

UTAH GENEALOGICAL ASSOCIATION

CROSSROADS

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SUMMER 2023



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By Lucienne Allen

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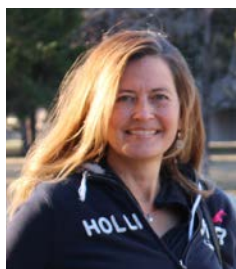
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Every spring, UGA has an annual board election, and the election results are in. We are pleased to welcome back three returning board members for another three-year term: Bonnie Andersen, Michael Crowther, and Peggy Lauritzen, AG®, FOGS. And we are happy to welcome two new board members, Angie Holbrook Stewart and Amy Rose Ward. Here is a bit about each of them:

Angie Holbrook Stewart has over 21 years of genealogical research experience. She is a graduate of Brigham Young University – Idaho with a certificate and associate degree in Family History Research. Currently, she is in her second year at the University of Strathclyde working on a master's degree in Genealogical, Paleographic, and Heraldic Studies. She loves genetic genealogy and has taken several courses to enhance her skills in this field.

Amy Rose Ward has been involved in genealogy in different capacities for several years. In 2022 she graduated with her Master's Degree in Genealogical, Paleographic, and Heraldic Studies from the University of Strathclyde in Scotland. Currently, she works at the FamilySearch Library as a volunteer on the US/Canada floor. Her research areas of focus are Great Britain, the Midwest, and New England.

Each spring, the UGA board appoints a president, vice-president, and second vice-president to serve for a one-year term. **Julia Anderson, AG®**, has served as First Vice President of UGA for the past year, and she has done an

outstanding job! Because she has served on the board for two consecutive terms, her board service has come to a close. The board wishes to thank Julia for the work she has done over the past six years. She is amazing!

The position of first vice-president for the upcoming year will be held by **Maria Wittwer, CG®**. Maria has been a genealogical researcher for 25 years. Her research interests follow the migration of her ancestors from the Midwest to the Southwest and borderlands. She enjoys helping people learn about their ancestors and connecting families using historical records, social history, and DNA.

UGA is richly blessed by so many people who have given selflessly to the organization over the years. Thank you to all who have served. And thank you to the willing and capable professionals who have stepped in, rolled up your sleeves, and gotten to work in service of UGA recently! The organization is in good hands.

This issue of *Crossroads* features articles on pursuing certification and accreditation, post-1850 census records, the effort to salvage Ukrainian records, resources for finding divorce records in Utah, cataloging your collection, the SLIG experience, and more. 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 2022.

See UGA website, UGAGenealogy.org, "Local Chapters" for details.

CACHE VALLEY CHAPTER

Teresa Brooks, President

btrent1993@gmail.com

Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of each month.

Check UGA website for times.

SALT LAKE VALLEY CHAPTER

Maria Wittwer, CG®, President

salt-lake-valley@ugagenealogy.org

Meetings: 1st Thursday of each month.

Check UGA website for times.

SOUTH DAVIS CHAPTER

Skye Cranor, President

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

Meetings: 2nd Thursday of each month,

7pm MT at Mt. Timpanogos FamilySearch

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

VIRTUAL CHAPTER

Rob Wallace and Peggy Lauritzen, AG®,

Co-Presidents

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.

UGA SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

UGA DNA SIG

Tanner Tolman, AG®, President

dna-sig@ugagenealogy.org

Meetings: 2nd Wednesday of 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.

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.

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

To join or renew membership, send the following information to info@ugagenealogy.org: name, address, email address (if applicable), and phone number.

Please indicate whether this is an individual membership at \$35, a household membership at \$45, a student membership at \$15, or an institutional/library membership at \$50. Add \$5 if outside of the continental USA.

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.

See website for membership details and more information.

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Ahh sunshine, summer is here! I've been traveling in New England for the past month, reminded daily how the power of collaboration and working together, as well as the importance of getting "offline," improves the quality of our genealogical research.

In a new friend's living room, I enjoyed tea with and listened to the stories she freely shared about Reverend Willard Hall, my 7th great-grandfather, the first minister of the First Parish United Church in Westford, Massachusetts. Two weeks prior to our visit, I sat in the vault of the church and enjoyed the oldest existing book in Westford, Reverend Hall's journal, where he meticulously kept the details of the town's births, marriages, deaths, sins, and pew purchases, not only for the benefit of the town, but also for his own family. While modern day newspaper articles had alluded to the legacy of this journal, sitting down and turning the pages for myself answered a lot of research questions.

In between these two visits to Westford, I met up with a cousin, after breakfast at the renowned Polly's Pancake Parlor in Sugar Hill, New Hampshire. Our cars wound through the backroads of Grafton County until we arrived, to my surprise, at the former farm my great-great-grandmother grew up on. We hiked down through a beautiful meadow and ducked into the forest, where I found myself looking at the graves of my 3rd and 4th great-grandparents in a cemetery that one would never find online.

I came back from my trip with hundreds of photos, stacks of documents, and a pile of books to add to my TBR list. I'm thankful for the knowledge shared with me, new friends, and a great kick-off to my summer. I hope that in the coming months, you find the time to step away from technology, visit an archive, plan a genealogy road trip, or meet someone that you've been corresponding with virtually. I can't wait to learn about your genealogy experiences this summer...please write about them and submit to *Crossroads*!

Kelly Richardson, APR, AG®
Executive Editor, *Crossroads*



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PURSUING A GENEALOGY CREDENTIAL

By Eva Holmes, AG®, CG®

Genealogists who want to improve their research and writing skills should consider pursuing certification or accreditation. By setting a personal goal to learn and work to a clearly defined standard, genealogists will naturally improve their skills and master difficult material. This article provides an overview of the process to become an Accredited Genealogist® (AG) or a Certified Genealogist® (CG) and explains why someone should consider pursuing a credential – even if they don't want to become a professional genealogist.

Two organizations in the United States offer genealogists the opportunity to test their skills against clearly defined rubrics: the Board for Certification of Genealogists (BCG) offers the CG credential while the International Commission for the Accreditation of Professional Genealogists (ICAPGen™) issues the AG accreditation.

These are different from programs which issue students certificates after they complete a class. Neither BCG nor ICAPGen requires individuals to attend a certain course or take a specific path through formal genealogical education.

Although each organization has a different focus, both test essential skills. Applicants must demonstrate competence in analyzing and interpreting documents, correlating information, and writing up results.

What follows is a broad overview of each process and not a complete list of all requirements. Anyone interested in applying for one of these credentials should visit the organization's website for a current application guide. This article represents the author's experience as an applicant. The author does not represent or speak for either organization.

Accredited Genealogist

ICAPGen offers accreditation to genealogists in specific regions, such as New England or a country like England. Applicants must attest that they have completed 1,000 hours of research, with at least 500 in their chosen region. The process consists of three levels and an oral

review. The levels must be completed in a specific order but each individual component may be spaced out as the applicant wishes.

Level 1 is a four-generation report written as if for a client. Applicants must also submit a research log, family group sheets, and pedigree charts. Judges review the report against a set of rubrics available in the application guide.

After passing Level 1, the applicant may schedule their Level 2 and 3 tests. Each test takes four hours. Tests are held several times a year on scheduled dates in Salt Lake City but may also be taken remotely. Applicants do not need to pass the Level 2 test before taking the Level 3.

The Level 2 test is a four-hour exam with two sections. The first section covers document interpretation. Applicants might be asked to transcribe or extract a document and then answer questions about it. The second part of the Level 2 test is a general knowledge exam testing knowledge of genealogically significant records and events as well as methodology essential for research in the region.

The Level 3 test is a research report written in four hours. Like the Level 1, the report must include a research log, family group sheets, and pedigree charts.

Applicants must score a 90% to pass each level. Those who come close to passing may be offered a chance to rework or complete a remedial assignment. There is also the option to repeat a failed level. After passing all three levels, an oral interview is scheduled where individuals may be asked follow up questions about any work they submitted.

Certified Genealogist

Applying for certification through BCG also involves demonstrating skill by completing multiple tasks, but there is no exam. Instead, applicants develop a portfolio containing the following:

- Signed code of ethics statement



With New England roots going back 12+ generations and Italian ancestors who immigrated in the 1890s, Eva Holmes, AG®, CG® always has an interesting problem to solve. In 2020 she set a goal to become a Certified Genealogist® without really understanding what she was getting into. A year later, she decided to pursue regional accreditation in New England as well. She highly recommends both to anyone who wants to research efficiently and produce work of a professional caliber.

- List of developmental activities undertaken to improve genealogical research and writing skills
- Document work
- Research report
- Case study
- Kinship determination project

BCG publishes a book called *Genealogy Standards*. These regularly updated standards reflect genealogical best practices and guide those who want to produce a body of work which will stand the test of time. Anyone attempting to become a certified genealogist must demonstrate adherence to these standards in their portfolio.

Document work tests one's ability to read and interpret documents. Applicants are provided with a document which they must transcribe, abstract, and analyze. They must also choose a research question and develop a research plan which will efficiently answer the question.

The BCG research report is written for an actual client. The work can be pro-bono but must be commissioned by an unrelated individual. The submission must include a copy of the client's request authorizing the work.

The next two elements of the BCG portfolio, the case study and kinship determination project, must meet the Genealogical Proof Standard (GPS). The GPS, a part of the *Genealogy Standards*, helps researchers produce complete, accurate work. It consists of five steps:

1. Reasonably exhaustive research.
2. Complete and accurate source citations.
3. Thorough analysis and correlation.
4. Resolution of conflicting evidence.
5. Soundly written conclusion based on the strongest evidence.¹

The case study or proof argument must resolve a significant research problem. The problem must fit within parameters specified in the application guide.

The kinship determination project is a three-generation report which may be a lineage, pedigree, or genealogy. Whichever format is chosen, two proof summaries or proof arguments must be included.

Candidates have a year to complete these elements after submitting their initial application and 'going on the clock,' although the deadline may be extended annually. After judges have reviewed the portfolio, the applicant will receive notification about passing or failing along with the written feedback provided. This feedback can help people identify future opportunity for improvement.

Why Should Someone Pursue a Credential?

Pursuing certification or accreditation involves active learning and hands-on practice. When we learn by doing, we constantly encounter new challenges to overcome. Every record we struggle to read or interpret improves our skills at reading difficult handwriting and understanding historical context. It's the difference between a pilot with flight hours on a plane versus one who has only spent time in the classroom.

With so many educational opportunities to choose from, having a clear focus on improving skills required for a credential can make a tough decision easier. Focusing on a credential forces us to identify and confront our weaknesses. I knew I needed to learn more about citations if I wanted to become a Certified Genealogist and the time I spent reading *Evidence Explained* and *Mastering Genealogical Documentation* taught me how crafting a citation was essential to understanding the source.

We all have research projects we've been meaning to write up, families we plan on documenting someday. The case study, kinship determination project, and Level One reports provide an opportunity and a set of parameters to complete the project. For some, the external deadlines provide extra incentive to finish. Plus, the evaluation by a team of judges guarantees someone will read our work!

One of the best parts of pursuing a credential is all the people you will meet. Through study groups and online forums, you will find a community of serious, thoughtful people who want to create professional caliber work.

Which should you choose?

As mentioned earlier, both options have some things in common. There is no single right or wrong way to complete a project. Applicants use their own discretion to develop work which meets the organization's rubrics. For example, an ICAPGen research log could be created in a variety of different programs. There's no single template or formula for a passing BCG research report.

However, the two credentials each have a different focus. AGs have demonstrated their grasp of regional knowledge and methodology while those who have earned a CG have proven their ability to research and write to the GPS and genealogy standards defined by BCG.

The stakes are a little higher when submitting to BCG due to the single pass/fail – if a portfolio is not judged sufficient, the applicant will have to start over from scratch with completely new projects. AG applicants can redo a

single failed level without having to repeat all of them. One other difference between the two organizations is that a person may receive feedback when writing their level 1 report. None of the work included in the BCG portfolio may be reviewed by anyone else.

Those who don't care for tests might prefer the written work involved in achieving a CG. The BCG portfolio also does not have any limitations on region, a great option for those with ancestors who didn't stay put for very long or for those who are only interested in researching in one county and not an entire region.

Whichever credential you work towards, you will learn a lot along the way and improve your skills. Why not eventually aim for both?

¹ Board for Certification of Genealogists, *Genealogy Standards*, second edition (Nashville, TN: Ancestry, 2019), 1-3.

For More Information

Board for Certification of Genealogists: <https://bcgcertification.org/>

Don't miss the Learning Center on the BCG website. Select articles from OnBoard, the organization's newsletter, and the 10-Minute Methodology series are must reads for any genealogist.

The BCG Education Fund is not operated by BCG but sponsors educational opportunities to improve genealogists' abilities to work to the standards set by BCG. <https://bcgedfund.org/>

International Commission for the Accreditation of Professional Genealogists: <https://www.icapgen.org/>

Visit the ICAPGen website to learn more about the application process and sign up for upcoming study groups to prepare for the different levels.

The ICAPGen YouTube channel features videos about the different levels as well as skill building lessons. <https://www.youtube.com/c/ICAPGen/videos>

For those on Facebook, the 'ICAPGen Accreditation Mentoring' group is a good place to ask questions and communicate with other applicants.

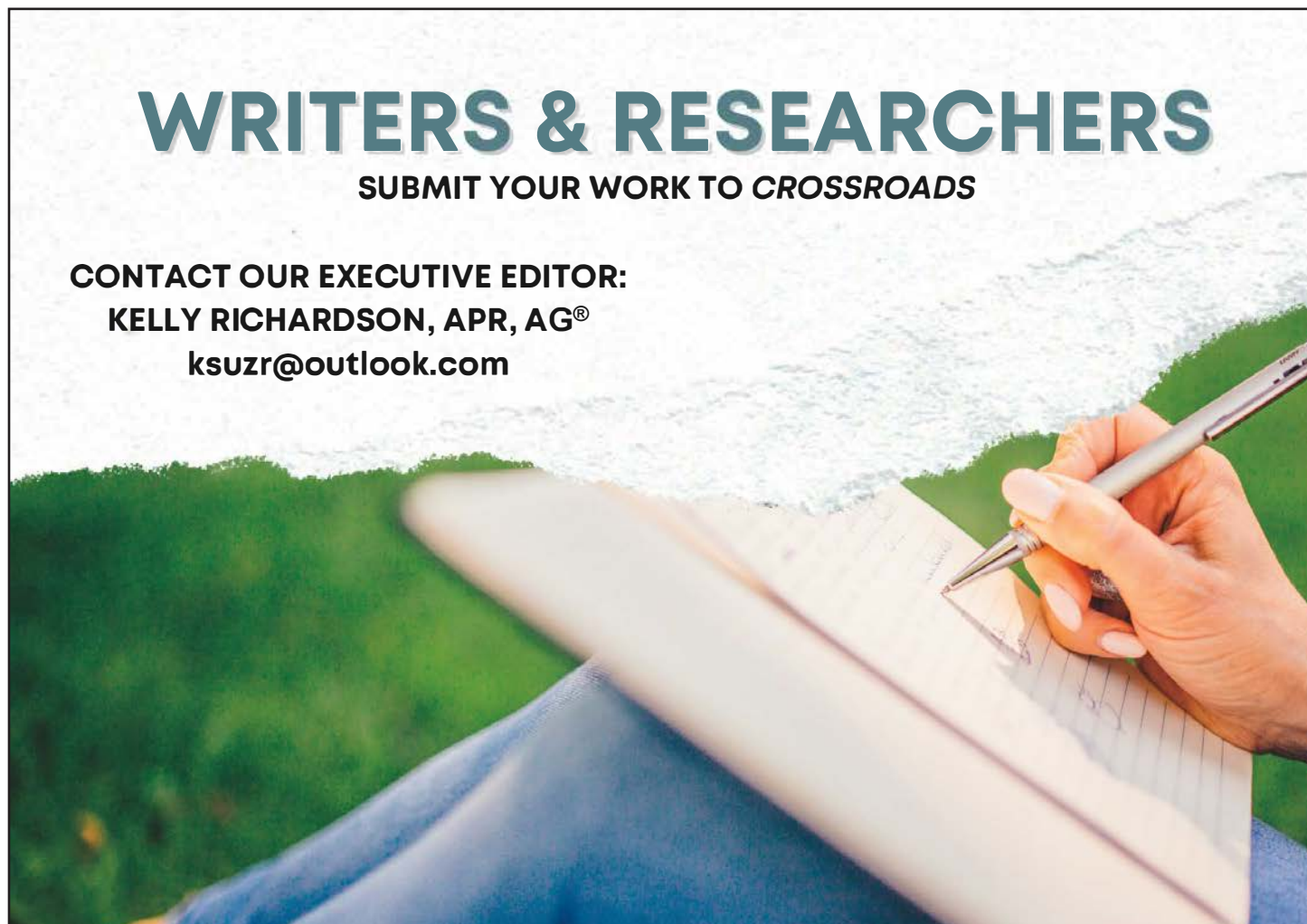
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By Cyndy Richardson

UTAH TERRITORY'S NON-RESIDENT DIVORCE MILL

Introduction

When Rockford, Illinois, patent attorney George Ford and his client, Ellen Hale, fell in love in 1876, they had an inconvenient problem: they were married to others.¹ They almost certainly had no grounds to file for in-state divorces, so they chose what was probably the only convenient option open to them: Utah territorial divorce decrees. Using George and Ellen as examples, this article will introduce the Utah law that gave rise to a divorce mill, consider the legal and societal context that led to its popularity and demise, and discuss implications for genealogical research.

