prepare for the reality that you may not be able to locate a definitive cemetery plot. For example, the Memphis Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1878 spread to two hundred towns in 8 states, causing 100,000 cases of fever and 20,000 deaths in the Mississippi River Valley that year. It was difficult for cemeteries and undertakers to manage this death toll.<sup>3</sup> Undertakers, cemetery workers, coffin makers, and stone engravers struggled to keep up, and some records were simply kept indicating that the deceased was the "daughter of H.H. Crowell" or "son of E.B. Goodwin."<sup>4</sup> In Memphis, much like the COVID-19 pandemic, funeral services were suspended, and undertaker records may be sparse. It was regular practice for deceased victims of smallpox, typhoid, or scarlet fever, especially those who could not afford a burial, to be buried in mass graves or Potter's Field, and little records exist of their identity.<sup>5</sup>

Tuberculosis, or consumption as it was more commonly called, caused great pain to its victims as they suffered from hacking, bloody coughs, and fatigue. Consumptives and their family often invested in seeking a cure by sending the patient to designated facilities so that their lungs could benefit from the fresh air and to isolate the disease from the general public. The first tuberculosis sanitarium in the United States opened in 1884 in Saranac, New York, by Dr. Edward Trudeau after Dr. Robert Koch proved the disease was, in fact, contagious.<sup>6</sup> Early sanitariums were little more than tents in the woods, which later developed into full-fledged hospitals, before they were abandoned mid-century.

Genealogists may have difficulty finding the final resting place of those who succumbed to the disease in a sanatorium. Families often could not

make the trip or in some cases, would not travel to pick up the remains of their loved ones. The deceased may have been buried in a cemetery on the property grounds.

Koch Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri, built on the site of a quarantine camp previously used to isolate 19th century epidemic victims, has over 18,000 bodies buried at this site prior to the construction of the sanitarium.<sup>7</sup> The hospital's deceased further contributed to this Potter's Field-like cemetery, prone to sinkholes along the Mississippi River.<sup>8</sup> In the case of the Cresson Sanatorium, decedents were buried in a small cemetery on the property in unmarked graves, their names being all but forgotten.<sup>9</sup>



**FIGURE 2:** "First tents and cabins at Mt. Alto." An early photo of the South Mountain Tuberculosis Sanatorium at Mont Alto, PA. The Sanatorium opened in 1901 with the construction of small shacks and tents like this one. Photo courtesy of the Pennsylvania State Archives, Harrisburg, PA.<sup>10</sup>

## City Directories

The disappearance of an ancestor from subsequent years of a city directory has long been used by genealogists as a potential clue to determine a year of death for the family member being researched. Cities like Dayton, Detroit, or Syracuse, amongst others, include necrologies in their city directories, making them a helpful tool for researchers with ancestry in those cities. Other cities, like Erie, Pennsylvania, published an obituary list that included the name, date of death, and cause of death, as well as a monthly report summarizing which cause of death had the greatest impact on the city population. Most months, an infectious disease like consumption, scarlet fever, or diphtheria was at the top of that list.

MARCH, 1884.		
Date.	Name and Cause of Death.	Age.
1	Charles W Mayer, enteritis.	7w
2	Amelia Moehringer, consumption.	32y
3	Paulina Podolny, consumption.	22y
3	Vincent Brandt, bleeding of stomach	49y6m
3	John Horan, cancer.	77y
5	Unknown male child, found dead	
7	Mary Hepp, spasms.	3m
9	Rosanna Wright, consumption.	49y2m
10	Emma Jane Sennett, whooping cough.	4m5d
10	Simon Kistner, consumption	22y
10	Amond K Hershperger, spasms.	4m
10	Margaret Lanigan, palsy.	75y
11	Hattie Rice, diphtheria.	16y
12	Franjiska Peltoski, inanition.	8d
13	George Gardner, measles.	4y3m
13	Christian Bender, consumption.	46y3m

FIGURE 3: Some city directories included an obituary or necrology section that listed all residents who passed away in the last year. This example from Atkinson's Erie City Directory, Year Ending April 1, 1885, would be of particular interest to genealogists looking for both year and cause of death.<sup>11</sup>

## Newspapers

During epidemics, it was common for newspapers to not only list the deaths of victims but also new cases for the day. Information like name, age, race, and address was often included in the listings, for both new cases and the deceased.

Memphis was the hotbed of the 1878 Yellow Fever Epidemic. Journalists, however, painted a wider picture for their audience, reporting on yellow fever deaths in other states. For genealogists, verifying the death notice with a newspaper or other independent sources closer to the victim's actual home are sound practices to ensure this is indeed your ancestor. Most often, these included the names of other yellow fever victims.

Aside from the lists of the deceased printed in newspapers, other epidemic generated records can be found in manuscripts or special collections housed in colleges, universities, historical societies, or state and local archives.

## Manuscripts and Special Collections

Manuscripts and special collections at archives across the country hold record sets that hold information about deaths, patients who were treated, and those who were inoculated for 18th, 19th, and 20th century U.S. outbreaks. When using manuscripts, genealogists should look beyond the creator or family surname listed on

special collections or family paper record sets. The creator may have been witness to, familiar with, or commented on an outbreak in the community and mentioned individuals who were impacted in their correspondence, diaries, or personal accounts. Special collection catalogs will not likely identify all the individuals and topics within its scope. Finding aids can provide more detailed summaries of the collection by box or folder but will not reveal all of the contents. Genealogists researching families impacted by an epidemic should invest time educating themselves on what special collections exist for that time and location. Furthermore, examining those collections is the only way to fully understand the scope and content held within.

## Death, Hospital Admission, and Inoculation Lists in Manuscript or Special Collections

Tuberculosis records are particularly abundant, and patients can often be found in sources outside of 20th century census records. Other examples exist in state repositories that hold health department or doctor's records on the disease. One such

**THE FEVER AT HOME.**

**One Hundred and Sixty-One New Cases  
in the Past Forty-Eight Hours and  
Fifty-Two Deaths—A Fearful  
Reckoning for Criminal  
Sanitary Neglect.**

We print below the reports from the official records of the board of health for the past forty-eight hours, ending at six o'clock yesterday evening. When we take in consideration the fact that there are not exceeding three thousand white people, men, women and children in the city, the number of new cases stricken down within that period is appalling—sixty-one cases on Sunday and one hundred yesterday, making one hundred and sixty-one new cases of yellow-fever. The number of deaths, though not great in proportion to the number of new cases reported the past four days, is nevertheless alarming—fifty-two in the two days just passed.