Divorce in the 1800s

Nineteenth-century divorce laws varied by state and territory.² Sometimes statutes made it difficult—or impossible—for people to leave a marriage. For example, with one 1872-1878 exception, South Carolina did not permit divorce.³ New York allowed divorce, but only for adultery.⁴ Illinois offered divorce for a variety of reasons, but a no-fault decree was not an option. For in-state divorces in Illinois, George and Ellen would have had to prove adultery, bigamy, desertion, extreme cruelty, felony, habitual drunkenness, or impotence on the part of their spouses—something they almost certainly could not do.⁵

Like others caught between personal need and local law, George and Ellen looked for a way to divorce outside their home state. For some, the solution was to move to a more permissive place. Indiana was a popular migratory divorce destination before a two-year residency requirement was instituted in 1873. Plaintiffs could file petitions upon arrival and courts could dissolve marriages when it seemed “just and reasonable.”⁶ Dakota Territory was also a popular place to divorce, reportedly even after an 1877 amendment

added a ninety-day residence requirement.⁷ But George and Ellen, along with numerous others across the United States, found a simpler option that required no wait and no travel: they filed their divorce petitions in a Utah probate court.

How Utah Territory Became a Divorce Mill

How could non-Utah residents divorce in Utah Territory when court authority is usually limited by jurisdictional boundaries? Utah’s 1852 divorce law offered a convenient loophole. It read, “if the Court is satisfied that the person so applying is a resident of the Territory, or *wishes to become one* [italics added] ... then the Court may decree a divorce from the bonds of matrimony.”⁸ The wording was probably meant to serve the needs of migrating Latter-day Saints who had not yet reached Utah, but non-residents used it for their own purposes.⁹ Ellen’s petition begins, “Humbly complaining, your petitioner ... represents unto you that she wishes to become a resident of the Territory of Utah, County of Salt Lake but that circumstances prevent her carrying it into effect at present.”¹⁰

Utah Territory’s divorce law was also lenient: decrees were allowed when a couple could not “live in peace and union together” such that “their welfare ... [required] ... a separation.”¹¹ By filing for divorce in Salt Lake County plaintiffs could claim spousal incompatibility. George’s petition asserts “the parties hereto have never lived peaceably together nor at all for a long time that their tastes and dispositions are uncongenial and owing to a decided incompatibility of temperament and aims in life it is utterly impossible for them to live in peace and union together and their welfare requires a separation.”¹²

Filing for divorce in Utah offered two additional advantages: expediency and privacy. The legal requirement to notify non-resident defendants



Cyndy Richardson is an amateur genealogist who is passionate about old-time music. She discovered the Utah divorce mill while searching for the parents of vaudeville banjoist Dorothy Kenton. Cyndy’s current projects focus on her nineteenth-century Oneida County, New York, ancestors. She recently returned to the area, and driving through the rural communities she feels a connection to her forebears that defies time. She enjoys hunting for local ephemera from bygone days, writing letters, transcribing documents, doodling mandalas, and capturing delightfully quirky or mundane day-to-day experiences in photographs that she posts on Instagram.

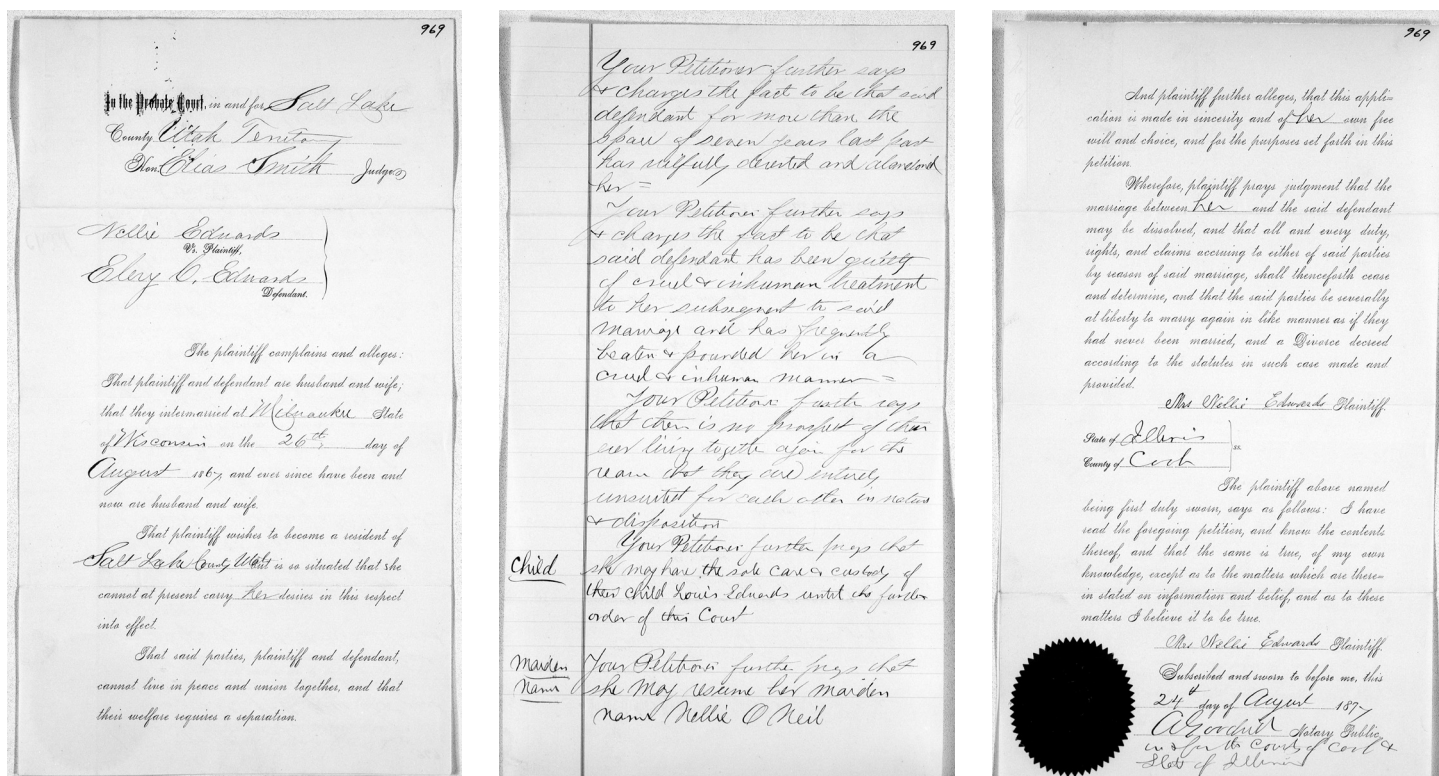


FIGURE 1: 1841 Typical petition notarized by Alphonso Goodrich

of the proceedings was accomplished by mailing summonses to last-known addresses provided by the plaintiffs but no effort was made to confirm delivery.¹³ Even if defendants became aware of the proceedings, the distance made it difficult, if not impossible, for them to respond by the deadlines. Without answers or countersuits, cases could proceed quickly. The distance also made it unlikely that hometown reporters would uncover embarrassing details and publish them in a local newspaper.

Constrained by the difficulty of obtaining divorces elsewhere, unhappily married people from across the United States began turning to Utah probate courts for help. They claimed incompatibility, professed a desire to become Territorial residents, and obtained decrees from a distance.¹⁴

How the Utah Divorce Process Worked

Filing for a Utah divorce was simple. Locally prepared paperwork was submitted to a territorial probate court. The Ford and Hale divorces were reportedly "obtained through the agency of a Chicago attorney," but, given George's familiarity with the legal system, he may have taken a role in preparing the necessary documents.¹⁵ A Rockford attorney notarized George's petition on 16 April 1877.¹⁶ Two days later George notarized Ellen's petition which was a word-for-word copy of his own.¹⁷ The documents were filed in Salt Lake County on May

21, with the help of George A. Webster, a Salt Lake City attorney who specialized in non-resident divorces. "G. A. Webster" later submitted affidavits confirming the summonses issued to George and Ellen's spouses had been served by mail.¹⁸ Since neither Mrs. Ford nor Mr. Hale responded by the June 5 hearing, the judge issued decrees, theoretically leaving George and Ellen free to wed.¹⁹ From start to finish, the divorce process took just under two months.

Although George's legal background presumably gave him an edge, there was no shortage of lawyers ready to assist those who wanted Utah divorces. An advertisement published in a New York City newspaper in 1863 read, "Divorces legally obtained for slight causes, in another State, from persons from any State or country, without publicity. All cases guaranteed and confidential. Advice free."²⁰ Similar advertisements appeared throughout the country. For example, an 1873 Ohio newspaper advertisement promised: "Absolute divorces legally obtained in different States."²¹ Although not explicitly stated, advertisements like these were probably offering Utah divorces since no residency requirement was mentioned.

In 1877 a young actress went undercover to learn about the divorce industry first-hand. She visited six Chicago divorce lawyers, sharing the same story each time: she wanted to divorce her husband quickly, without his

knowledge, because she was tired of being married.²²

The details in her exposé were meant to draw in readers, but the facts seem plausible. She described the lawyers' offices as ranging from "a luxurious boudoir, richly carpeted" to a "very seedy and rather suspicious-looking place," and characterized the lawyers' demeanor as running the gamut from a man who appeared to have "the spiritual expression of a man who feeds freely on dainties and the disasters of other people" to one who had "a pleasingly aristocratic and mellifluous sound." With one twelve-dollar exception, fees ranged from seventy-five to one-hundred-fifty dollars. Promised turnaround times spanned twenty-five to sixty days, but the one female lawyer she visited, when pressed, agreed to "trying for" a decree in two weeks for two hundred dollars.²³ Despite their differences, the attorneys offered the same service: a quick divorce for incompatibility, handled discreetly, with no need to travel.

Pushback Against Divorce Lawyers

The Utah divorce mill appears to have had a slow start, but it burgeoned in the years just before 1877.²⁴ By then Alphonso Goodrich, one of the divorce lawyers the actress visited, was busy enough to be using pre-printed fill-in-the-blank petitions.²⁵ From May 1875 to April 1876 alone he filed over one hundred fifty divorce cases in Beaver County.²⁶ He later claimed to have been earning \$20,000 a year (about \$547,626 in today's currency).²⁷

The Utah divorce market was lucrative for attorneys like Goodrich, but sometimes that financial success cost them their reputations. Clients welcomed their services, but others scorned their work and called them *shysters*.²⁸ Many felt easy divorce was a threat to the status quo.²⁹

The Illinois State Bar Association shared that opinion. Goodrich's colleagues believed "stirring up or soliciting" divorce cases would encourage couples to break the bonds of marriage when they otherwise would not.³⁰

How many are fretting under imaginary ills, and what better devices than those practiced by this defendant, could be contrived to increase these disquietudes, and stimulate to effort, by perjury, if need be, to free themselves from their supposed unhappy condition?³¹

The Association held that attorneys were free to handle divorces—but only if approached.³² Goodrich's anonymous advertisements were said to have "shocked all sense of propriety, of professional

decorum, and of respect to the courts."³³ Further, the Bar Association argued it was fraudulent for a Chicago lawyer to advertise divorces for incompatibility since Illinois law offered no such grounds.³⁴ They disbarred Goodrich for unethical practices in 1875.³⁵

The End of the Utah Divorce Mill

Divorce lawyers in places like Chicago and New York contributed to the rise of the Utah divorce mill but they didn't act alone. Territorial attorneys provided local assistance.³⁶ It was the Utah probate court judges who issued the non-resident decrees. In 1875 there were rumblings of possible impropriety in the Beaver County probate court, but it was an investigation into the Salt Lake County probate court's practices that shut down the Utah divorce mill.³⁷

In 1877 Utah's Third Judicial District Court ordered a grand jury investigation into the Salt Lake County probate court's divorce practices. The probate court judge refused to provide record access and was fined for contempt.³⁸ Eventually a committee was able to examine divorce cases from September 1876 to September 1877. They noted rapidly increasing numbers and uncovered egregious practices.

Sixty-two divorce cases were filed in the first half of the examination period; two-hundred-eighty-one were filed during the second. Eighty percent of the "upward of 300 divorces granted" were for non-residents. The court mailed summonses to defendants using addresses provided by the plaintiffs, assuming they would be delivered. Summonses, if they arrived, gave defendants twelve to sixteen days to respond even though mail could take as many as five days to travel to or from Utah. Thirteen decrees were issued the same day the petitions were filed; forty-eight decrees were issued in eleven days or less. The judge was "acting as an attorney ... in his own court."³⁹

The Grand Jury concluded, "... the system of granting divorces in said court is such an outrage on justice and law, that measures should be taken that would at once stay such proceedings."⁴⁰ Further, they had "good reason to believe that other county Probate Courts of This Territory ... likewise engaged in this class of divorce business to an equal if not greater extent."⁴¹

Six months later the Utah legislative assembly voted to amend the divorce law. Incompatibility was removed and the wording was changed to require a plaintiff to be "an actual and *bona fide* resident of the County within the jurisdiction of the court."⁴² The new law took effect after June 1878.⁴³

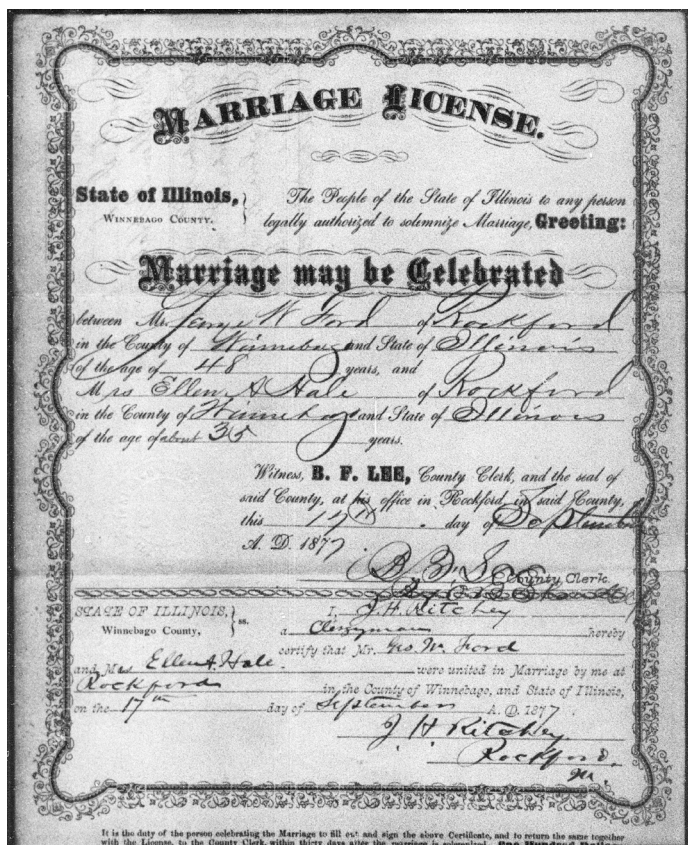


FIGURE 2: Ford-Hale Marriage License.