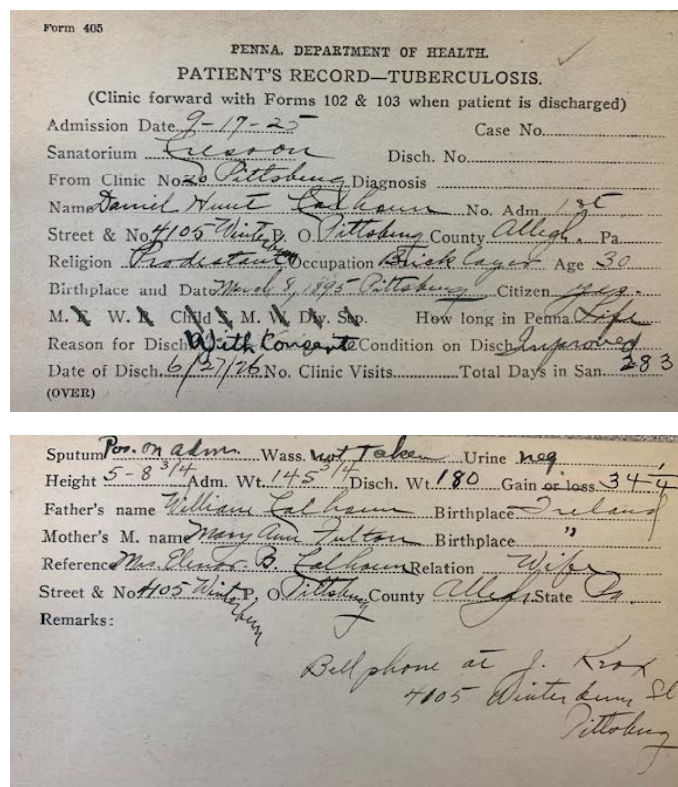
**NEW CASES REPORTED SUNDAY.**

Walter M'Cune, 6 years, 35 Johnson av.  
John Turney, 5 years, Dunlap.  
Wm. Turney, 7 years, Dunlap.  
Mrs. Mahrens, 28 years, 44 Robeson.  
Andrew Scarison, 63 years, 16 Adams.

FIGURE 4: The Memphis Daily Appeal reported daily new cases and deaths during the 1878 Yellow Fever Epidemic including addresses of the sick or deceased.



example is the patient file index cards from the Cresson Tuberculosis Sanatorium in Cambria County, Pennsylvania, held by the Pennsylvania State Archives. These records are unrestricted and viewable upon request. The record set contains about 9,000 patient index cards dating from 1921-1931, providing researchers with the patient's name, home address, religion, occupation, place and date of birth, admissions, release date, and notes about condition. Records at other state repositories may be restricted based on state law and may be available to family members upon request.



Form 405

PENNA. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
PATIENT'S RECORD—TUBERCULOSIS.  
(Clinic forward with Forms 102 & 103 when patient is discharged)

Admission Date 9-17-25 Case No.             
Sanatorium Cresson Disch. No.             
From Clinic No. 20 Pitoburg, Pa. Diagnosis             
Name Daniel Hunt Latham No. Adm. 35  
Street & No. 4105 Winter St. P. O. Pitoburg County Allegheny Pa.  
Religion Protestant Occupation Book Binder Age 30  
Birthplace and Date Nov 8, 1895 - Pitoburg, Pa. Citizen Yes  
M. X W. X Child X M. X Dy. X Sp.            How long in Penna. Life  
Reason for Disch. With Consent Condition on Disch. Improved  
Date of Disch. 6/27/26 No. Clinic Visits            Total Days in San. 283  
(OVER)

Sputum Pos. on adm. Wass. not taken Urine neg.  
Height 5-8 3/4 Adm. Wt. 145 Disch. Wt. 180 Gain or loss 34 1/4  
Father's name William Latham Birthplace Ireland  
Mother's M. name Mary Ann Latham Birthplace "  
Reference Mrs. Phoebe B. Latham Relation Wife  
Street & No. 4105 Winter St. P. O. Pitoburg County Allegheny State Pa.  
Remarks: Bell phone at J. Ross #105 Winterburg St Pitoburg

**FIGURE 5:** A wealth of information exists for any genealogists researching a onetime patient of the Cresson Sanatorium in Cambria County, PA. Courtesy of the Pennsylvania State Archives in Harrisburg.<sup>13</sup>

While some special collections require an in-person visit, many repositories are digitizing these types of record sets to be searchable at home. The New York Historical Society has digitized a list of persons admitted to the Brooklyn Cholera Hospital in 1832, while the Internet Archive hosts a digitized book, *A History of Yellow Fever*, focusing on the 1878 epidemic as it affected Memphis, Tennessee; and Brown University has a unique work of colonial broadside poetry that lists the deaths from the fever at Newburyport in 1796.

Perhaps your ancestor did not fall victim to a major infectious disease outbreak but may have been inoculated or vaccinated against the disease for future outbreaks. Inoculation or vaccination lists and records were also created. The Portsmouth Athenaeum provides a fully digitized and transcribed Inoculation Ledger, consisting of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, residents who took part in a smallpox inoculation program off the coast on Henzell Island in 1782. The resource includes the inoculateds' name, age, and birth year.<sup>14</sup> Harvard's Countway Library of Medicine's special collections contain William Peirse's inoculation record. In 1764 he carried it with him when he was discharged from Rainsford Hospital, ensuring others that he was "clean of the smallpox" and was fit to return to Boston.

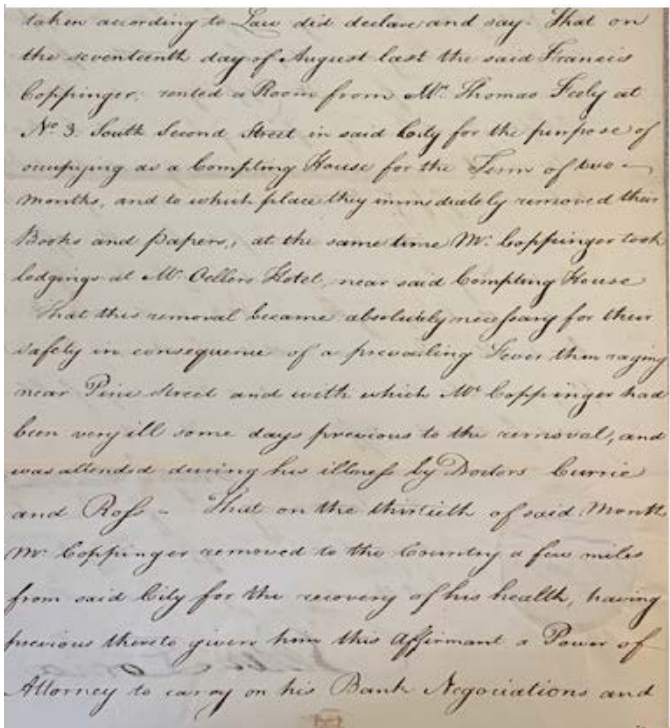
These underused record sets may hold the key to finally breaking down a research brick wall, as contagious diseases often affected multiple family members at once, or those who were in close contact with one another. Seeing full lists of victims, patients, or the newly inoculated may reveal unknown family members or members of your ancestor's FAN club.

## Beyond Death Notices and Hospital Records - Finding Information about Ancestors Who Survived a Pandemic

While researching pandemic-related special collections, considering social history minded questions allows genealogists to consider new sources.

Did your ancestors seek treatment from a local physician during an epidemic? Many physicians donated their journals or papers to medical school libraries or local historical societies. Some kept notebooks, appointment books, or ledgers that mentioned patients' names, ages, notes about their condition, or why they were seeking treatment. The Countway Library of Medicine has also archived a notebook that belonged to Dr. John Jeffries (b. 1745), in which he recorded information about his patients and those he inoculated against smallpox at Rainsford Island Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts, in July 1775, and at a facility in Halifax, Nova Scotia, between 1776-1779.