Consequences of Obtaining a Utah Divorce

Many non-residents who obtained Utah decrees appear to have simply moved on with separate lives.⁴⁴ As Detroit's *Free Press* put it: "Utah divorces are good enough where both parties are satisfied, and people who want divorces are generally pretty sick of each other."⁴⁵ But in high-stakes situations or when defendants had the desire and means to push back, the validity of Utah divorces was challenged in court – even years after the mill shut down.

At issue was whether decrees signed by a territorial judge had legal bearing on the marital status of individuals who had never lived in Utah. In 1899, for example, the United States government sought to recover fifteen-hundred dollars from a Civil War pension previously paid to an Iowa widow. The government argued the Utah decree dissolving her first marriage was worthless, making her subsequent marriage to the veteran invalid. The widow prevailed.⁴⁶

George and Ellen were not as fortunate. They married three months after obtaining their decrees.⁴⁷ Four months later, in January 1878, they were under indictment for bigamy. Their trials were eventually moved to an adjacent county and in December 1879 George was reportedly fined six hundred dollars and

sent to the penitentiary for two years. Ellen was given a lighter sentence – one year with a one-dollar fine – because the court believed she thought her marriage to George was legal.⁴⁸

The opinion of the judge who ruled on their cases—an opinion shared by many—was summarized by a local reporter:

He said he regarded these divorces as being of the most dangerous character. No legislation in any state or territory could give to its courts the power to exercise any authority over the persons or personal rights of persons resident of another state or territory beyond their jurisdiction, and who had never been within the jurisdiction of its courts ... and to hold any other theory than this, seemed to him to be holding and encouraging a most infamous practice and monstrous outrage against the peace and welfare of society.⁴⁹

Research Relevance

The implications for genealogical research are clear: Utah probate court records should be considered when evidence of an 1852-1878 divorce cannot be found in the expected location. This is especially true if the plaintiff would have filed in the years just prior to 1877 and would have had the motivation and means to pursue a quick, quiet divorce.

Utah territorial divorce case files generally include a petition, summons, and decree. Petitions name the parties to the suit, state their marriage date and place, outline the grounds for divorce, and sometimes include a maiden name or children's names and ages or both. Because non-resident divorce cases often proceeded without input from defendants, most files contain little else. However, if a defendant responded, the file may be rich with information.

Finding Utah Divorce Cases

Begin with FamilySearch's "Utah, State Archives Records, 1848-2001" collection (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/2001084>). Try a global search; some divorce records are indexed. Browse if the search returns no match. Case files for divorces in Box Elder, Davis, Salt Lake, Sevier, and Weber counties are included in record sets labeled "divorce records" and "court records." Evidence of divorces in Iron, Kane, Sanpete, and Tooele counties can be found under "court minutes."

Paging through unindexed case files is straightforward because they are usually separated by a file folder image easily distinguishable in thumbnail view.



However, readers may contact the author for a quick check of a private index before undertaking a time-consuming search. The database includes more than fifteen-hundred resident and non-resident Utah divorces for multiple counties through 1878.

If the Archives collection yields no match, double-check the FamilySearch catalog for specific counties. For example, numerous non-resident divorces not included in the archives collection can be found under "United States, Utah, Beaver – Divorce records." And, finally, explore the Utah Division of Archives and Records Service's "Territorial Divorce Records, 1852-1895" guide (<https://archives.utah.gov/research/guides/divorce.html>) for additional search ideas.

Summary

From 1852 to 1878 non-resident Utah territorial divorces offered a convenient option for plaintiffs who wanted to be free from the bonds of marriage but were unable to secure in-state decrees or wanted the ease and privacy offered by filing at a distance or both. The practice became widespread in the 1870s through the efforts of enterprising divorce attorneys who placed advertisements in newspapers across the United States. Opinions differed as to the validity of the Utah decrees. For most it did not matter; for others, the pursuit of a quick discreet divorce led to prison. An 1877 grand jury investigation prompted a new law that brought the Utah divorce mill to a close in June 1878.

¹ "Utah Divorces No Good: The Ford-Hale Bigamy Case; A Full Statement of the Case; The First Utah Divorce Case Ever Disposed of In Illinois; Both Parties Sent to the Penitentiary," *Rockford Journal* (Rockford, Illinois), 20 December 1879, fifth page, cols. 2-4, image copy, *GenealogyBank* (genealogybank.com : accessed 30 December 2022); also, *The History of Winnebago County, Ill., Its Past and Present* (Chicago: H. F. Kett & Co, 1877), 485.

² "A Divorce Mill: An 'Agency' that Pretends to Sever Nuptial Knots at Short Notice; Compendium of Divorce Laws; the Clashing of the Various States in Regard to Marriage and Separation," *The Times* (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania), 23 November 1879, p. 3, cols. 1-3, image copy, *Newspapers* (newspapers.com : accessed 2 January 2022).

³ Janet G. Hudson, "From Constitution to Constitution, 1868-1895: South Carolina's Unique Stance on Divorce," *The South Carolina Historical Magazine* 98 (January 1977), 83, image copy, *JSTOR* (www.jstor.org : accessed 2 January 2023).

⁴ *Laws of the State of New York, Comprising the Constitution, and the Acts of the Legislature, Since the Revolution, From the First to the Fifteenth Session, Inclusive*, vol. 1 (New York: Thomas Greenleaf, 1792), 428, Chapter 69, "An Act Directing a Mode of Trial, And Allowing of Divorces in Cases of Adultery," passed 30 March 1787.

⁵ W. H. Underwood, *Statutes of Illinois Construed: Containing the Statutes of 1874 as Amended by the Acts of 1875 and 1877* (St. Louis: W. J. Gilbert, 1878), 503, Chapter 40, "Divorce," § 1, "Causes of Divorce," in force 1 July 1874.

⁶ Val Nolan, "Indiana Birthplace of Migratory Divorce," *Indiana Law Journal* 26 (Summer 1951): 515-527, image copy, *Maurer School of Law Digital Repository* (www.repository.law.indiana.edu : accessed 31 December 2022); also, Harrison Burns, *Burns' Annotated Indiana Statutes showing the General Statutes in Force January 1, 1914, embracing The Revision of 1881 as Amended, and All Permanent, General and Public Acts of the General Assembly Passed Since the Adoption of that Revision*, vol. 1, 662-663, § 1066, "Petition for Divorce—Residence—Affidavit—7"; also, *The Revised Statutes of the State of Indiana, Passed at the Thirty-Sixth Session of the General Assembly Including Courts, Their Jurisdiction, and Practice Therein*, vol. 2 (Indianapolis: J. P. Chapman, 1852), 234-235, Chapter 4, "An Act Regulating the Granting of Divorces," § 6-7.

⁷ Merry Helm, " Fargo, Divorce Mill," *Prairie Public Newsroom, Dakota Datebook Archive* (news.prairiepublic.org : accessed 31 December 2022); also, George H. Hand, *The Revised Codes of the Territory of Dakota, A.D. 1877 Comprising the Codes and General Statutes Passed at the Twelfth Session of the Legislative Assembly, and All Other General Laws Remaining in Force* (St. Paul: Pioneer Press, 1883), 218, "Civil Code," Article III, "Other Causes for Denying Divorce," § 67, "Term of Residence."

MISCELLANEOUS.

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FIGURE 3: Example of newspaper advertisement.



⁸ *Acts, Resolutions, and Memorials, Passed by the First Annual, and Special Sessions, of the Legislative Assembly, of the Territory of Utah, Begun and Held at Great Salt Lake City on the 22nd Day of September, A.D. 1851* (G. S. L. City, Utah: Legislative Assembly, 1852), 83, "An Act in Relation to Bills of Divorce," § 2, approved 6 March 1852.

⁹ "Utah Divorces Again: A Mormon View of the Territorial Divorce Law—The Judges and the Lawyers; The Law Was Framed for the Convenience of Mormon Immigrants; How It Has Been Abused—The Judges Bulldozed by the Lawyers," *The Daily Inter-Ocean* (Chicago, Illinois), 10 December 1877, p. 5, col. 3, image copy, *Newspapers* (www.newspapers.com : accessed 1 January 2023); also, "The Utah Divorce Law," *The Weekly Tribune* (Salt Lake City, Utah), 6 October 1877, p. 4, col. 3, image copy, *GenealogyBank* (genealogybank.com : accessed 3 January 2022).

¹⁰ Salt Lake County, Utah Territory, probate court, case file no. 794, Ellen A. Hale v. Chauncey Hale, petition for divorce, filed 21 May 1877, image copy, "Utah, Salt Lake County, civil and criminal case files, 1852-1968," *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : accessed 29 December 2022); citing Utah State Archives, Series 373, Box 20, Folder 42.

¹¹ *Acts, Resolutions, and Memorials*, 83, "An Act in Relation to Bills of Divorce," § 2, approved 6 March 1852.

¹² Salt Lake County, Utah Territory, probate court, case file no. 795, George W. Ford v. Martha A. Ford, petition for divorce, filed 21 May 1877, image copy, "Utah, Salt Lake County, civil and criminal case files, 1852-1968," *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : accessed 31 December 2022); citing Utah State Archives, Series 373, Box 20, Folder 43.

¹³ "Utah Divorces! Piles of Corruption Unearthed by the Grand Jury," *The Daily Tribune* (Salt Lake City, Utah), 27 September 1877, fourth page, cols. 2-4, image copy, *NewspaperArchive* (newspaperarchive.com : accessed 1 January 2022).

¹⁴ "Utah, Salt Lake County, civil and criminal case files, 1852-1968," *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : accessed 31 December 2022). Numerous non-resident petitions appear in case files from 1877 and the years immediately preceding. Petitions beginning with "wishes to become a resident" regularly include a "cannot live in peace and union together" phrase.

¹⁵ "Utah Divorces No Good," fifth page, cols. 2-4.

¹⁶ Salt Lake County Probate Court, case file no. 795, George W. Ford v. Martha A. Ford, petition for divorce, filed 21 May 1877. The petition was notarized by O. A. Pennoyer. For his occupation, see *The History of Winnebago County, Ill., Its Past and Present, containing A History of the County—Its Cities, Towns, Etc., A Biographical Directory of Its Citizens* (Chicago: H. F. Kett & Co, 1877), 514."

¹⁷ Salt Lake County, Utah Territory, probate court, case file no. 794, Ellen A. Hale v. Chauncey Hale, petition for divorce, filed 21 May 1877.

¹⁸ Salt Lake County, Utah Territory, probate court, case file no. 794, Ellen A. Hale v. Chauncey Hale, and case file no. 795, George W. Ford v. Martha A. Ford, summonses, issued 21 May 1877. The return portions were signed by G. A. Webster, "Plff Atty," 5 June 1877.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, decrees of divorce, dated 5 June 1877.

²⁰ "Miscellaneous," alphabetical classified advertisement beginning "Divorces legally obtained," *New York Herald* (New York, New York), 16 April 1863, p. 8, col. 3, image copy, *Newspapers* (newspapers.com : accessed 31 December 2022).

²¹ "Divorces," *Findlay Jeffersonian* (Findlay, Ohio), fourth page, col. 6, image copy, *Newspapers* (newspapers.com : accessed 31 December 2022).

²² "Do You Want a Divorce? The Ease with Which One May Be Obtained in Chicago; The Male and Female Attorneys Who Practice the Art of Cutting the Matrimonial Knot; A Divorce for Cause or Without

Cause Guaranteed in from Fifteen to Sixty Days; The Kind of People Who Run This Business—Who They Are and How They Do It," *The Daily Inter-Ocean*, 10 March 1877, p. 6, cols. 3-5, image copy, *Newspapers* (www.newspapers.com : 31 December 2022).

²³ *Ibid.*

²⁴ Nolan, "Indiana: Birthplace of Migratory Divorce," 515-516, footnote 6 suggesting Utah was a "divorce haven between 1875 and 1878." This is consistent with the author's experience indexing Salt Lake County probate court records. Non-resident divorce cases appear frequently in the years leading up to 1877, but they are sparse in, say, the 1860s. For example, of the ninety-four cases dated 1860-1862, there are only fourteen divorces, and with one possible exception, none appear to have been filed by non-residents. "Utah, Salt Lake County, Civil and Criminal Case Files, 1852-1968," image copies, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : accessed 1 January 2022), specifically DGS 5293955; citing Utah State Archives.

²⁵ Salt Lake County, Utah Territory, probate court, case file no. 802, Daniel F. Conover v. Ann Conover, petition for divorce, filed 21 May 1877, image copy, "Utah, Salt Lake County, civil and criminal case files, 1852-1968," *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : accessed 1 January 2023); citing Utah State Archives, Series 373, Box 20, Folder 50.

²⁶ Beaver County, Utah Territory, "Record," bound volume containing "Miscellaneous, Land Titles, United Order and Divorce Records," August 1870 to May 1876, 288-311, image copy, "Land Records, Divorce Records and Estate Records [Beaver County, Utah Territory]," *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : accessed 1 January 2023); citing Beaver County Courthouse.

²⁷ "Good, Rich Old Game: Disbarred Attorney Wants to Be Elected Circuit Judge On a Gambling Platform," *The Daily Inter-Ocean*, 16 February 1897, p. 7, cols. 4-5; also, *CPI Inflation Calculator* (www.in2013dollars.com : accessed 30 December 2022), start year: 1875, amount: \$20,000, end year: 2022, calculated equivalent: \$531,416.53.

²⁸ "Shysters: The Libel Suit of Bush vs. The Chicago Times," *The Chicago Daily Tribune* (Chicago, Illinois), 15 April 1874, p. 2, cols. 4-5, image copy, *Newspapers Publisher Extra* (www.newspapers.com : accessed 30 December 2022).

²⁹ Hendrik A. Hartog, Philip A. Hart Memorial Lecture, "Marital Exits and Marital Expectations in Nineteenth Century America," *Georgetown Law Journal* 80 (1991): 96-99, image copy, Georgetown Law, *The Scholarly Commons* (scholarship.law.georgetown.edu : accessed 31 December 2022).

³⁰ Norman L. Freeman, reporter, "The People ex rel. Adolph Moses et al. v. Alphonso Goodrich," *Reports of Cases at Law and in Chancery Argued and Determined in the Supreme Court of Illinois*, v. 79 (Springfield, Illinois: printed for reporter, 1877), 154.

³¹ *Ibid.*

³² *Ibid.*

³³ *Ibid.*, 153.

³⁴ *Ibid.*, 150.

³⁵ *Ibid.*, 154.

³⁶ "Divorces in Utah: Five Hundred and Four Marriages Dissolved in Three Years," *The Sun* (New York, New York), 15 October 1877, third page, col. 3, image copy, *Newspapers* (www.newspapers.com : accessed 31 December 2022); also, "Utah Divorces: The Report of the Grand Jury at Salt Lake City; Number of Divorces Granted, and Names of the Lawyers Engaged," *The Daily Inter-Ocean*, 2 October 1877, fifth page, cols. 2-4, image copy, *Newspapers* (www.newspapers.com : accessed 31 December 2022). Documents were notarized by Chicago divorce lawyers, but the cases were handled by Salt Lake City attorneys.