Perhaps the family member you are researching volunteered to care for the sick during the



taken according to Law did declare and say: That on the seventeenth day of August last the said Francis Coppinger, rented a Room from Mr. Thomas Sibly at N<sup>o</sup> 3. South Second Street in said City for the purpose of occupying as a Compting House for the Term of two Months, and to which place they immediately removed their Books and papers, at the same time Mr. Coppinger took lodgings at Mr. Callers Hotel, near said Compting House. That this removal became absolutely necessary for their safety in consequence of a prevailing Fever then raging near Pine Street and with which Mr. Coppinger had been very ill some days previous to the removal, and was attended during his illness by Doctors Currier and Ross. That on the thirtieth of said Month Mr. Coppinger removed to the Country a few miles from said City for the recovery of his health, having previous thereto given him this Affirmant a Power of Attorney to carry on his Bank Negotiations and

**FIGURE 6:** Joseph Venderen, clerk to merchant, Francis Coppinger recounts how yellow fever impacted his employer in a deposition on 28 March 1798.<sup>15</sup>

pandemic. As an example, the papers of Reverend Fracis E. Tourscher have been digitized by Villanova University Archives and provide recollections of sisters and religious women's organizations of Philadelphia as they volunteered to nurse the sick in 1918. Certificates recognizing volunteerism, detailed reports on local relief efforts, or account books of individuals who donated funds could show up in special collections for relief organizations or municipal record sets. This type of help was also often reported in newspapers.

If the individual you are researching had an

occupation impacted by an epidemic or lived in cramped or insalubrious conditions, you may find records from mining and timber camps. Tenements were not the only living environments that would permit the easy spread of infectious disease. For example, the Utah Department of Cultural & Community Engagement houses records regarding the outbreak of diphtheria in a mining camp at Forest City, Utah, with the records providing us with an idea of those who became ill and the location of the camp cemetery. Likewise, occupations related to trade or the shipping industry were impacted by the yellow fever epidemic in Philadelphia in 1793. Records can be found of custom house agents, counting house employees, captains, and city officials concerned with or providing detailed depositions of infected ships that entered the harbor or how their business was impacted by suspected contagion.

## Conclusion

The COVID-19 pandemic is a 21st century version of the illness, death, cancellations, and shortages that our ancestors faced in outbreaks of cholera, scarlet fever, or influenza, to name a few. Genealogists with a background in social history will recognize the far-reaching impacts an outbreak can have on a community and how the crisis may be documented or recorded by state and local governments, public health departments, journalists, or in the correspondence of normal citizens. The diversity of record sets available to us should not stop at those easily searchable on digitized databases. In particular, the richness of manuscript and special collections can be invaluable to the genealogist looking to discover how an epidemic may have impacted a family.

<sup>1</sup> Recipe for Cholera Mixture, *New-York Historical Society Museum & Library* ([www.nyhistory.org](http://www.nyhistory.org) : accessed 1 August 2022), citing Duane Family Cookbooks, 1840-1874, digital collection.

<sup>2</sup> Chana Gazit, Producer, *The Forgotten Plague – Tuberculosis in America*, WHBH Educational Foundation ([www.pbs.org/wgbh](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh) : 30 July 2022) citing PBS American Experience, 2015.

<sup>3</sup> Thomas H. Baker, "YELLOWJACK: The Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1878 in Memphis, Tennessee," *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* 42, no. 3 (1968): 249, image copy, JSTOR ([www.jstor.org](http://www.jstor.org) : accessed 1 August 2022).

<sup>4</sup> Ibid, 249.

<sup>5</sup> Jim McClure, "York's Potter's Field exhumations center of early dispute about disease," *York Daily Record*, 13 April 2020, HTML edition, archived ([www.ydr.com](http://www.ydr.com) : accessed 1 August 2022).

<sup>6</sup> Anya Grahn, "Tuberculosis Sanitariums: Reminders of the White Plague," *National Trust for Historic Preservation* ([www.savingplaces.org](http://www.savingplaces.org) : accessed 10 August 2022), National Trust for Historic Places.

<sup>7</sup> Clare Remy, "Reconstructing the History of Koch Cemetery," *Tennessee Research and Create Exchange* p. 1, supervised undergraduate student research report, 8 May 2021; TRACE Tennessee Research and Creative Exchange, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid. 1-2.

<sup>9</sup> Kathy Mellott, "Cemetery Hold Remains of Unidentified TB Victims" *The Tribune Democrat*, 6 September 2009, HTML edition, archived ([www.tribdem.com](http://www.tribdem.com) : accessed 1 August 2022).

<sup>10</sup> "Photograph of South Mountain Sanitarium," N.d.; Audio-Visual Materials of the South Mountain Sanitarium circa 1895-1914, Pennsylvania State Archives, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

<sup>11</sup> "U.S., City Directories, 1822-1995," s.v. "Erie, Pennsylvania, 1885," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) : accessed 1 August 2022).

<sup>12</sup> "The Fever at Home," *The Memphis Daily Appeal*, 27 August 1878, p. 1, col. 2, image copy, *Library of Congress* ([www.chroniclingamerica.loc.gov](http://www.chroniclingamerica.loc.gov) : accessed 29 July 2022).

<sup>13</sup> Department of Health, Patient's Record-Tuberculosis: A-C circa 1920s-1930s, Series RG-011-WBTC-99, Box 1, Pennsylvania State Archives, Harrisburg, PA.

<sup>14</sup> Katie Sternberger, "Prevent the Spread: A History of Smallpox Inoculation in Eighteenth Century Portsmouth," *Portsmouth Athenaeum* ([www.portsmouthathenaeum.org](http://www.portsmouthathenaeum.org) : accessed 5 August 2022), Portsmouth Athenaeum.

<sup>15</sup> No. 27, Ross v. Coppinger- Deposition of Joesph Venderen, March 28, 1798; Deposition of Coppinger, describing his experience with Yellow Fever, March 29, 1798, RG-033-A-37-19, Carton 4, Folder 21, Item 11, Pennsylvania State Archives, Harrisburg, PA.



# INTERMEDIATE OR ADVANCED?

By Angela Packer McGhie, CG, FUGA



## Which Evidence Analysis Practicum Course is Right for You?

### A Little Background

In 2012, the first Advanced Evidence Analysis Practicum course was introduced at the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy (SLIG). The previous year Angela Packer McGhie and a group of her colleagues had taken Tom Jones's Advanced Genealogical Methods course at SLIG and they loved the homework assignments that tested their analysis and correlation skills. They thought a whole week of this type of challenge would be beneficial. SLIG took a chance on introducing the course, and it has grown ever since.

The Advanced Evidence Analysis Practicum course, or the Advanced Practicum for short, gave students a challenging case to work on every day of the institute. Students would work individually on the case in a classroom, their hotel room, or the Family History Library, and then meet at 4:00 pm each day to discuss the case and the solution with the case instructor. They would talk about what worked to solve the case, what strategies were tried but did not work, what clues students missed in the records, and occasionally, a record a student found that the instructor had not located.

This course was rigorous and fun, but also isolating. Students did not have much time to socialize with others at the institute as they had less than 24 hours to solve a tough genealogical problem. Students loved the class, and many returned year after year for the challenge. This was exciting for SLIG, but also a challenge to find new instructors with unpublished cases every year.

After the first four years, SLIG moved the course to a virtual format so that students could participate

from home and have a week to work on each case instead of just one day. It was the first virtual course offered by SLIG and it worked better for students. They had more time to research, sleep, and write up their findings.

### NEW: Intermediate Evidence Analysis Practicum

In 2023, SLIG will offer the first Intermediate Evidence Analysis Practicum course. In the past few years, students have requested something like the Advanced Practicum but with more guidance along the way. Angela McGhie designed this new course for students to work through practice cases, but they won't have to do it alone. They will have a structure to help them figure out each step toward the solution.