³⁷ "Bogus Divorce Decrees," *The Daily Tribune*, 29 August 1875, p. 2, cols. 1-2, image copy, *Newspapers Publisher Extra* (www.newspapers.com : accessed 3 January 2022).

³⁸ "The Mormons: Probate Judge Elias Smith Fined for Contempt," *New York Herald*, 16 September 1877, p. 9, col. 4, image copy, *Newspapers* (www.newspapers.com : accessed 23 March 2022).

³⁹ Third District Court Territorial Minute Book, vol. D, 523-527, grand jury report regarding Salt Lake City Probate Court divorce cases, adopted 16 September 1877, image copy from Research Center of the Utah State Archives & Utah State History, Salt Lake City, Utah; Utah State Archives Record Series 1649. The handwriting is difficult to read. For a transcript, see "Utah Divorces! Piles of Corruption Unearthed by the Grand Jury," fourth page, cols. 2-4.

⁴⁰ Third District Court Territorial Minute Book, vol. D, 523.

⁴¹ *Ibid.*, 527.

⁴² *Laws, Memorials, and Resolutions of the Territory of Utah, Passed at the Twenty-third Session, of the Legislative Assembly* (Salt Lake City: Star Book and Job Printing Office, 1878), 1-2, Chapter 1, "Laws," § 1, "An Act Amending Sections 1151 and 1154 of the Compiled Laws of Utah," approved 2 February 1878.

⁴³ Utah Division of Archives and Records Service, "Research Divorce Records," *Utah.gov* (www.archives.utah.gov : accessed 31 December 2022).

⁴⁴ "Utah Divorces No Good," fifth page, cols. 2-4. The 1878 Ford and Hale bigamy cases were said to be the first to test the validity of Utah divorces in Illinois even though, for example, Alphonso Goodrich sent over one-hundred-fifty divorce cases to Beaver County 1875-1876.

⁴⁵ "Currency," *The Free Press* (Detroit, Michigan), 22 August 1877, p. 3, col. 2., eleventh paragraph beginning "Utah divorces," image copy, *Newspapers Publisher Extra* (www.newspapers.com : 30 December 2022).

⁴⁶ "Iowa Traveling Men," *The Omaha Daily Bee* (Omaha, Nebraska), 2 December 1899, p. 8, col. 4, image copy, *Newspapers Publisher Extra* (www.newspapers.com : 30 December 2022).

⁴⁷ Winnebago County, Illinois, marriage license no. 141, George W. Ford and Ellen A. Hale, 17 September 1877, image copy, "Marriage licenses, 1850-1924; marriage certificate record books, 1836-1867," *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : accessed 4 January 2023); citing Winnebago County, Illinois, County Clerk.

⁴⁸ "Utah Divorces No Good," fifth page, cols. 2-4; also, Stephenson County, Illinois, circuit clerk to author, e-mail, 29 July 2021, "Case Files: 1879." The Court holds no records early enough to include the Ford and Hale cases.

⁴⁹ "Utah Divorces No Good," fifth page, cols. 2-4.

FIGURE 1 Salt Lake County, Utah Territory, probate court, case file no. 969, Nellie Edwards v. Elery C. Edwards, petition for divorce; 24 August 1877, image copy, "Utah, Salt Lake County, civil and criminal case files, 1852-1968," *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : accessed 1 March 2023), digital folder 005293914 > images 1066-1068.

FIGURE 2 "Miscellaneous," four classified advertisements for divorce, *New York Clipper* (New York City, New York), 23 September 1876, p. 208, col. 7.

FIGURE 3 Winnebago County, Illinois, marriage license no. 141, George W. Ford and Mrs. Ellen A. Hale, 17 September 1877, image copy, "Marriage licenses, 1850-1924; marriage certificate record books, 1836-1867," *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : accessed 1 March 2023).

HONORING MY ANCESTORS

By Lucienne Allen

When I was a kid in the '70s, I grew up knowing more about my family history than most other people I interacted with. Living next door to my maternal grandparents made all the difference; I spent many hours around their dining table, eating ethnic foods and listening to the varied and often colorful stories these two stalwarts in my life would share.

These were the only grandparents I would ever know. Both were European emigrants who migrated to the United States through Ellis Island and eventually met in the early 1930s while working as assistants to the famed artist and fresco muralist, Diego Rivera. After falling in love and getting married, my grandmother (the painter) and my grandfather (the technician and/or plasterer) would go on to create over 50 murals in private and public places, from New York, Kentucky, and Michigan all the way to California. The majority of my grandmother's murals, which were painted in the 1950s and 1960s, can be found in San Francisco, California.

My grandfather, Stephen Pope Dimitroff (1910-1996), migrated from Bulgaria in 1921 at the age of 11. He'd tell me stories of when he



FIGURE 1: Ernest and Marguerite Bloch, 1904.

and his younger brother arrived at Ellis Island with their mother to join their father in Flint, Michigan. The day they arrived, my grandfather found a penny on the street and told his brother, "Look, the streets ARE paved with gold!" The stories my grandfather talked about growing up in America, working for Rivera, and falling in love with my grandmother gave me a sense of belonging. He was the most "American" American I've ever known.

My grandmother, Lucienne Bloch (1909-1999), who I'm named after, emigrated from Geneva, Switzerland, with her family in 1917 at the age of 8. Her father

was composer and amateur photographer Ernest Bloch, who brought his family over to join him in the States when he received a job there. My grandmother loved to tell stories of her childhood, her family, and her friendships. Having traveled in the upper class with her family, you might think her stories were more refined, but my grandmother was the one with the spicier stories to tell!

When I was about eight or nine years old, I learned that my



FIGURE 2: Stephen Pope Dimitroff and Lucienne Bloch Dimitroff, 1985.



Lucienne Allen is an artist and steward of her grandparents' archives located in a tiny, coastal, Northern California town. Besides her intrinsic interest in her family's history, she spends a lot of her time in her gardens and orchards. Lucienne is currently working on a book about the friendship between her grandmother and Frida Kahlo, illustrated with her grandmother and Frida's photographs, sketches, and letters, some never before published.



FIGURE 3: Lucienne Bloch with Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo, 1933.

favorite aunt, who married into the family, could trace her family back to the *Mayflower*. She was keen on family history, and she inspired in me a love of reading historical fiction as a child. One year she came to visit and helped my grandmother create a very thorough family tree. There was a lot of research done to try we get everything as accurate as possible. Watching her write down all those names in her meticulously neat hand mesmerized me.

Being aware of my family's heritage from a very young age, I knew that my maternal great-grandfather, Ernest Bloch, was a Swiss-French Jew. Seeing old photographs of a cemetery, tall grass growing around tombstones with Hebrew writing on them, and learning how my grandmother made rubbings of the headstones truly gave me a glimpse of what our family's story meant. Ernest had married a German pianist named Margarethe Elisabeth Augustina Schneider—my great-grandmother. I remember my grandmother talking about her pessimistic mother who loved the cold, wet weather which reminded her of home in Hamburg. My grandmother would repeat her mother's name to me. Since both my grandmother and I did not have middle names, I loved hearing her longer name.

The Decision to Archive

My grandmother was a multifaceted artist, having literally mastered so many different mediums it would take up its own paragraph to describe them all. In the early 1990s, I decided to help archive my grandmother's works. This inspired my husband and I to build a darkroom on our property. My grandmother

and I would be in there for hours printing photos from her silver nitrate negatives, creating a body of work that would eventually help promote her legacy through exhibitions at various galleries around the world and preserve our family history. My grandmother shared her memories of when she used to print her own photographs using the bathroom as her darkroom.

Delving deeply into my grandmother as a photographer brought me even closer to my family's stories, as I found myself printing and learning about the photographs that shaped her life. There weren't just negatives of family members, but there were negatives of her friends, negatives of May Day parades, the Automobile Workers Union demonstrations that my grandfather was a part of, as well as negatives showing how people lived during the tumultuous times between the wars. She told me that some of her negatives had been sold to *Life*, magazine back in the day.

The Process

When trying to archive my grandmother's vintage photographs, I decided to categorize and place them into archival albums. This took a lot of time; the majority of the photos were stored in shoe or cigar boxes with no rhyme or reason. Thankfully, at the time, my grandmother was still living and could answer all of my questions. I wrote the information my grandmother shared carefully on the back of the photographs using a No. 2 pencil.

I bought archival binders and slip sheets in which to store the photographs for longevity. I knew that this would be beneficial for my descendants as well. I bought most of my archival materials through Light Impressions – which is still in business today. I chose large binders, about 4 inches wide, with archival boxes the binders could slip into. That way, I could label each binder and put them on a shelf, and not only would the photographs be safe, but the binders would last for many, many years.

I bought different types of slip sheets since I had photographs of many different sizes. Some pages held four photos, some two, and some only held one photograph. For anything larger, I bought archival boxes of different sizes to store them in.

One thing I also did was take any photographs glued into old photo albums. I soaked the entire page in warm water until I could remove the photograph from the paper. Then I dried the photos in a cool place

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21

UKRAINIAN GENEALOGY

By Vera Ivanova Miller

The day 24 February 2022 brought a lot of fear in those with Ukrainian ancestry, as Russia began a full-scale attack on Ukraine. The world watched helplessly as museums, libraries, archives, and other buildings were damaged. For those who are wondering what efforts are being made to preserve Ukrainian records that are imperative to genealogical research at this time, I talked with several individuals leading the tremendous effort being taken to preserve and digitize records.

FamilySearch International supports Ukrainian Archives

In the late spring of 2021, FamilySearch International had begun a major project of digitizing records in Ukrainian archives. On its own, the Ukrainian archives had been slow to scan their records and post them online. Today, the two organizations are working hard to get records and other information posted online. Various archive offices are also posting new descriptions of their archive fonds so patrons know which records are in their possessions.

"The pace of digitization is constantly accelerating and increasing. Due to the cooperation with the genealogical corporation FamilySearch International, the high speed of digitization is ensured, and 10-15 thousand copies of documents are created in a day," said Anatolii Khromov, director of the State Archival Service of Ukraine. "Thanks to this, in 5-7 years, the Ukrainian archives plan to digitize the most requested documents, which will be useful for family history research." Khromov estimated that the State Archives of Poltava Region can be completely digitized in ten years. With FamilySearch digitizing ten percent of all files each year, he sees that goal is attainable for the archive. There are six FamilySearch contractors working in the archive, digitizing 12,000 to 13,500 pages of records each day.¹



FIGURE 1: A local Ukrainian woman digitizes archive records for FamilySearch. Photo by Oksana Bohdanova.

Meanwhile at the State Archive of Kirovohrad Region, it was announced on the State Archival Service of Ukraine website that "all metric books and all books of records of civil status acts" were digitized by FamilySearch as of January 2023. "The cooperation of the State Archive of the Kirovohrad Region with FamilySearch International will allow all documents to be digitized in the next three years. Next, notarial books, personal files, and criminal cases of repressed persons during the Soviet totalitarian regime will be digitized," Khromov announced on the website.²

News pertaining to the Ukrainian archives' activities are posted online regularly on their websites and Facebook pages. Archives keep patrons updated when reading rooms are open to the public, and patrons have been encouraged to make requests to archives by email.

Interarchival Search Portal

Among the news from Ukrainian archives has been the announcement of a central portal for archives' records. That free portal was introduced in May 2022.³ "The State Archival Service of Ukraine plans to include all central and regional archives in the 'Interarchival Search Portal' resource in the future so that billions of copies of archival documents will become available," Khromov said. "However, in the conditions of the aggressive war of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, it is difficult to predict the exact terms of the fulfillment of the set goals."⁴



Vera Ivanova Miller, a former newspaper reporter, has been researching her ancestry from Ukraine, Russia, and Poland since 2006. Her journey inspired her to start a blog, "Find Lost Russian and Ukrainian Family," in 2011. She is the author of "Genealogy at a Glance: Ukrainian Genealogy Research" and "Genealogy at a Glance: Russian Genealogy Research," both publications of Genealogical Publishing Co. When she is not doing genealogy or writing about genealogy, she can be found in cemeteries as a FindAGrave volunteer. Vera, mother of two boys, is daughter of a Russian father and a Ukrainian mother.



So far, records of five archives have been published in the central portal, including Central State Archive-Museum of Literature and Art of Ukraine, Central State Archive of Higher Authorities and Administration of Ukraine, Central State Archive of Public Associations of Ukraine, State Archive of Lviv Region and Central State Historical Archive of Ukraine in Kyiv. The list of participating archives is kept updated on the website.⁵

The portal has attracted more than 200,000 online visitors and two or three more archives will join the portal this year. It was announced in April 2023 that with the addition of Central State Historical Archive of Ukraine in Kyiv, more than 4 million archive record scans would become available on the free portal. Besides the genealogical records available on the portal, records on the history of Ukraine, spanning from the 16th-20th centuries, can be viewed on the new resource.⁶

The Losses

The joyful news surrounding the modernization of the Ukrainian archives comes with the bad news of the record loss suffered due to Russia's war with Ukraine.

"The Russians were destroying and looting archives in the occupied territories. The Russian invaders stole the most valuable documents of the 18th and 19th centuries from the State Archives of Kherson Region that were a part of the National Archival Fund of Ukraine, as well as office equipment and machinery," Khromov said. "The documents of the former KGB that were stored in the archival department of the Security Service of Ukraine in Chernihiv about individuals who suffered from repressions of the former USSR totalitarian regime have been lost forever. In most cases, as a result of hostilities and bombings, archival buildings and work rooms were damaged."⁷

Luckily, some records have been saved by employees at the State Archives of Kherson Region.

"During my visit to the State Archives of Kherson Region, several female employees reported that when they stayed in occupied Kherson and understood that the time would come for looting, the oldest documents from the end of the 18th century, valuable historical maps and documents containing precious materials, were imperceptibly hidden by them and returned after the liberation of Kherson," Khromov said. "It is about 60 files that were saved."⁸

The struggles at the State Archive of Kherson Region were elevated when the Kakhovka Dam was bombed in the region on June 6. Archive employees spent 13 hours moving about 100,000 storage units on June 7.

An archive building is located in the area that has the potential to be submerged under water from the dam. Archive employees were helped by other government employees to speed up the process to relocate the archive records, which have been moved over time since February.⁹

Besides Kherson Region, Ukrainian archive officials believe that records from Crimea and areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions have been stolen by Russians.¹⁰ In addition to the concerns about the stolen archive records, the regional archive buildings in Kharkiv and Mykolaiv and the archival department in Lysychansk, Luhansk Region, were shelled during the war.

FamilySearch contractors continue onsite in the archives where they can safely work. The progress being made in digitizing the archives' records can be watched on FamilySearch's page on Ukraine. The web page is regularly updated with newly scanned records.