The Intermediate Evidence Analysis Practicum will feature two case studies for students to work through instead of the traditional five cases. The students will gain hands-on experience working through a tough case that may involve methodologies such as resolving conflicting evidence or sorting individuals with the same name. Participants will have the guidance of two instructors helping them create research plans, brainstorm strategies, and offer clues to which records and methods to try. This guided experience will help participants gain the skills and confidence they need to solve more advanced genealogical problems.

This new Intermediate Practicum will be held over five weeks and students will work on the cases throughout the course. There will be more instruction than the Advanced Practicum, which focuses on testing the students to see if they can solve the cases on their own. The instructors will host discussions



*Angela Packer McGhie, CG, FUGA, has a passion for teaching genealogy. She is the Education Director for the National Genealogical Society and a trustee of the Board for Certification of Genealogists.*





on analysis strategies for solving cases and the class members can brainstorm ideas together, providing learning from both instructors and peers.

### Potential Students Offered a Choice

So, how do you choose which course is right for you? Well, if you are an advanced researcher who has experience solving a variety of cases, or someone who has taken the SLIG Advanced Genealogical Methods course—or who has the equivalent experience—then the Advanced Practicum is for you. You are probably up for the challenge of working five cases from a variety of geographic regions and time periods, featuring different methodologies. Come join others in the annual event!

If you are not quite ready to take the dive into the Advanced Practicum but would like the opportunity to test your problem-solving skills, then you may like the guidance provided in the Intermediate Practicum. Instructors will walk you through the steps of solving a complex genealogical research problem and teach the skills you need. You will learn how to study the location and the records available for the time period, as well as discover which research strategies may work best for various types of problems. Both the Intermediate and Advanced Practicum courses will provide invaluable experience working on a variety of genealogical cases and provide the skills you need to work on your own tough cases. Come join the fun!

## COURSE PREVIEW: Fundamentals of Forensic Genealogy with Catherine B. W. Desmarais, CG

By Shannon Sipes, Ph.D.



The 2023 SLIG Academy will be the final time the *Fundamentals of Forensic Genealogy* course will be offered in its current form. Catherine B. W. Desmarais, CG, first became hooked on genealogy at 13 when her research was used as the basis for her middle school history club project for a state convention. The same summer she managed to talk her parents into a driving tour of New England cemeteries. Following her own education, she spent three decades as a public-school teacher and administrator before becoming a board-certified genealogist.

As the owner of *Stone House Historical Research*, Catherine and her research team assist the U.S. Army in finding the living relatives of WWII soldiers and help attorneys find missing and unknown heirs to estates and clear real estate titles. Pursuing difficult kinship problems and reconstructing relationships using indirect evidence is Catherine's favorite type of genealogical work.

*Fundamentals of Forensic Genealogy*, her upcoming SLIG Academy course, allows Catherine to utilize both her teaching and genealogy hats. It is the only full-length institute course offered on forensic genealogy to date. Unlike traditional genealogy, which moves from the present day backward in time, forensic genealogy moves from a point in the past forward to the present. Additionally, forensic genealogy cases can have legal implications whereas other forms of genealogy generally do not.

Along with co-instructor Michael Ramage, JD, CG, Catherine developed the course to provide students with an overview of the opportunities and areas of specialization available to them in the broad field of forensic genealogy and to give them a foundational skill level to do this type of work. As such, the course has evolved each time they have taught it. With genetics playing an increasing role in genealogy, forensic genealogists need to have at least a basic



**Shannon Sipes, Ph.D.**, specializes in Maryland, District of Columbia, and Long Island, New York, research. She most enjoys working on lineage society applications and mentoring others in their own genealogical journey.



understanding of it, regardless of their area of specialization in the field. Therefore, Catherine and Michael have added more on genetic genealogy to the course, including investigative genetic genealogy cases for law enforcement and writing reports for clients with unknown parentage. They have also added more examples and mini-case studies to many of the lectures over time.

As a prerequisite, students should have a foundation in genealogical methodology in general and be familiar with the Genealogy Standards, published by the Board for Certification of Genealogists before taking the course. Most students who take the course are either practicing forensic genealogists, or exploring whether this field is right for them. After completing *Fundamentals of Forensic Genealogy*, students will

be knowledgeable about the types of work available to them in this field and will have gained experience and skills with ethics and researching to standards, finding living people, writing reports and affidavits, creating charts and document exhibits, testifying in court, and business considerations such as work-flow, contracts, liability, and business structures.

Michael Ramage, JD, CG, is planning to retire from teaching following the Academy. Catherine plans to take a break from teaching for a year and says, "What the future holds after that remains to be seen." During this break you might find her spending time with her grandchildren, traveling, and visiting friends. Often these things still involve genealogy in some way.

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# THREE QUESTIONS

with Barbara Vines Little, CG, FNGS, FUGA, FVGS

By Shannon Sipes, Ph.D.



Barbara Vines Little, CG, FNGS, FUGA, FVGS, has been a professional genealogist for 40 years, specializing in Virginia and West Virginia. Her course *Virginia from the Colonial Period to the Civil War: Her Records, Her People, Her Laws* is one of the 15 virtual course options being offered at the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy (SLIG) in January 2023. I had the chance to ask Barbara three questions about herself and am pleased to share her responses here.

## What drew you to specialize in Virginia research during the colonial period through the Civil War?

All my ancestral lines were in Virginia (or a small corner of northwestern North Carolina) before the end of the Revolutionary War. They left footprints in almost every county in the state before ending up in what became southeastern West Virginia. I learned a lot while chasing them and I've been learning ever since. The record loss makes the research challenging and I've always enjoyed a challenge.

## What is your favorite record type to research in and why?

I honestly don't have a favorite; although as a group, manuscript records (whether governmental or personal) are my favorite because there are always surprises. They provide details beyond the bare born/married/died information. You can take bits and pieces of information and build relationships that can't otherwise be proven.

## I heard that you have retired. What about teaching this particular course at SLIG was persuasive enough to temporarily come out of retirement?

Actually, I haven't retired; I just don't fly anymore when I have to be somewhere at a given time. It's not that I mind flying; I just don't like the stress of not knowing whether I'm going to get somewhere at a specific time. Since SLIG is going to be virtual, I don't have to fly! I enjoy sharing what I have learned, and this was an opportunity to do so once again.



Attendees of "Virginia from the Colonial Period to the Civil War," coordinated by Barbara Vines Little at SLIG 2020. Photo Credit: Irene Rossman.



Donna K. Fitzgerald, Wendy Wirstrom, Diana Elder, and Susan Fischer Copple; attending the UGA Awards Banquet at SLIG 2020. Photo Credit: Irene Rossman.