Progress

Summer 2022: FamilySearch completed the digitization and indexing of records from 1990-2010 that were located at the Ukrainian archives. The indexing was completed by the FamilySearch contractors, local volunteers of FamilySearch, and with the use of artificial intelligence, said Alexander "Sasha" Sichkarenko, an official representative of FamilySearch in Ukraine.¹¹

By early 2023: Four central and twelve regional archives signed agreements with FamilySearch, making progress toward the goal of fully digitizing genealogical and family history records within 10 years.¹² Khromov estimates the digitizing project undertaken by FamilySearch will involve about 100 million sheets of records.¹³

March 2023: A meeting was held to discuss the intensification of digitizing Ukrainian archive records, due to the escalation of the war. In attendance at the meeting with Khromov were Sichkarenko, directors of seventeen regional archives that have not yet signed agreements with FamilySearch and directors of three archives considered to be the leaders of the digitizing project – Central State Historical Archives of Ukraine (Kyiv) and State Archives of Poltava and Kirovohrad region.¹⁴

Working Together

The staff of the Ukrainian Archives were nervous when FamilySearch contractors came to digitize their records, prior to the war. FamilySearch International hired an American and an Italian contractor after

a bidding process to manage the project. "The contractors are employing only local Ukrainians to digitize records by using professional-grade digital cameras," Sichkarenko said.¹⁵

"There are always hesitations because archivists love their work and value the documents they have to preserve," Sichkarenko said. "And that's why I consider their cautious attitude to be natural. It would be strange if we did not observe their caution and worries."¹⁶

Over time, archive staff became more comfortable with FamilySearch contractors digitizing their records. Then the war began in 2022, bringing about a different type of concern. "It was interesting to see how the first fears were quickly replaced by a strong desire to continue the work and help preserve our national historical heritage. Therefore, we did not have to persuade anyone to return to work," Sichkarenko said. "After consulting the archives, the contractors put us in front of the fact: 'We continue to work; we can't wait any longer.' It's about the moment when everything stopped because of the full-scale attack on Ukraine from Russia. But then in two to three weeks both archives and contractors said, 'We continue to work; we can't wait any longer.'"¹⁷

Records Under Russian Control

Sharenko, said "FamilySearch would like to digitize as many records as possible throughout Ukraine, even in the areas Russia took under control. Once Ukraine regains those areas, FamilySearch will start negotiating with the archives as soon as possible."¹⁸ Russia had declared the archives of Crimea and Sevastopol as its own in 2014, even though Ukraine still considers those territories part of its own country.¹⁹

"If the vaults of those archives stay intact, we can work there for sure. We want to be beneficial to our country," Sichkarenko said. "But we know that Russia is stealing the archival documents from everywhere it comes, so it is challenging to tell what remains of the old funds we'll see in the future in the freed lands of Ukraine."²⁰

Additional Preservation Efforts

Another partner of the project to digitize Ukrainian archive records has been Babyn Yar Holocaust Memorial Center in Kyiv. The organization has posted more than 2.8 million records to its online database.²¹ In a news release, Babyn Yar Holocaust Memorial Center described the purpose of their project "is to restore the composition of the population of Kyiv

before the war, during the war and in the post-war period." The organization estimates that about 70,000 to 100,000 people were killed in Babyn Yar from 1941-1943 by the Nazis. Those killings were "almost the entire Jewish population of Kyiv."²²

The database has records from the State Archive of the City of Kyiv and state archives of Kyiv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Chernihiv, and Sumy regions. Scanned records include Nazi-occupation records from Kyiv and Chernihiv regions; registrations of births, marriages, and deaths dated from 1919-1936 from Kyiv; registrations of births, marriages, and deaths dated from 1922-1942 from Chernihiv Region; and Ukrainian Council of the Society for Land Settlement of Working Jews records from Kharkiv and metric books of Jewish communities in Kyiv, Chernihiv, and Poltava regions.²³

Also actively scanning Ukrainian archive records is the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum located in Washington, D.C. The partnership with Ukrainian archives to scan records detailing the persecution of Jews before, during, and after the Holocaust is more than twenty-five years old. In June 2022, the first set of a million scans were posted online. In total, the museum expects that more than 10 million records will be scanned during the lifetime of their project.²⁴

"After four months of war in Ukraine and the potential of even more targeted destruction of Ukrainian cultural sites, including museums and archives, it is a historical imperative to make these materials digitally available," said Rebecca Boehling, director of the museum's David M. Rubenstein National Institute for Holocaust Documentation. "We want to facilitate access and ensure these records remain available even if the originals are destroyed."²⁵

Not only are FamilySearch, Babyn Yar Holocaust Memorial Center, and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum digitizing Ukrainian records, activist Alex Krakovsky, a Ukrainian Jew, has been scanning records at Ukrainian archives and posting them online since 2017. His ability to scan records was challenged by several Ukrainian archives so Krakovsky, a 2005 Kyiv Polytechnic Institute graduate, took Ukrainian archives to court. He won all the cases that he took to court. "I love Ukraine. That's my country," Krakovsky said. "It's always good when you defend human rights in courts. It's good for the country."²⁶

So far, he has posted more than 3 million records online, through Wikipedia Commons, giving genealogical researchers free access that doesn't involve any website registration. Krakovsky posts archive records from various areas of Ukraine and



many of those have been Jewish records. The types of records he posts include school records, revision lists, and poll tax censuses, in addition to metric records. The war with Russia has not completely interfered with Krakovsky's determination to get Ukrainian archive records online. Krakovsky, now living in Germany, is posting recently scanned records whenever possible. His latest additions to the collection are announced on his Facebook page. Sometimes scans from Ukrainian archives come in daily from his helpers or directly from the archives. Over the years Krakovsky has found records that have never been seen by the public.²⁷

"The war convinced us that everything we did was worthwhile and much more important than we thought. So many precious archival documents went online. So many of them are now lost, inaccessible, or could disappear at any moment," Krakovsky said. "We are now even more motivated to keep doing this. Opportunity could go at any time with every rocket launched."²⁸

Krakovsky, at 41, is the father of two kids and states that he doesn't know which archives he will scan records at in the next year or two due to the unpredictability that comes with the war. "But one thing for sure is that scanning is now much more important than it used to be," he said. "Basically, all archives are willing to work on it. We're open to all of them. Once they want to do it, they know how to find me."²⁹

Searchable Databases

Not only are Ukrainian archive records being posted online, but searchable databases also introduced before and during the war are continuing to be updated. The Ukrainian Martyrologist of the 20th Century database holds information on more than 110,000 people who were persecuted for false Soviet-era crimes. Biographical information and locations of the persecution files are included on victims, with some having their photos posted online. The database, introduced to the public in November 2020, is regularly updated with new information.³⁰

Before the war, the city archives of Kyiv posted a searchable database of more than 19,000 indexed birth records for 1919-1936. The database provides the name and birth year of each person.

In the nearby State Archives of Kyiv Region, more than 360,000 birth, marriage, divorce, and death records can be searched. Archive staff worked for a year to index the records and upload the scanned records to the database, which was introduced during the war, and the staff continue to expand the resource.³¹

Equipment and Service Donations

Scanning records and keeping databases updated are just part of the process to secure Ukrainian archive records. Officials at Ukrainian archives also have been working hard to acquire equipment so records can not only be scanned, but also stored more safely during the war.

Krakovsky has been supplying several Ukrainian archives with scanners free of charge. He has raised more than \$35,000 to buy scanners for archives through a GoFundMe fundraiser.³²

In January 2023, twenty fire-resistant cabinets from Germany arrived in Kyiv and nine archives will use the cabinets to store their records.³³ "The donation from Germany was among almost 6 million Ukrainian hryvnia in financial and material donations that central state archives received in 2022," Khromov said. "Other material donations have included restoration equipment and materials, computer equipment, and diesel generators. The geography of this assistance covers almost the entire world, starting from distant Japan, which provided the Central State Historical Archives of Ukraine in Lviv with unique awagami paper, which is used for the restoration of ancient documents, and ending with our American and Canadian partners."³⁴

"One of the largest cash donations came from the Association of Canadian Archivists, which held an online auction that raised about 10,000 Canadian dollars," Khromov said. The Ukrainian archives announced a charity account in August 2022 on its official website. Fundraising will continue "until the end of the war and the victory of Ukraine."³⁵

Besides the financial and material donations, the National Archives of the United Kingdom made an important agreement with Ukrainian archives in March 2022. National Archives of the United Kingdom agreed to provide server space to Ukrainian archives so scanned records won't be lost during the war.³⁶

Having the support of the National Archives of the United Kingdom is important when Ukrainian archives have struggled nationwide during the war to keep their websites live. The outages of the archives' websites are random and unpredictable. What hasn't been random or unpredictable is the commitment by FamilySearch International, Babyn Yar Holocaust Memorial Center, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and Krakovsky to save archive records for those studying their Ukrainian ancestry.

¹ Anatolii Khromov, e-mail message to author, 15 February 2023.

² State Archival Service of Ukraine, news release (www.archives.gov.ua : accessed 31 January 2023).

³ *State Archival Service of Ukraine*, "Archives in a smartphone: The Inter-Archive Search Portal is presented," published 13 May 2022, *State Archival Service of Ukraine* (www.archives.gov.ua/ : accessed 13 January 2023).

⁴ Anatolii Khromov, e-mail message to author, 15 February 2023.

⁵ State Archival Service of Ukraine, *Interarchive Search Portal* (www.searcharchives.net.ua/ : accessed 10 April 2023).

⁶ Anatolii Khromov, published 14 April 2023 *Facebook* (<https://www.facebook.com/anatoly.khromov>: accessed 15 April 2023).

⁷ Anatolii Khromov, e-mail message to author, 15 February 2023.

⁸ Anatolii Khromov, e-mail message to author, 15 February 2023.

⁹ Anatolii Khromov, published 7 June 2023, *Facebook* (www.facebook.com : accessed 20 June 2023).

¹⁰ State Archival Service of Ukraine, news release (www.archives.gov.ua/ : accessed 31 January 2023).

¹¹ Sasha Sichkarenko, e-mail messages to author, 2022.

¹² Anatolii Khromov, e-mail message to author, 15 February 2023.

¹³ Antoloi Khromov, published 16 March 2023 *Facebook* (www.facebook.com/anatoly.khromov: accessed 4 April 2023).

¹⁴ Antoloi Khromov, published 16 March 2023 *Facebook* (www.facebook.com/anatoly.khromov: accessed 4 April 2023).

¹⁵ Sasha Sichkarenko, e-mail messages to author, 2022.

¹⁶ Sasha Sichkarenko, e-mail messages to author, 2022.

¹⁷ Sasha Sichkarenko, e-mail messages to author, 2022.

¹⁸ Sasha Sichkarenko, e-mail messages to author, 2022.

¹⁹ State Archival Service of Ukraine, "Work of archives in the war conditions". Head of the State Archival Service of Ukraine Anatolii Khromov gave an interview to the TV-channel "Rada," published 25 March 2022 (www.archives.gov.ua : accessed 15 April 2023).

²⁰ Sasha Sichkarenko, e-mail messages to author, 2022.

²¹ Babyn Yar Holocaust Memorial Center (www.babynyar.org : accessed 15 April 2023).

²² Babyn Yar Holocaust Memorial Center, "The Babyn Yar Holocaust Memorial Center released 300,000 important documents from the 20th century," published 14 January 2021 (www.babynyar.org : accessed 3 April 2023).

²³ Babyn Yar Holocaust Memorial Center (www.babynyar.org : accessed 15 April 2023).

²⁴ United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, "Museum Makes Holocaust-Related Ukrainian Archives Available Online," published 29 June 2022 (www.ushmm.org : accessed 15 April 2023).

²⁵ United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, "Museum Makes Holocaust-Related Ukrainian Archives Available Online," published 29 June 2022 (www.ushmm.org : accessed 15 April 2023).

²⁶ Alex Krakovsky, e-mail messages to author, 2020 and 2023.

²⁷ Alex Krakovsky, e-mail messages to author, 2020 and 2023. Also, <https://www.facebook.com/alex.krakovsky>.

²⁸ Alex Krakovsky, e-mail messages to author, 2020 and 2023.

²⁹ Alex Krakovsky, e-mail messages to author, 2020 and 2023.

³⁰ State Archival Service of Ukraine, "Database 'Ukrainian Martyrologist of the 20th Century' is being filled, information on 81,401 repressed persons is available," published 23 March 2022 (<https://archives.gov.ua> : accessed 14 April 2023).

³¹ State Archives of Kyiv Region, published 1 March 2023 (<https://www.facebook.com/dako.gov.ua>: accessed 2 April 2023)

³² <https://www.gofundme.com/f/sb9fr-scanners-for-the-ukrainian-archives>.

³³ State Archival Service of Ukraine, "Ukrainian archives received material aid from partners from Germany," published 20 January 2023 (<https://archives.gov.ua> : accessed 25 January 2023).

³⁴ Anatolii Khromov, e-mail message to author, 6 April 2023.

³⁵ Anatolii Khromov, e-mail message to author, 6 April 2023.

³⁶ State Archival Service of Ukraine, "The first agreement on a backup storage of digital copies of National Archival Fund of Ukraine documents on cloud storage of foreign partners," published 25 March 2022, (www.archives.gov.ua : accessed 30 March 2023).

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and once they were completely dried, I stacked them under heavy books to get them flat again. Through this process, I learned something interesting: some old photographs can indeed get wet and not be harmed if you are careful. You just don't want to keep them in the water too long—a lukewarm bath for about five minutes worked perfectly for me.

I'm sure there are different ways one could sort and catalog a collection of photographs, but back in the early 1990s, this was the route I took. If someone were looking to purchase storage supplies from a company that didn't specialize in archival storage, then I would be very careful to make sure what you buy is acid-free at the very least.

Continuing the Legacy

For me, working on my grandmother's photographs gave my childhood fascination with family history a place to grow. I had a website for many years, but now use Facebook and Instagram to share my grandmother's life and photographs with the world. I have a book that has important dates written in it

including birthdays and events of people's passings. Remembering these dates gives me an opportunity to share a handful of photographs or a little video of photos put to music (often a piece of music by my great-grandfather).

When I get the opportunity to speak to organizations both online and in-person about my family, I try to combine these talks with photographs or slideshows for people to view as well, bringing their stories to life.

I've always had a desire to scan a bunch of old family photographs and create a photo album going as far back as possible, with the names and dates of those I have. I think this would be a wonderful way in the future to share the old photographs with as many different family members as I wanted, or for a family reunion. And these books could be passed down for generations without the concern of deterioration. With that said, I feel fortunate to have shared the time I did with my grandparents, creating my own memories and learning more about theirs. They are treasures I hold close to my heart.



A CLOSER LOOK AT POST-1850 U.S. CENSUS RECORDS

By Julia A. Anderson, MA, AG®

Federal census records, specifically those created in 1850 and afterward, can provide a wealth of family information for genealogical research. This article will help you understand the history and background of U.S. federal census records, gain insight into their genealogical value, and provide tools to help you better incorporate census research into your family history.

History and Background of the U.S. Federal Census

Understanding the history of a record group is important because it provides information about what the records will contain, how reliable they are, and how they changed over time. It can also help us locate the records and use them to our advantage.

The first federal census was taken in 1790, as mandated by the new Constitution of the United States of America, and has been taken every ten years since that time. As the population of the country grew and shifted, the census questions changed to measure the changing demographics. Every federal census taken has been different from the one before, intended to measure things deemed of most importance by contemporary government officials.

Although the census was originally used to determine tax liability and to count the population for accurate governmental representation in the House of Representatives, leaders recognized the value of other information gleaned from these records and incorporated many different types of questions into the census enumeration process. In doing so, they amassed billions of pages of information about our country and its people. Today, results of the census directly affect federal funding for transportation, public health, education, and other needs.

While census takers collected a huge amount of genealogically significant information, it is important



FIGURE 1: Taking the census, 1870.

to remember that that was not the primary purpose of the census. Enumerators did what they had to do to complete their assignments. They were bound by law to visit every dwelling house, family, and individual within their census subdivision.

In case no one was available, the law stated they were to “obtain the required information, as nearly as may be practicable, from the family or families, or person or persons, living nearest to such place of abode.”¹ This may mean that they asked the little sister, the neighbors, or the postmaster for information. Occasionally, they may have just guessed.

Adding to the puzzle, from 1850 to 1870, multiple copies of the census were created so they could be held at county, state, and federal jurisdictions.² First drafts were often much more correct than second and third drafts, but originals were frequently destroyed or neglected, eventually falling into decay or becoming permanently misplaced.

This has led to many errors in census records regarding individuals' names, ages, places of birth, members of the household, and every other piece of information gathered by the enumerators. While this is frustrating to modern researchers, it was also very concerning to Americans at the time the censuses were taken.



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Newspapers from 1860 printed headlines such as the following: “The Census – Some Inevitable Errors,” and “The Blunders of the Census Demonstrated.”¹³ When the number of residents counted on the census in Martinez, California, was vastly different from the number of voter returns, one article noted, “We are forced to the conclusion that the census was very imperfectly taken, or that there has been an immense amount of illegal voting.”¹⁴

One author was particularly insulted by the ignorance of those assigned to take the census. He stated, “It has been positively asserted that many of the Census Marshals that have been appointed can neither read nor write, or if at all acquainted with these mysteries the intimacy is so slight as to constitute a degree of ignorance that utterly disqualifies them for the performance of the task assigned them.”¹⁵

In Charleston, South Carolina, the city decided to take its own census so it would not “suffer a grossly incorrect statement to go forth” on the Federal Census, even though they were unsure whether “there is any provision for amending and correcting the returns.”¹⁶

Census takers did not have it easy. They had to visit every household in the entire country and deal with inclement weather, rough roads, no roads, language barriers, hostile individuals, hostile animals, and every inconvenience imaginable. It was no job for the weak.

From 1790 through 1870, census takers were the U.S. Marshals. The marshals’ main role was to enforce the orders and decisions of the federal courts. They carried out death sentences, pursued counterfeiters, suppressed sedition and rebellion, confiscated property, returned fugitive slaves to their enslavers, and kept law and order in the “Old West.”¹⁷



FIGURE 2: Deputy Marshals and Posse pictured after a fight with Ned Christie in the Indian Territory, November 1892. Back row (left to right): Tom Johnson, Bill Smith, John Tolbit, Abe Allen, Wes Bauman. Front row (left to right): Captain G.S. White, Charles Copeland, Paden Tolbert, Heck Bruner, Dave Rusk. Courtesy of the National Park Service.⁸

They often had deputies to help them fulfill their duties. Imagine one of these deputy marshals coming to your door and asking for all the personal information for you and your household!

Beginning in 1880, census supervisors took over the job of collecting census data from the U.S. Marshals. They oversaw the selection of enumerators, reviewing and transmitting the information back to the census office, and ensuring that enumerators were paid.⁹



FIGURE 3: Transporting census records, 1922.

Types of Census Schedules

Population Schedules

Several different types of census schedules were taken between 1850 and 1940, and the format and content of each schedule changed over time. Of the various types of census schedules, population schedules are the most used for genealogical research because they contain the greatest information about the members of each household.

1850 Population Schedule

The 1850 population schedule was the first federal census that named all the members of the household. Before that, the heads of household were named and others were counted as tick marks in various columns representing age ranges. Significantly, enslaved persons were not considered members of the household and were not enumerated by name in federal census records until after emancipation.

This census lists the age, sex, and birthplace of each person, which information is important in identifying the correct individuals and can lead to other helpful records. It also tells whether a person was married within the past year. From this information, you can



often extrapolate an approximate marriage date and place. This enumeration gives the occupation of males over the age of 16. In rural areas, most were usually farmers, but in cities and towns there was generally a wide variety of trades represented. It also lists the value of real estate owned by the head of household, which can lead to locating land records and forming hypotheses about their standard of living.

It is very important to note that the 1850 census does not list relationships. A man, woman, and children living in the same household could be a father, mother, and their children; it could also be any other combination of related and/or unrelated people. Be very careful not to assume relationships from these records, even if the surname of each person appears to be the same.

At the top of the census page, it tells where the census was taken. It also gives the enumeration date. Federal law proclaimed a certain date to be the census day, and every piece of information gathered was supposed to reflect how things were on that particular date. The enumeration day was the day the information was collected. Sometimes the enumerator did not explain the rules about the census day or did not understand them, so the information on the census might have been correct on either the census day or the enumeration date. From 1850-1900, the census day was June 1st.¹⁰

1860 Population Schedule

The 1860 census was very similar to the 1850 census. A column was added regarding the value of personal estate and more specific information regarding one's country of birth was given. Instead of Great Britain, for example, enumerators were to record whether the person was from England, Ireland, Wales, and so forth.¹¹ Not all enumerators followed those instructions, however. Like the 1850 census, no relationships were given in this record.¹²

1870 Population Schedule

The 1870 census was the first federal census taken after emancipation and is therefore the first census to include all people in the United States. It is a key record when searching for previously enslaved persons. The 1870 census asked for a little more personal information than the 1860 census, such as: whether the individual's father or mother was foreign-born; if a child was born within the past year, and the month of birth; and if someone was a male citizen over the age of 21, and whether they had voting rights. Again, this census did not list relationships.¹³

1880 Population Schedule

The 1880 census is a key record for genealogists because it directly stated the relationships of each individual in a household to the head of house, gave each person's marital status, and gave the parents' birthplaces for each individual.

This census also gave the option of listing a street address for city dwellers, personal health information, and the number of months a person had been unemployed in the previous year.¹⁴

1890 Population Schedule

The 1890 census is a special case, and as a result, you will likely not see it in your regular research. Each household had its own page of information, which included the home address; Civil War Veteran status, and whether the person fought for the Union or the Confederacy, or was a veteran's widow; and how many children a woman had given birth to, and how many were still living. If the person was foreign-born, it recorded how many years they had been in the U.S. and whether they were naturalized. Also included in the census information were the languages spoken by each individual, the number of months they had been employed in the past year, whether their home was rented or owned, and if it was mortgaged.¹⁵

In 1921, nearly the entire 1890 census was burned in a fire.¹⁶ No copies were made.

1900 Population Schedule

The 1900 census enumeration added some very helpful questions for genealogists, including the month and year of each person's birth and the number of years each couple had been married.

Like the 1890 census, questions were asked regarding the number of children born and how many were still living, how long an immigrant had been in the country and whether they had been naturalized, and whether the person's home or farm was owned or rented.¹⁷

1910 Population Schedule

New questions on the 1910 census asked about the number of marriages the person had had, more details about the nature of the individual's occupation, and repeated the questions from the 1900 census about immigration year and naturalization status.¹⁸

1920 Population Schedule

The 1920 census added a question about the year of an immigrant's naturalization. Also, instead of enumerating military servicemen with their families, they were counted at their duty posts. Unfortunately,

questions about the number of children a woman had borne and how many years a couple had been married were removed. The census also added the first language of each person and both of their parents in addition to their places of birth.¹⁹

Not only does this give great information about the family's arrival in the United States, but it can also give the researcher a sense of the demographic of the entire neighborhood.

1930 Population Schedule

The 1930 census collected home data, such as whether the home was owned or rented and its value or rental fee. It also added a person's age at their first marriage (note that this is not the number of years married as in earlier census records, and did not necessarily pertain to the person's current marriage). This can give clues to earlier marriages and lead to finding additional records.

Other questions added in 1930 were whether the person attended school or college during the past school year, whether the household owned a radio set, whether the person was actually at work the previous workday, and whether the person was a veteran and which war or expedition they took part in.²⁰

1940 Population Schedule

In 1940, the informant for the census was identified. This is very helpful in deciding how reliable the information is. The person was marked by an X with a circle around it. For two people listed on each page (those enumerated on designated lines), supplemental information was collected and recorded at the bottom of the sheet. Residence in 1935 was recorded, which can help track a family's migration and locate other records. Also included in this census was the highest school grade completed for each person in the household.²¹

1950 Population Schedule

The 1950 census was released to the public on April 1, 2022, following its 72-year waiting period. It contains personal information, details about employment and hours worked, changes in living arrangements in the past year, parents' birthplaces, education, and detailed questions on household income, military service, and information on marriages and childbirth.²²

This census also had a housing questionnaire that asked about the type of living quarters, water supply (including flush toilets), cooking fuel, heating equipment, age of structure, electricity, radio, and even bathtubs and showers.²³

Non-population Schedules

Between 1810 and 1900, the United States census included supplemental schedules covering topics of statistical importance. Not every census covered every topic, and earlier non-population schedules usually collected less information than those in later years.

Some of the non-population schedules include mortality, slave, agricultural, manufacturing, and veterans schedules. Sometimes these can hold the key to finding out more about your ancestors' lives, and they are definitely worth searching.²⁴

Mortality Schedules

Mortality schedules contained supplemental information about people who died in the year preceding the census day. These schedules (as taken in federal censuses) exist for the years between 1850 and 1880.²⁵ They included the person's name, age at their last birthday, sex, race, marital status, occupation, birthplace of the person and their parents, length of residence in the county, the month in which the person died, their disease or cause of death and where that disease was contracted, and the name of the attending physician.

Slave Schedules

Slave schedules were taken in 1850 and 1860 and exist for the southern states that held enslaved people. Information on these documents includes the name of the enslaver; the age, sex, and color of each enslaved person; whether the individual was a fugitive (runaway); the number of individuals manumitted (freed); and the number of individuals who were "deaf and dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic." These records did not generally list the names of the enslaved unless they were over the age of 100.²⁶

Agricultural Schedules

Agricultural schedules are available for 1850-1880. They gave information about farms and what they produced. It is important to note that not every farm was included in these schedules. In 1850, for example, small farms that produced less than \$100 worth of products annually were not listed. By 1870, only farms of more than three acres or farms that produced more than \$500 worth of products were enumerated.²⁷

Information typically found on an agricultural schedule includes the name of the land owner, agent, or manager of the farm; the number of acres of cultivated land and woodland, as well as the cash value of the farm; the number and types of crops and other items produced; the number, types, and value



of livestock (horses, cattle, sheep, and swine); and the value of homemade manufactures.

Manufacturing Schedules

Manufacturing schedules contained information about processes that produced more than \$500 worth of goods. They are available for the years 1850-1880 and may include the name of the manufacturer, the type of business or product, the amount of investment capital put into the operation, raw materials used, the annual production, machinery, and the number of employees and labor costs.²⁸

Veterans' Schedules

Veterans' schedules were taken a couple of times in the history of the census, including one in 1890. It included separate schedules of Union Civil War veterans or their widows and listed some Confederate veterans. The 1890 veterans' schedules provided spaces for the following information: the names of surviving soldiers, sailors, marines, and widows; military rank; the name of the regiment or vessel; date of enlistment; date of discharge; length of military service; post office address; and disability incurred.

Since such a large percentage of the U.S. population served in the Civil War, these veterans' schedules are often used as a partial substitute for the 1890 federal census, which was destroyed by fire. Note that some of these veterans' schedules were also burned, but many are extant.²⁹

Other non-population schedules

Other schedules like Social Statistics (1850-1870); Delinquent, Defective, and Dependent Classes (1880); and Business Schedules (1935) can give even more information about your ancestors and the places where they lived.³⁰

Genealogical Value of Post-1850 Census Records

As noted, the post-1850 U.S. census records contain a wide variety of important genealogical information.

Some examples of items of exceptional genealogical value are:

- Full names or alternate names of individuals
- Family relationships – directly or indirectly stated
- Birth dates and places
- Number of children, both living and dead
- Marriage information

Other genealogically pertinent information may include:

- Education
- Disease or disability
- Immigration and migration data
- Property ownership
- Occupation
- Veteran status

This information is helpful for learning about the lives of our ancestors and tracking them in additional records.

Best Practices for Post-1850 Census Research

1. Work backward in time

It is usually a good idea to work backward in time from known information to unknown. This ensures that you are searching for the right people in the right places at the right time.

2. Find every census

Locate your ancestors in every census during their lifetimes, where possible. Each census contains different information and more clues that will lead to more records.

3. Remember name variations

Remember to look for multiple name variations, nicknames, and initials. You never really know how an enumerator may have written down what your ancestor told him, and many errors have been made by well-meaning indexers trying to decipher poor handwriting.

4. Look at the original image

Always look at the original image, not just the index. The original contains much more information and indexes are often filled with errors. You can also see your ancestors within the context of their neighborhoods, which can greatly help in solving complex research problems.

5. Copy all the information

Read and record all the information given – check every single column. Don't forget to write down the information at the top of the page! This includes the post office, county name, state, enumeration district, page or sheet number, enumeration date, etc.

6. Use extraction forms

As you copy down the information, you can use pre-printed forms to save time and energy and help you

focus on the evidence. The National Archives offers free extraction forms on its website and there are also free forms available at FamilySearch.³¹

7. Notice everyone in the household

Always look at everyone in the household – not just your ancestor. He or she may be staying with relatives or friends and there may be valuable clues hiding in plain sight.

8. Notice the neighborhood

After examining the household, don't forget to look beyond it at the entire neighborhood. Note families living nearby with the same or related surnames. Note other immigrants from the same country or region or individuals with the same occupation.

9. Look at historical maps

Studying maps may help you identify places where your ancestor lived. Look for landmarks like schools, churches, mountains, and bodies of water. These can provide clues to where your family studied, worshiped, worked, and sought recreation.

10. Follow clues to other records

An approximate marriage date can lead to marriage records. An immigration date can lead to passenger lists. Locations for children's births can show a family's migration pattern.³² After extracting evidence from the census, follow the clues to other records.

Tips for finding elusive ancestors

If you have looked repeatedly and cannot seem to find your ancestor in a particular census, try these tips:

1. Use creative spelling. Think phonetically or try spelling the name how someone might if they were from a foreign country.
2. Look in multiple census databases. They were probably indexed by different people and your ancestors may be easier to find in one than another.
3. Search for known family members. Sometimes it may be easier to look for Ebenezer Stradivarius Smith than to look for his brother, John Smith. Seek out family members with more unusual names.
4. Search for known neighbors. If your ancestor lived next to the Duncan Voorhies family for 50 years, you could try searching for those neighbors in the census if your family turns up missing.
5. Look through all records in your ancestor's last-known locality. Forget the indexes entirely and read

the census page-by-page for the area where you know your family lived.

6. Check non-population schedules. Maybe an elusive ancestor was missed in the population schedule, but his farm was listed on the agricultural schedule.
7. Information may be wildly incorrect or different from what you expect. Remember that a neighbor might have provided the data to the enumerator. Are there any similarities to the family you are seeking? Could the first and last names have been exchanged? For instance, was Davis Jones listed as Jones Davis in the index?
8. Don't forget that women may have changed surnames. Check marriage records and look for children of blended families under both surnames.
9. Create a timeline of your ancestor's life. Then, you can identify gaps and fill those in with evidence from additional records.

Using Census Clues to Find Additional Records

Census information often leads to other records of genealogical value.

With an age from the census, I can determine an approximate birthdate and then maybe locate birth or christening records. Age at first marriage or length of a marriage can lead to an approximate wedding date and location to look for marriage records. Evidence of property ownership can lead to land deeds, mortgages, and tax records. The history of military service leads to military records. An immigration and naturalization date can lead to passenger lists and naturalization petitions. If I know where someone's parents and/or children were born, I can identify family migration patterns and find more records along the way.

The FamilySearch Research Wiki has a very helpful page called, "Using the Census to find other records about ancestors."³³ It is filled with additional ideas about locating further records.

Finding Census Records

It is fairly easy to access census records nowadays. Several major databases have indexed images, such as FamilySearch, Ancestry, MyHeritage, and FindmyPast. Some of these are free to use and others require a subscription; however, all are available for free for guests to use at the FamilySearch Library and

FamilySearch Centers. Remember that if you can't find your ancestor in one database, try another because each has a different search engine and each was indexed differently.

Rather than doing general searches in all historical records, try searching each census individually. Do not enter too many search parameters at first, or the right entry may be missed. Many libraries and archives, including the FamilySearch Library, also have books of census transcriptions and indexes available for guests to view.

Conclusion

Whether you are new to family history or are a seasoned expert, census records can provide a wealth of genealogical information and serve as a catalyst for finding other historical records. An understanding of their history and background provides context for the evidence within and helps us properly analyze and evaluate their contents. By comparing the various schedules over time, we can create a picture of our family story that will stand the test of time.



FIGURE 4: Taking the census, 1920.

¹ United States Census Bureau, "1880 Overview," (www.census.gov : accessed 1 February 2022).

² "1850 Census Act," Thirty-first Congress, Session I, Chapter IX, 23 May 1850, *National Archives and Records Administration* (www.archives.gov : accessed 1 February 2022).