# SLIG Virtual 2022

*In-Depth Education in the Comfort of Your Home*

**September 8–November 17, 2022**

Intermediate Foundations	Annette Burke Lyttle, MA
Proving Your Pedigree with DNA	Karen Stanbary, MA, LCSW, CG
Advanced Techniques for Mastering Online Searches	D. Joshua Taylor, MA, MLS, FUGA
Advanced Hispanic Research	Debbie Gurtler, AG
Advanced Evidence Analysis Practicum	Angela Packer McGhie, CG, FUGA
Overcoming Record Loss	Kelvin L. Meyers

# SLIG Academy for Professionals

*Take Your Professional Skills to New Heights*

**February 9–April 27, 2023 (now Virtual)**

Intermediate Evidence Analysis Practicum	Angela Packer McGhie, CG, FUGA
DNA Dreamers in Action: Writing Proof Arguments	Karen Stanbary, MA, LCSW, CG
Fundamentals of Forensic Genealogy	Catherine B. W. Desmarais, CG
The Art of Writing Client Reports	Angela Packer McGhie, CG, FUGA
Writing and Documenting for Peer Review	Karen Mauer Jones, CG, FGBS, FUGA
Becoming an Accredited Genealogist Professional	Diana Elder, AG and Lisa Stokes, AG



**Registration closes January 1, 2023**

**[SLIGVirtual.ugagenealogy.org](https://SLIGVirtual.ugagenealogy.org)**

**[SLIGAcademy.ugagenealogy.org](https://SLIGAcademy.ugagenealogy.org)**





# SLIG 2023

*Elevate Your Genealogical Education to New Heights*

**January 23–27, 2023 (Virtual)**

Advanced Genealogical Methods

Advanced Techniques: Material Culture Research

Corpus Juris: Advanced Legal Concepts for Genealogy

Behind the Scenes at FamilySearch: Technology and Features

Integrating DNA Evidence to Resolve Complex Cases

Evidence-Based Writing for Genealogists

Metes & Bounds Land Platting

New England to the Midwest, 1780-1850

Virginia from the Colonial Period to the Civil War

African American Genealogy Methods and Strategies

Researching Ancestors Who Lived in Washington, D.C.

Advanced Research Techniques for German Genealogy

Introduction to Genetic Genealogy

Applied Genealogical Methods Workshop

Guided Research and Consultation

Paul K. Graham, AG, CG, CGL

Gena Philibert-Ortega, MA, MAR

Judy G. Russell, JD, CG, CGL

David E. Rencher, AG, CG, FUGA, FIGRS

Karen Stanbary, MA, LCSW, CG

Melissa A. Johnson, CG

Gerald H. Smith, CG

D. Joshua Taylor, MA, MLS, FUGA

Barbara Vines Little, CG, FVGS, FNGS, FUGA

LaBrenda Garrett-Nelson, JD, LL.M., CG, CGL, FASG

Rebecca Whitman Koford, CG, CGL

Michael D. Lacopo, DVM

Paul Woodbury, MEd, AG

Michael G. Hait, CG, AG

Craig Roberts Scott, MA, CG, FUGA



**Registration closes January 1, 2023**

**SLIG.ugagenealogy.org**

# PRESERVING OUR LIFE STORIES WITH VIRTUAL REALITY

By Amber Oldenburg



*Jerry Terrence, uses virtual reality technology from StoryTerrace and 8i to create his holographic twin.*

As family historians, we are in the business of telling other people's stories while rarely taking the time to tell our own. When we finally do sit down to record our story we want it to be captivating and something that will be passed down and enjoyed by future generations. But how do we do that? Well, thanks to StoryTerrace's newest offering, LifeStory VR, the world's first virtual reality biography, your story can be an engrossing and immersive experience that your family will hold dear.

Rutger Brunning, StoryTerrace's founder and



*Rutger Brunning, founder of StoryTerrace*

CEO, came up with the idea for LifeStory in VR after a visit to a friend's house, when he was first exposed to

virtual reality (VR) in the form of a game. As someone who had always been interested in different technologies when it comes to narrating someone's life story, virtually reality inspired and thrilled him. Rutger immediately saw the possibilities available with this exciting technology. He viewed it as an opportunity to dynamically bring someone's tale to life in a way that would allow their loved ones to be physically immersed and engaged in their life story.

For those unfamiliar, virtual reality is a technological experience that allows the user to be completely visually immersed in an experience of their choosing. But what makes LifeStory VR different than a typical VR experience is that the user is transplanted into their loved one's story. They get the sensation of being with that person and feeling incredibly close to them. The connection they can feel is powerful as they interact with their family member's story, hear their voice and laughter, and experience their facial expressions and gestures.

A LifeStory in VR experience begins with your StoryTerrace's biography, which was written and created by a writer who was precisely matched to the client. This biography is the foundation of the virtual reality experience. Once the book is complete, four engaging stories or anecdotes are then selected to serve as the scenes of the LifeStory in VR experience. The client then visits



**Amber Oldenburg** is a researcher, lecturer, and social media manager with a degree in family history research from BYU-Idaho, where she currently serves as an online adjunct instructor in their family history program. She is passionate about homesteaders and when she is not researching, she can be found traveling the country, exploring historical sites, or reading. She specializes in Midwest and Great Lakes states research.



one of the two 8i's studios (Chicago and Los Angeles) where filming takes place. Once inside the 8i's volumetric capture studios, the client then tells each of the chosen stories in front of 30 cameras. Each scene is then enhanced by their own personal home movies and images, which give the story greater depth, thus making it the most realistic experience possible.

The excitement with which Rutger embraces this technology is apparent. He envisions a future in which virtual reality studios are as common as mall photobooths, where people may simply and routinely produce a virtual reality story that captures their lives. Just imagine a family being able to visit a studio like 8i annually, to let their children share easily and affordably what they are passionate about, what they like about school, what they loved about Christmas, each year's VR story building upon the last. As Rutger says, "You'll be able to create family history for your own family."

Although LifeStory has not yet been released to the public, StoryTerrace does offer it as an option for clients who indicate an interest in this lasting experience. However, they are constrained by the fact that there are now just two studios, both in the United States (Los Angeles and Chicago) to



*Jerry Terrence, and his daughter, Stacey.*

record and produce a LifeStory in VR experience. Yet this does not hinder them from creating a stunningly well-crafted product. And they intend to progressively expand the availability of the LifeStory in VR experience in the future.

Those who wish to be early adopters and participate in the LifeStory in VR experience may anticipate spending an additional \$5,000 for this unique and one-of-a-kind experience on top of the cost of the printed book. However, Rutger is confident that as time goes by and this technology becomes more popular, consumers will find that it is more accessible and, most importantly, more affordable.

Although the LifeStory in VR experience may be out of reach for some at this time, it is a gift for future generations and one that your entire family

will love and cherish, especially since it is so easy to share. When your experience is finished, you'll receive a shareable link to see your story in 2D on a desktop or mobile device, as well as a separate link for viewing with the Oculus VR headset. Whether on a computer or VR headset, the LifeStory VR experience is one that will create a lasting sense of you that will be cherished by your family now and for generations to come.



*Jerry Terrence, uses virtual reality technology from StoryTerrace and 8i to create a time capsule for his grandchildren.*



# GENEALOGY FOR BEGINNERS

By Laurie Martin

What is the goal of your genealogy research? When I first became interested in genealogy, I didn't even know how to spell the word correctly. I simply wanted to learn more about the names my father had collected on some bits of green paper. For someone who grew up in northern Maine, these were my mysterious New Hampshire relatives. According to the author, Katherine Pennavaria, "The real goal is to conduct historical research according to the best genealogy research standards." She encourages readers to "think like a historian rather than a hobbyist," and spends the rest of the book explaining how to achieve that goal.

This book is very well organized. Each chapter begins with a short, bulleted list of what will be covered in that chapter and ends with a summary of ideas that were presented, followed by the topic for the next chapter. Within each chapter, multiple headings break up the text into manageable chunks, which allow the book to be used as a reference volume. There are multiple images throughout the book to illustrate the concepts.