³ "The Census—Some Inevitable Errors," *The New York Times*, 6 August 1860, 4, *Newspapers* (www.newspapers.com : accessed 1 February 2022). Also, "The Blunders of the Census Demonstrated," *The Philadelphia Inquirer* (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania), 10 December 1860, 4, *Newspapers* (www.newspapers.com : accessed 1 February 2022).

⁴ "The Census of California," *Contra Costa Gazette* Martinez, California, 1 December 1860, 2, *Newspapers* (www.newspapers.com : accessed 1 February 2022).

⁵ "The Census—Slightly Personal and Professional [sic]," *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, 24 August 1860, 2, *Newspapers* (www.newspapers.com : accessed 1 February 2022).

⁶ "The City Census," *The Charleston Daily Courier*, 18 October 1860, 2, *Newspapers* (www.newspapers.com : accessed 1 February 2022).

⁷ Guide to Federal Records, "Records of the U.S. Marshals Service," *National Archives and Records Administration* (www.archives.gov : accessed 1 February 2022). Also, "U.S. Marshals – Two Centuries of Bravery," *Legends of America* (www.legendsofamerica.com : accessed 1 February 2022).

⁸ University of Arkansas, "Deputy Marshals and Posse pictured after a fight with Ned Christie in the Indian Territory, November 1892," *University Libraries Digital Collections* (www.digitalcollections.uark.edu : accessed 1 February 2022).

⁹ United States Census Bureau, "1880 Overview," (www.

census.gov : accessed 1 February 2022).

¹⁰ "1850 Census Records," *National Archives and Records Administration* (www.archives.gov : accessed 1 February 2022).

¹¹ "Eighth Census, United States. – 1860: Instructions to the Marshals," *United States Census Bureau* (www2.census.gov : accessed 1 February 2022).

¹² "1860 Census Records," *National Archives and Records Administration* (www.archives.gov : accessed 1 February 2022).

¹³ "1870 Census Records," *National Archives and Records Administration* (www.archives.gov : accessed 1 February 2022).

¹⁴ United States Census Bureau, "History – 1880," (www.census.gov : accessed 1 February 2022).

¹⁵ United States Census Bureau, "History – 1890," (www.census.gov : accessed 1 February 2022).

¹⁶ "1890 Census," *National Archives and Records Administration* (www.archives.gov : accessed 1 February 2022).

¹⁷ United States Census Bureau, "History – 1900," (www.census.gov : accessed 1 February 2022).

¹⁸ United States Census Bureau, "History – 1910," (www.census.gov : accessed 1 February 2022).

¹⁹ United States Census Bureau, "History – 1920," (www.census.gov : accessed 1 February 2022).

²⁰ United States Census Bureau, "History – 1930," (www.census.gov : accessed 1 February 2022).

²¹ United States Census Bureau, "History – 1940," (www.census.gov : accessed 1 February 2022).

²² United States Census Bureau, "History – 1950 (Population)," (www.census.gov : accessed 1 February 2022).

²³ United States Census Bureau, "History – 1950 (Housing)," (www.census.gov : accessed 1 February 2022).

²⁴ "Nonpopulation Census Records," *National Archives and Records Administration* (www.archives.gov : accessed 1 February 2022).

²⁵ United States Census Bureau, "Mortality Schedules," (www.census.gov : accessed 1 March 2022).

²⁶ United States Census Bureau, "Slave Schedules," (www.census.gov : accessed 1 March 2022).

²⁷ United States Census Bureau, "Agricultural Schedules: 1850 to 1900," (www.census.gov : accessed March 2022).

²⁸ U.S. Census Bureau, "Manufacturing Schedules," (www.census.gov : accessed 1 March 2022).

²⁹ Kellee Blake, "First in the Path of the Firemen: The Fate of the 1890 Population Census, Part 2," *Prologue Magazine* 28, no. 1 (Spring 1996), (www.archives.gov : accessed 1 March 2022).

³⁰ "Nonpopulation Census Records: 1935 Business Roll Lists," *National Archives and Records Administration* (www.archives.gov : accessed 1 March 2022).

³¹ "Charts and Forms," *National Archives and Records Administration* (www.archives.gov : accessed 1 March 2022). Also, "Genealogy Research Forms," *FamilySearch Research Wiki* (www.familysearch.org : accessed 1 March 2022).

³² "Clues in Census Records," *National Archives and Records Administration* (www.archives.gov : accessed 1 February 2022).

³³ "Using the Census to find other records about ancestors," *FamilySearch Research Wiki*, (www.familysearch.org : accessed February 2022).

LIFE SKETCH OF WILLARD GLOVER MCMULLIN

Submitted by Bernice Payne, Member, Utah Genealogical Association

Willard Glover McMullin was born in Vinalhaven, Waldo, Maine, in 1823. He lived in Vinalhaven, a town on North Fox Island, 10 miles off the coast of Maine, until he was nineteen years old. When he was fourteen, a Mormon Elder by the name of Wilford Woodruff came to the Fox Islands and Willard was converted to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Six months after he was baptized, Willard was called to serve a mission in Maine, where he met and married his wife, Mary Richards. Three weeks after their wedding, Willard and Mary left for the city of Nauvoo. Of leaving, Willard said "The hardest thing was leaving my mother, knowing we would never see each other again."

Brigham Young sealed Willard and Mary in the Nauvoo Temple in 1846. Shortly after, Mary's sister, Martha Richards, came to live with them. The family contracted the measles, and Mary and their two children, Willard and Mary, died from complications from the illness. Encouraged by Brigham Young, Willard married his sister-in-law Martha, so they could travel together to Utah. They headed west in 1848, after staying a year in Winter Quarters. Brigham Young led the train of 500 wagons, arriving in Salt Lake City on 20 September 1848. The following year, Willard and Martha were asked by Brigham Young to take Sarah Stubbs into their home. She was ill and in the last stages of consumption. Martha cared for Sarah for about four months, and before she died, Brigham Young came to the McMullins home in the 6th Ward and sealed Sarah to Willard.

Martha and Willard had two children that were born and died by May of 1850. A third child was born, Brigham Young McMullin, in March 1851. Census records show that at the request of Brigham Young, the McMullins raised three orphan boys – James, Thomas, and William – for some time.

The McMullin family was asked to help settle the Weber Valley (about 40 miles north of Salt Lake Valley) in the fall of 1852. That April, Willard was called to go on a mission to Warwickshire, England. He left in June and on his way stopped over in Maine to visit his relatives. He had stepsiblings still living there. Willard's father had died in 1837, and his mother in 1847. He boarded a steam ship in Boston and eleven days later arrived in England. He served his mission for eighteen months and five days.

On his return voyage from England, Willard was among 570 saints aboard the ship *Juventa*. The ship was divided into twelve wards, one of which he presided over. While on

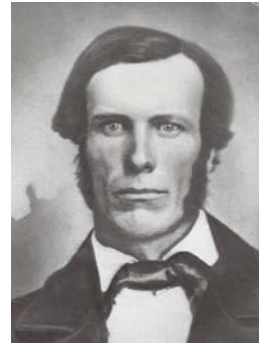
the ship he met Mary Ann Holmes, who was eighteen years of age and had left her family in England to accompany the saints to Zion. They arrived back in Utah in the fall of 1855. They went to East Weber to get Martha, and the three of them journeyed to Salt Lake to be sealed in the Endowment House.

In 1858, the McMullin family helped to colonize Payson, Utah. Willard became a schoolteacher and the baptizer for the community. A few years later, President Young called for volunteers to organize the Cotton Mission to the Washington Valley and the McMullin family left for Harrisburg in November 1862. Willard built two large, comfortable two-story stone houses in Harrisburg for his family. They faced a large quadrangle dooryard of paved flagstones. Willard must have trained at an early age as a stone mason. He was talented in building beautiful arched windows. Those in the St. George Temple, the Wells Fargo building at Silver Reef, Utah, and the Stone Tithing Office in Leeds, Utah, were built by him. His son Brigham Young McMullin said Willard also did stonework on the Nauvoo Temple.

Martha died in 1867 at the age of fifty-three. She was the mother of five children and three foster boys. A very compassionate and caring lady, she helped provide food and medical care for the Native Americans in the Weber Valley. On 18 October 1884, after a hearty supper, Willard retired and was suddenly violently ill, hemorrhaging from the mouth. He died before help could be summoned from a neighbor. Mary Ann died on 12 September 1895, at the age of 59 years. She was the mother of 8 children. Willard McMullin and his wives are buried in the Harrisburg Cemetery in Washington County, Utah.

Willard's son Brigham Young McMullin said of him in his obituary: "He has well and faithfully performed every labor assigned him. He sought not the riches of this earth but to lay up treasures in heaven; and has now gone to the paradise of God to await the morning of the first resurrection."

NOTE: Polygamy, the marriage of more than one woman to the same man, was a part of the teachings of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for a half-century. Today the practice of polygamy is strictly prohibited in the Church, as it has been for over a century.



**The UGA Utah First Families program honors both Founding and Territorial Pioneers of Utah.
To learn more about this program, please visit UGAGenealogy.org.**



Crossroads for Kids

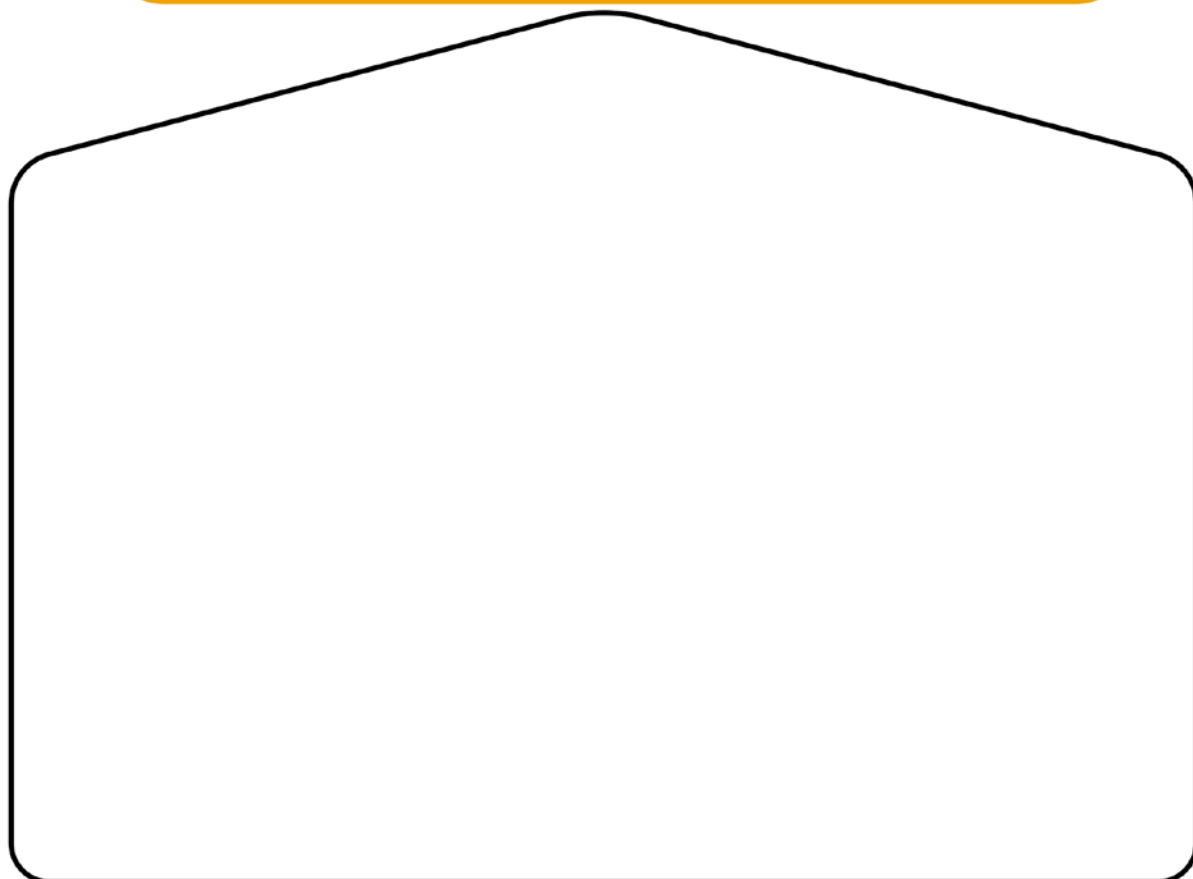
inviting kids to connect
with their ancestors

Censuses!

What are they? What do they have to do with me? What do they have to do with family history and genealogy? Read on to find out!

A census is an official count or list of everyone living in a certain area at a certain point in time. Depending on what year it was recorded, censuses contain different information. They often include details about the individuals listed, for example, their age, birthplace, occupation, marital status, and more!

Each home and family is unique! If the census were taken today, who would be in your home? Draw a picture of your family in the house below!





While they were recorded for a number of reasons (population count, government representation, etc.), once available to the public, censuses can provide a valuable snapshot of your ancestor's life at a certain point in time. Finding the same ancestor in multiple censuses allows you to make a sort of "outline" of your ancestor's life and can be a huge help in discovering more about your family history!

Trace the lines with different colors to discover when different countries took their first national census and how frequently it is currently taken.



United Kingdom



Australia



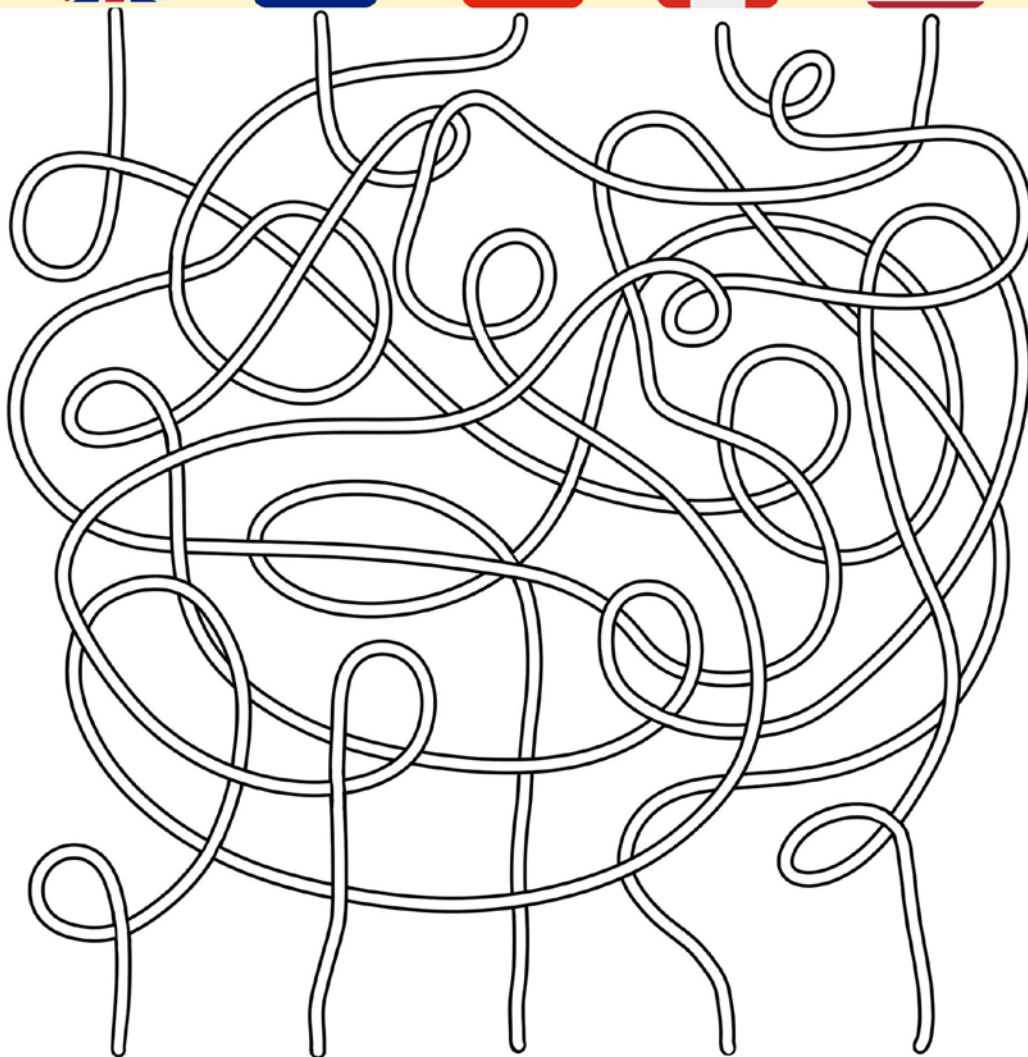
China



Canada



United States



1790

(every 10 years)

1871

(every 5 years)

1801

(every 10 years)

1953

(every 10 years)

1911

(every 5 years)



THE SLIG EXPERIENCE

By Eliza Watson

At a recent book signing, a woman questioned my qualifications for writing a genealogy research book. I rattled off my sixteen years of hands-on experience, including tracing hundreds of family lines in five countries and solving several unknown parentage cases. She bought the book. Even though the woman was satisfied with my background, her question was a pivotal point in my career. I decided it was time to acquire some "official" credentials.