The first chapter provides an overview of genealogy and history about Ellis Island and the processing of millions of immigrants into the United States. The author seems intent on debunking the myth that immigration processing officials changed our ancestors' names while admitting them into the country. She spends eight pages attacking this idea from multiple angles and refers to it several times throughout the remainder of the book.

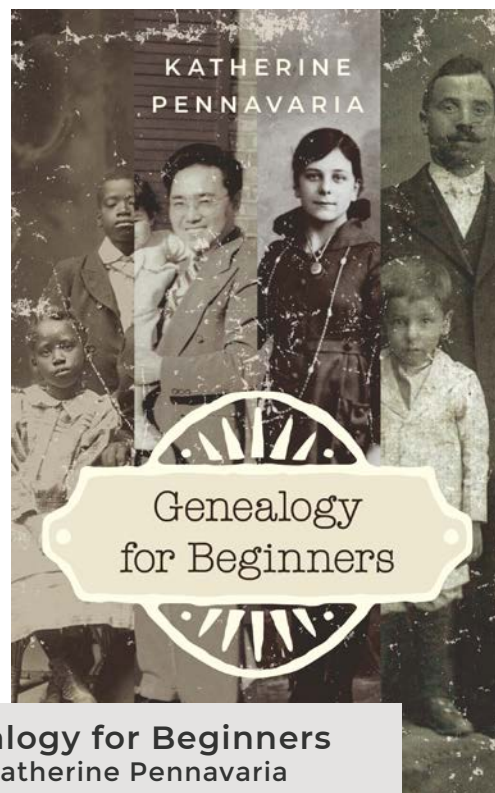
In chapter two, Pennavaria describes five steps for a successful family history research project:

1. Obtain and record the most easily accessed information about your family.
2. Record interviews with family members using a detailed questionnaire.

3. Find and scan all the family papers and pictures that you can access.
4. Do online research to document the information already obtained and get new information.
5. Share your findings.

How many times have we heard that the greatest source of information is our living family members? The past few years have reminded us that our time on earth is unpredictable. The questionnaire that Pennavaria provides in the appendix is a great place to start when interviewing family members about their memories of people and experiences. And remember to record your own memories as well!

Throughout the text, the author provides recommendations of other books to read. A Recommended Reading list in the back of the book consolidates all the suggestions in one convenient location. By page 45, Pennavaria has already



## Genealogy for Beginners by Katherine Pennavaria

ISBN 978-1-5381-6929-2  
Rowman & Littlefield, Publisher  
Published 2022

*Laurie Martin is a DNA enthusiast who loves solving mysteries involving unknown parentage. Her research focus is New England, especially Maine, and surrounding parts of Canada. Other interests include reading, quilting, and photography. She is a former computer programmer, tax software developer, and CPA.*

introduced the reader to Elizabeth Shown Mills and *Evidence Explained*, which she describes as “the ‘bible’ of evidence-based genealogy research.” An illustration in this section would go far in clarifying the various classifications of sources, information, and evidence. I applaud the author for presenting these important research concepts in a beginning genealogy work.

Chapter three addresses organization. We all can benefit from the suggestions in this chapter, especially if you are like me and still have old documents and photographs in boxes or files waiting to be processed. Pennavaria addresses how to preserve these important papers and highly recommends going digital. She suggests specific ways to scan and label those family photos and records so they can be easily located for future research projects. And she reminds us to have a backup plan to protect our work.

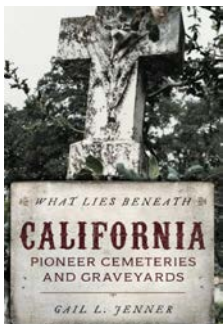
The remainder of the book focuses on the history of various record types and where to find them online. The broad range of records covered includes census, military, Social Security, immigration, vital, city directory, court, church, and more. Pennavaria instructs the reader to look for original records. “All

historians seek out and use original records wherever possible—records that can be studied and must be interpreted in order to establish historical connections and facts.” The author consistently instructs the reader about sound genealogical practices and standard procedures throughout the text.

The length of this book may discourage some readers, especially those new to genealogy. Much of chapter seven can be skipped unless you are researching outside the United States or are focused on specific ethnic groups. Also, the DNA section is such a high-level overview that it should have been addressed by a simple reference to another book. Five pages cannot begin to cover what even a beginner might need to know about DNA.

Overall, this is the book I didn’t know I needed when I discovered those bits of green paper over 15 years ago. I highly recommend it as an essential for those new to genealogy, as well as a refresher for those who are more experienced. It covers a wide range of record types and many hints about where and how to look for information. I am confident that even experienced genealogists will learn something from reading this selection. I did.

## ALSO ON OUR BOOKSHELVES...



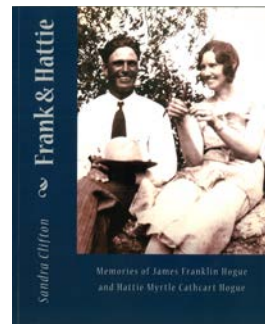
Throughout the “golden state” there are thousands of hidden and abandoned cemeteries, burial sites, and graveyards. In *What Lies Beneath: California Pioneer Cemeteries and Graveyards*, author Gail L. Jenner exhumes the stories of these pioneers that have been long forgotten. Her guide

also provides descriptions of headstone features and symbols, and includes burial traditions used by Native Americans, the Spanish, Chinese immigrants, and early California pioneers and settlers. The author is a teacher, married to a fourth generation rancher in Northern California.

**What Lies Beneath**  
ISBN 978-1-4930-4895-3  
Two Dot, Publisher  
Published 2021

Snapshots of days gone by, as well as lasting impressions of moments shared in laughter, love, struggles, and triumphs of Frank and Hattie Hogue, are shared in this book. Compiled by Sandra Clifton, the lives of this family and life on their West Texas farm are weaved

together to create a treasured multi-generation family history. The book includes photos, songs, stories, and memories collected from Frank and Hattie’s children and grandchildren and includes surnames: Hogue, Seaborn, Cathcart, and Millican, among others.



**Frank and Hattie**  
ISBN 13:978-1490540689  
Sandra Clifton, Publisher  
Published 2013





# Crossroads for Kids

*inviting kids to connect with their ancestors*

Since the beginning of human existence, people have found ways to honor the lives of their ancestors. Cultures throughout the world remember their dead differently. Explore below to learn how some cultures celebrate the family members that came before them!

Chusok is a Korean holiday dedicated to honoring ancestors. It is celebrated by returning to one's hometown, making and enjoying yummy food, and cleaning family graves.

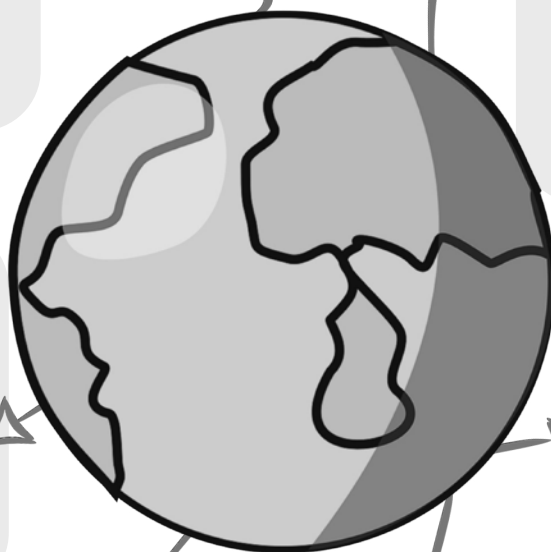
All Souls' Day is a Roman Catholic holiday celebrated throughout Europe. In Italy, an extra table setting is placed as a reminder of loved ones who have passed. In Poland, families gather and care for family burial sites.

In Mexico, on Dia de los Muertos, pictures of departed loved ones are placed on decorated *ofrendas* and food, flowers, and beverages are placed on their graves.

In Japan, the festival of Obon or Bon honors the spirits of the dead by placing offerings at personal altars and hanging lanterns to guide departed spirits.

In Nepal, Gai Jatra is a Hindu festival in which families who have lost loved ones in the past year remember them by leading a cow through the streets (or if no cow is available, children dress up as cows and walk through the streets instead.)

Prayers and offerings are made for deceased relatives during China's 2,000 year old Zhongyuan Festival or Ghost Festival.





# A Day in the Life

Want to get to know your ancestors better? Pick an ancestor and write their name on the following page. Then over the course of a couple weeks, pick a challenge to complete to get to know what life was like for your ancestor!

Make a list of popular movies from your ancestor's time—watch one!

Visit your ancestor's grave or look up pictures of where they are buried.

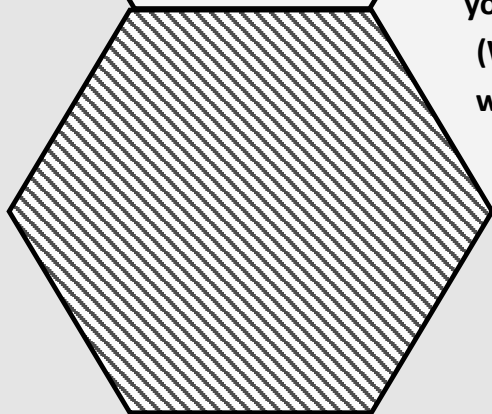
What did your ancestor do for work?

Look up popular clothing styles from your ancestor's time. (What do you think they liked to wear?)

Explore what books were popular when your ancestor was alive.

Find and try one popular food item from your ancestor's time. (What do you think was their favorite?)

Look up in a family history or ask a family member for a story about your ancestor.





## A Day in the Life of:

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Search where your ancestor used to live on Google Maps. (If you live close by, go visit in person!)

Hang a picture of your ancestor in your home.

Find an old photo of your ancestor. Recreate it as closely as you can with you instead!

Make a list of popular games from your ancestor's time—try playing one!

Make a list of popular music from your ancestor's time—listen to some!

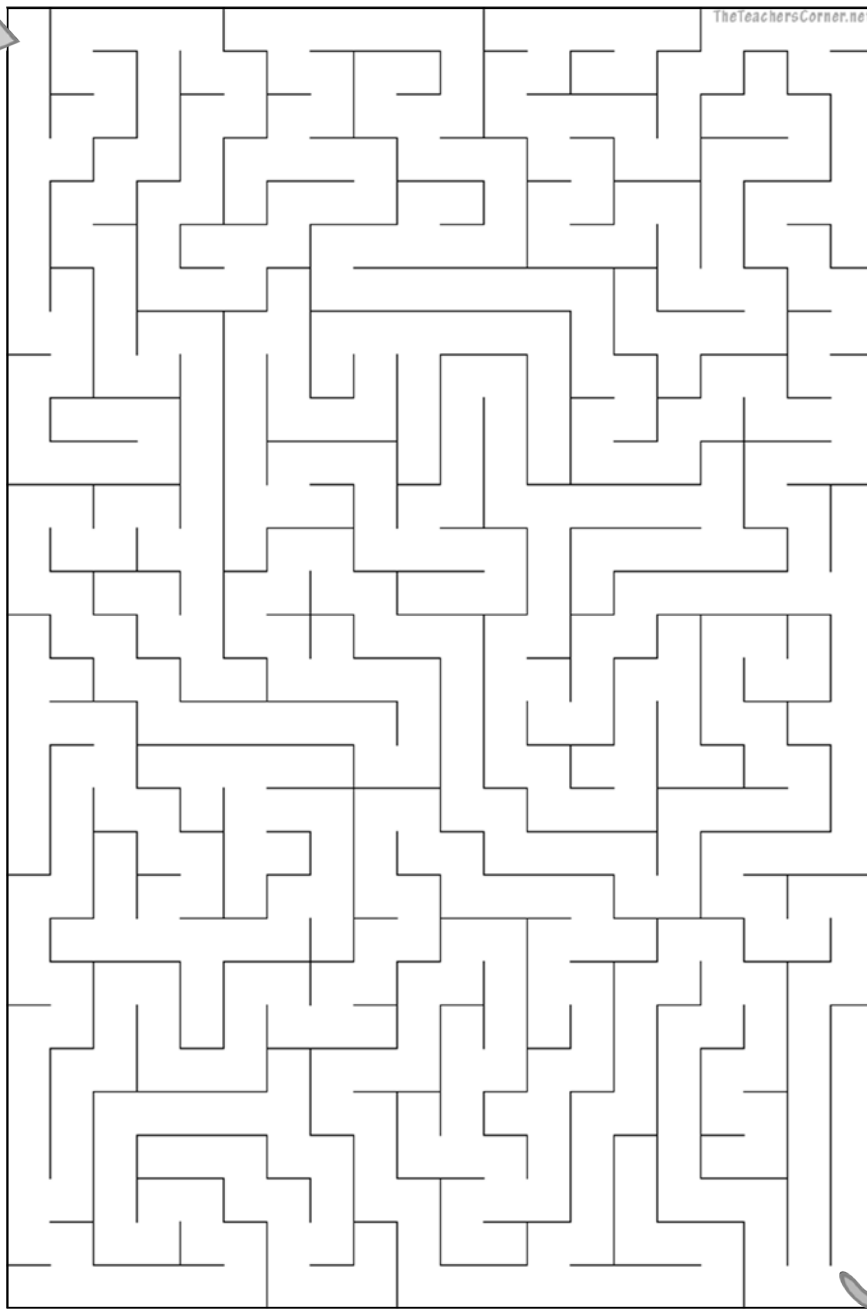
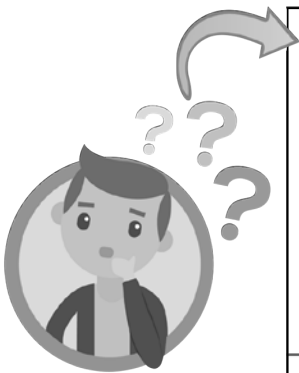
**Bonus Challenge!** After completing each invitation, take a moment to record your thoughts and impressions in a journal on what you learned or experienced. What do you think your ancestor might have thought about the trends of their day? How do you feel closer to this past family member?





# Cemetery Maze

Pedro has special food and drinks he is taking to his great-grandfather's grave but there are so many grave markers in the cemetery he is having some trouble finding it! Can you help Pedro make it through the cemetery to his great-grandfather's grave to deliver the food for Dia de Los Muertos?



# GENEALOGICAL HAUNTS IN UTAH: A ROAD TRIP

By Maria Wittwer, CG

Everyone knows about the Family History Library in downtown Salt Lake City, but Utah has other great places for genealogical research as well. Not only does our state have great repositories, but also many historical sites that are worth visiting to learn about how people of the past lived. Let's travel the state to visit these other great places.

1. In northern Utah, begin at the **Utah State University, Merrill-Cazier Library Special Collections**. The library houses the Fife Folklore Archives with oral histories and fieldwork studies that will help genealogists understand the community and social history of their ancestors. The collection covers the American West.
2. Moving south into the Salt Lake City area, stop at the Marriott Library on the **University of Utah** campus. The Marriott Library Special Collections houses the diaries and correspondence of Utahns from various communities dating to the mid-1800s.
3. Down the hill from the university, search in the **Utah State Archives**. The State Archives houses hundreds of manuscript collections including city records, oral histories, and the papers of many historic Utahns. After searching military records for her ancestors at the State Archives, Diana Elder, AG, said, "Finding the letters provided fascinating first-hand accounts of the time and place. This experience taught me once again that the online records are still just a small percentage of the records for our ancestors."
4. Was your ancestor a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints? A trip to the **Church History Library** will give you access to the Journal History of the Church. This is a compilation of records about church members and events from 1830-2008.
5. While in Salt Lake City, take a side trip to the architecturally stunning **Salt Lake City Library**. The library has access to over 600 newspapers and magazines, a unique resource in Utah.
6. Luana Darby enjoys researching in the **Salt Lake County Recorder's Office**. She says, "They have a great collection of state land records, including those that concern Salt Lake City. This office also has public sale files, patents, and certificates of sale since

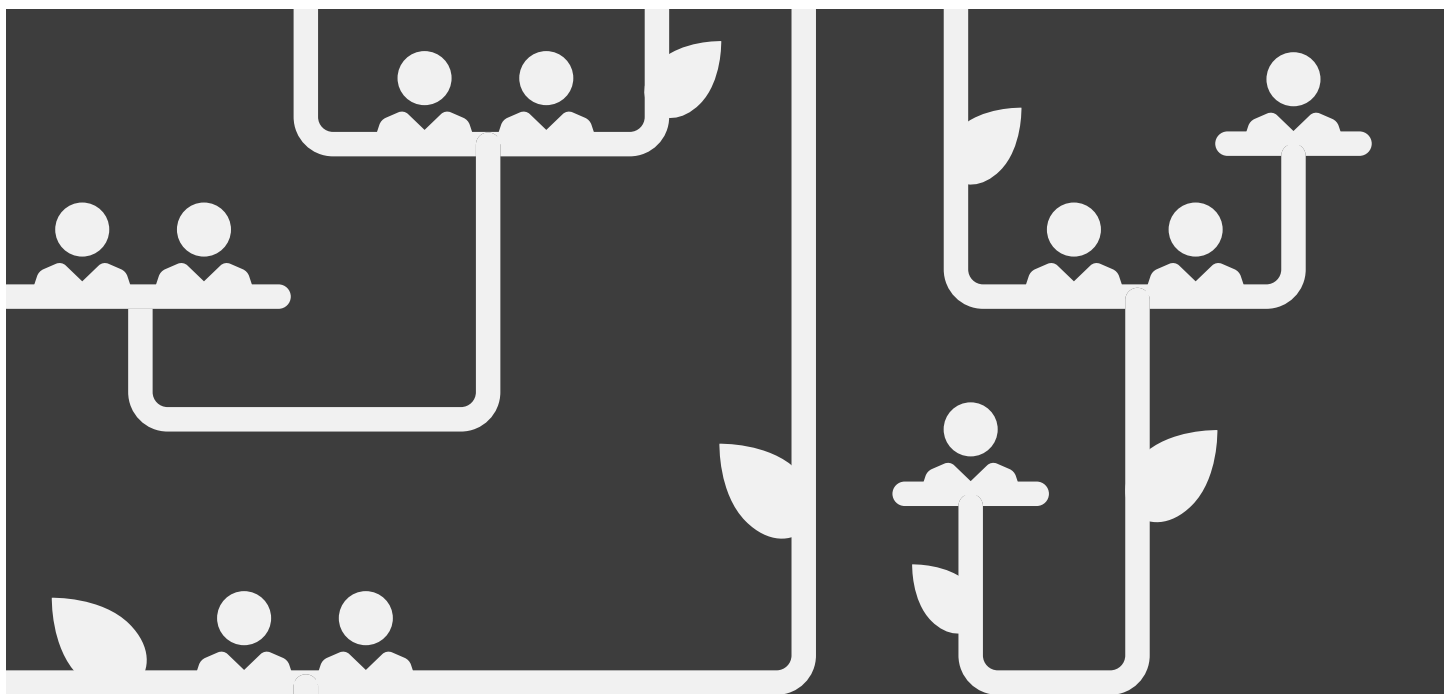
1896 and lease files from the 1860s. The land tract books for Salt Lake are

amazing! A large, detailed map of downtown Salt Lake City on the wall helps one easily find the correct tract to request from the clerk, which makes research so quick and easy!"

7. Another resource for research in Utah is the historical sites. While in Salt Lake County, stop at the **Pioneer Memorial Museum** run by the International Society of Daughters of Utah Pioneers. The museum library holds histories of pioneers in Utah before 1869 and locality histories for Utah towns and settlements.
8. Journey south and stop at the Harold B. Lee Library on the **Brigham Young University** campus in Provo. In addition to an extensive microfilm and microfiche collection, visitors can access the library's collection of books, maps, and periodicals. The BYU Family History Library offers weekly genealogy classes as well as in-person and virtual help in eleven languages and geographic areas.
9. In southwestern Utah, come to the campus of **Southern Utah University**. The Barbara A. Matheson Special Collections holdings include the William R. Palmer Western History Collection with information on early settlers and the history of Iron County. For photographs of pioneer families and homes, view the Josephine Isabell Collection.
10. Continue south to St. George to search in the **Utah Tech Special Collections**. Here you will find the Voices of Remembrance series, which contains over 1000 audio tapes and transcriptions of oral interviews with individuals from Washington County, southeastern Nevada, and northern Arizona.

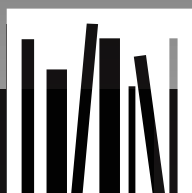


*Maria Wittwer, CG has been a genealogical researcher for twenty years. She enjoys learning about people from the past and identifying individuals and connecting families using historical records and social history. Maria serves on the Board of the Utah Genealogical Association.*



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# 2022 CALENDAR

Registration  
for SLIG 2023  
and SLIG  
Academy for  
Professionals  
2023 closes  
January 1,  
2023.

## UGA Virtual Chapter

Oct 20	Have You Seen Me: Missing Children and Proof of Parentage Amie Bowser Tennant	7pm MT
Nov 17	Join the Club: Submitting Successful Lineage Society Applications Dana Palmer, CG, CGL	7pm MT

## Genealogy ProTalk Webinars

Oct 4	The Inside Scoop on Genealogy Institutes Angela Packer McGhie, CG, FUGA	6pm MT
Nov 1	How to Build an Email List for Your Genealogy Business (& Why You Should) Lisa Lisson	6pm MT
Dec 6	10 Steps for Organizing for the Busy Genealogist Cynthia K. Patton	6pm MT

## Local Chapter Meetings

Oct 6	Salt Lake Valley Chapter	8pm MT
Oct 13	Utah Valley Chapter	7pm MT
Oct 19	South Davis Chapter	7pm MT
Oct 25	Cache Valley Chapter	7pm MT
Nov 19	Multi-Chapter Event	

Please see "Local Chapters" on the UGA Website for meeting locations and November and December meeting times

## UGA DNA

October 12, November 9, December 14 7pm MT