I enrolled in my first course through the SLIG Academy this past spring, Fundamentals of Forensic Genealogy. Industry experts taught this fascinating course with topics such as locating missing and unknown heirs, MIA/POW repatriation, and solving unknown parentage cases. I participated in the Academy's first asynchronous course that allows attendees to view recordings of the live Zoom classes. A weekly Q & A session provided the opportunity to interact with instructors and fellow students. Several international students gave insight into researching their areas of the world. I enjoyed the program so much I signed up for the advanced course, Beyond Fundamentals: Hands-on Forensic Genealogy, at the Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh.

Each spring SLIG Academy for Professionals offers high-intermediate to advanced education programs designed for industry professionals and aspiring genealogists. The live Zoom courses are held weekly from February to April and the recorded sessions can be rewatched. Courses provide a detailed syllabus and handouts, and some have closed Facebook groups and homework assignments. The virtual meetings allow for a more geographically diverse group of attendees than in-person ones. These elements all enhance your learning experience.

I plan to attend the 29th Annual Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy virtual conference in January 2024. In 2007, I had to choose between attending a week-long writers' conference or taking my first trip to Ireland. After I calculated the conference fee, hotel, airfare, meals, and a new outfit or two, it was cheaper for me to visit my ancestor's homeland. During my Ireland visit, I became hooked on genealogy. Saving money by attending virtual meetings enables me to continue taking research trips. Another benefit of virtual conferences is not having to

try to squeeze into packed meeting rooms to watch a popular session.

Thanks to the recent increase in virtual meetings, I am building my resume much more quickly and cost effectively than I could have five years ago. The fall program is structured in the same way as the Spring Virtual except courses also include beginner to advanced levels. It was hard to choose just one, but I've enrolled in the Intermediate Evidence Analysis Practicum. The hands-on experience solving two cases sounds like the perfect challenge. I cannot wait to see what educational opportunities await me at SLIG!

Attending Virtual Conference In-Person *Interview with Irene Rossman*

Irene Rossman has completed numerous genealogy certificate programs, including earning a graduate certificate in forensic genetic genealogy through the Henry C. Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Sciences, University of New Haven, Connecticut. Currently she assists various agencies with identifying violent offenders and unknown human remains. She attended SLIG in-person for the first time in 2020. The following year when the conference became virtual, she and a group of genealogist friends decided to meet up in Salt Lake City and attend SLIG 2021 Virtual, in-person. I thought this was a brilliant idea and asked Irene if she could please provide some insight about their gatherings.

Tell us a bit about your group that meets in Salt Lake to attend the virtual conference. Are you part of a local genealogy group or online group?

We are a group of friends that met over time at various educational institutes and programs, such as the BU certificate program, ProGen, SLIG, and others. Despite living in four different time zones and having an age range of four decades, our bond has grown over the last five years. We text almost daily and socialize via Zoom at least weekly. We share funny names found in documents, rely on each other's expertise in various areas, cheer on each other's wins, and support each other in times of loss and hardship. We came for the genealogy and stayed for the friendship.



Eliza Watson is a USA Today bestselling author and genealogist. She has researched hundreds of Irish and Scottish lines and has done extensive research in Canada, England, and the US. Eliza's genealogy adventures inspired her nonfiction book, *Genealogy Tips & Quips*, and two fiction series set in Ireland, Scotland, and England. She writes a genealogy column for her monthly author newsletter and articles for genealogical publications. In 2013, she fulfilled her dream of owning a home in Ireland when she and her husband bought a renovated 1887 schoolhouse in her Coffey ancestors' townland. Learn more about Eliza at www.elizawatson.com.

Where do you gather to watch the conference's virtual sessions?

Last year we rented an Airbnb in Salt Lake City about a half a mile from the FamilySearch Library. One of my daughters tested positive for COVID-19 hours before I was supposed to leave for the airport, so I attended my virtual sessions from home, while my friends attended theirs in various parts of the home we rented.

Do you meet up with other groups also attending virtually to network?

We are a tight group of friends that love to network. We meet up with fellow alumni from the various educational programs we have completed and see friends from other institutes and conferences. That's how our group has grown.

What are three tips for other people wanting to attend the virtual conference in-person?

1) We eat most dinners together, so we learned that meal planning and grocery shopping together has worked best. Two of us aren't partial to cooking, so we do more of the after-dinner cleanup. 2) Having a sense of who can room with others and who prefers their own room helps. Thankfully, we're a harmonious group. 3) Prepare your technology ahead of time. Make sure your devices work and remember the chargers. Make a packing list and don't forget to check it! When that fails, and it has, we utilize Amazon and local stores to solve our problems.

Anything else you would like to share?

Making friends in the genealogy community has been the most rewarding thing I could have done, and I wouldn't be where I am professionally without them. They have encouraged me to pursue volunteer positions and other opportunities that I never would have considered. For anyone who hasn't found "their people" yet within the genealogy community, I recommend giving virtual and/or in-person educational opportunities a try.

SLIG Academy Australian Student Interview with Christine Cavanagh

My interest in family history began in the 1980s, fostered by both maternal and paternal aunts who shared oral histories and details of close family connections. Neither had done any formal research and I took on that role.

Great-grandparents on both sides had arrived from other Australian states or from England, and there was no family knowledge of their backgrounds. Local great-grandparents had descended from convict and Aboriginal ancestors, and their backgrounds had been well hidden from successive generations.

That interest led to involvement with research groups, to the point that I have now been the convenor of the DNA interest group for FamilyHistoryWA (the State family

history society located in Western Australia) for the past 5 years. A desire to ensure a professional approach whilst making presentations to community groups and assisting others with their research led me to seek opportunities to expand my knowledge, as well as my writing and organizational skills.

I do have a day job – as an accountant and tax agent. I hold a Bachelor of Business degree, and more recently completed a Certificate in Genealogical Studies from the Society of Australian Genealogists in 2022.

Living in Australia, you save a lot of money by attending virtual rather than in-person meetings or conferences. What are the other benefits of virtual attendance for you?

Physical attendance for so many SLIG courses would have been impossible, and I am very grateful for the opportunity to attend virtually. It is a time-consuming journey, and costly to travel from Western Australia to the USA, not to mention the possibility of jet-lag impeding concentration in class.

Planning for other daylight activities is required to attend classes, as the current sessions start just after midnight our time and go through until 3:30 AM. SLIG Academy classes are easier because of the shorter length. SLIG classes run through the whole of our night hours, causing more disruption to usual activities.

However, these specifically focused educational opportunities are just not widely available and can be managed from a distance because they are short courses. Longer courses may have more recorded content and less interaction, and are not preferred.

The lack of physical interaction and conversation with teachers and other attendees is definitely missed with virtual sessions. There is ample opportunity for questions and follow-ups which helps with some issues.

Have you taken previous SLIG Academy courses? If so, which was your favorite and why?

I am currently enrolled in the SLIG Academy course "Fundamentals of Forensic Genealogy."

Previous courses:

SLIG Academy Feb 2022 – "Writing and Documenting for Peer Review"

SLIG Jan 2023 – "DNA Dreamers: Integrating DNA Evidence to Resolve Complex Cases"

SLIG Jan 2022 – "DNA Dreamers in Action: Writing Proof Arguments"

I don't have a favorite course – they have all had wonderful teachers and course material. The courses taken reflect the skills that I am seeking to improve. A side benefit has been observing what other participants' goals are and the possibilities for a professional career.



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Intermediate Evidence Analysis Practicum
Proving Your Pedigree with DNA
Discovering Quaker Records – In the US and the British Isles
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Advanced Evidence Analysis Practicum

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Angela Packer McGhie, CG, FUGA
Karen Stanbary, MA, LCSW, CG
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Jan Joyce, DBA, CG, CGL, AG
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Annette Burke Lyttle, MA
D. Joshua Taylor, MA, MLS, FUGA
Debra A. Hoffman, PLCGS
Angela Packer McGhie, CG, FUGA
Karen Stanbary, MA, LCSW, CG
Karen Mauer Jones, CG, FGBS, FUGA



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The Fundamentals of Southern U.S. Research and Resources

Integrating DNA Evidence to Resolve Complex Cases

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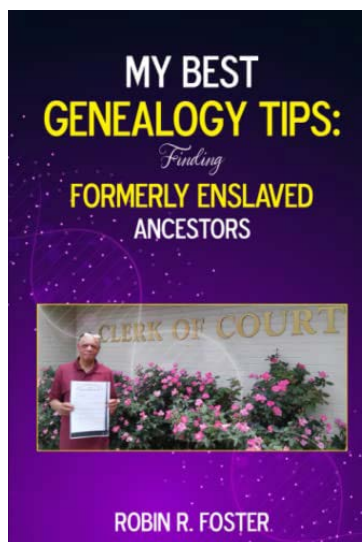
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MY BEST GENEALOGY TIPS: FINDING FORMERLY ENSLAVED ANCESTORS

Reviewed by Allison Kotter

My Best Genealogy Tips: Finding Formerly Enslaved Ancestors
By Robin R. Foster

ISBN 979-8-8399-3473-3

Published 2022 / Benjamin Book Publishing, LLC

My Best Genealogy Tips: Finding Formerly Enslaved Ancestors by Robin R. Foster is an excellent resource for anyone looking to find more information about their African-American history. The book is chock-full of inspiring stories, helpful tips, and small case studies that can help as you're trying to break down your latest brick wall. The author, Robin R. Foster, focuses on her own experience of discovering her ancestors through oral history, cemetery research, and documentary research. She also shares many touching stories of what finding these ancestors felt like along the way.

The book begins with a beautiful dedication to Foster's great-grandfather, who she never met, Lafayette Franklin Vance. It encompasses how many genealogists feel about their ancestors as she talks about how grateful she is to have learned about him in her research. This dedication sets the scene for the book. I was initially expecting a how-to guide for African-American research. While the book does describe effective research methodology, overall it focuses more on the feeling and power we experience when researching our ancestors.

Foster has two main purposes in her book. Her first goal was to show examples and give tips on how to research your formerly enslaved ancestors. A second endeavor was to share the joy and excitement the author has felt while conducting her research. These two purposes overlap in almost every chapter, and you will find yourself cheering along with Robin when she finally finds that elusive record she's been looking for!

For example, in Chapter 13, Robin shares her story of researching her great-great-grandfather, Beverly Vance.

Beverly Vance was included in "a collection of accounts given by Republicans and Democrats outlining an investigation into the interference of voting privileges of African-Americans and others who supported the Republican party" (p. 58). Robin shares the touching experience she had while reading this record for the first time:

"After I submitted my request for the book to be brought to the table where I sat, my heart pounded, and that moment of anticipation caused me to realize for the first time I would be able to see and hold in my hands a record created during the lifetime of my ancestor. The fact that the words he spoke in 1876 were preserved for me to be able to read forged an everlasting reverence for the place where I sat waiting. As the librarian placed the volume in my hands and slowly walked away, I turned to the referenced page and my eyes fell upon his name. That was a very emotional moment for me. As I read the testimony, more of the story of Beverly's life unfolded before me."

Robin then shares the record she read that day, which is an eleven-page interview with Beverly. The record is incredibly interesting, especially for those who want to know more about what life was like for these new voters after the Civil War. It is also a great example of the variety of types of records that your ancestor could be included in!

While following different lines of Robin's family, there are many names and dates mentioned that can be hard to follow. I wished that the book had started with a family tree that clearly showed how all the people discussed in the book are connected. It would also have been helpful



Allison Kotter is a professional genealogist pursuing accreditation in the Southeast US. She works with FamilyLockett 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 three little kids as possible.



to see more source citations throughout the book. While there are source citations associated with each image and figure included, facts mentioned in the narrative are not sourced with footnotes or endnotes, which would have been a helpful addition. The index at the end of the book is thorough and helpful when you want to find a specific topic.

Overall, this is a book I will definitely keep on my bookshelf. Not only does it serve as an inspiration to anyone thinking

the answers aren't out there, but it also gives amazing examples and tips for multiple research strategies specific to researching formerly enslaved ancestors. The author is very involved in helping her readers learn more about their families. She runs multiple Facebook groups focused on using the strategies mentioned in her books to help people have the experiences she has enjoyed in her research. If you are researching formerly enslaved ancestors, order a copy of *My Best Genealogy Tips: Finding Formerly Enslaved Ancestors* by Robin R. Foster to get you on your way!

ALSO ON OUR BOOKSHELVES...



Researching your Kentucky roots is not always easy. Kentucky, a key gateway to westward expansion, is a place where most Americans have at least one ancestor who resided or migrated through the state. The diaspora of Kentucky people all over the United States and abroad means records can be located anywhere.

Prior to European settlement, the land which is present-day

Kentucky was the homeland of various indigenous people including the Shawnee and Cherokee going back countless generations. Europeans migrated to Kentucky for various reasons, some of which were economic motivations, to own land, and to flee religious persecution. Early ancestors traveled over mountainous terrain or on flatboats navigating the Ohio River. They traveled by foot, via wagon trains, on stagecoaches, and later on railroads.

The *Essential Guide to Kentucky Family Research* was compiled to help genealogists piece together their Kentucky roots. The guide includes a series of chapters to help the researcher understand how to research in Kentucky.

The purchase of this book supports the Kentucky Digitization Grant Fund. This fund, operated by the Kentucky Genealogical Society, exists to digitize rare, one-of-a-kind Kentucky records that are sitting on shelves collecting dust throughout the Commonwealth. Many Kentucky records are not digitized and are not online.

Essential Guide to Kentucky Family Research

ISBN 979-8-218-16884-1

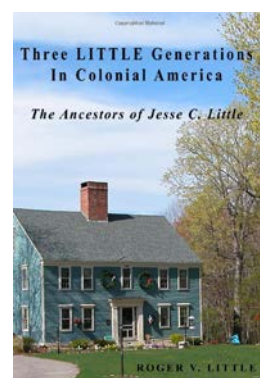
Kentucky Genealogical Society, Publisher

Three LITTLE Generations in Colonial America is the true story of a wealthy Scots-Irish family that came to America in 1737 as told in town histories. It reveals the hostilities and challenges that they faced when mistaken for Irish. It traces their movement to the edge of the wilderness as they bought enough land for five farms between Leominster and Shirley, Massachusetts—far enough west to avoid much of the persecution by the Puritans and far enough east to avoid Native American raids.

Political and economic conditions in Ireland had led them to look for religious freedom and better financial opportunities in America. Unfortunately, they found themselves still under the hated tyranny of British rule. Although they had little experience to rely on, they cleared land, planted crops, and settled towns. They built grain mills, roads, churches, schools, and taverns.

The first three Little generations lived in America before, during, and after the Revolutionary War years. At least a dozen family members responded to the Call to the Alarm of April 19th, 1775, at Lexington, Massachusetts. Another dozen men later joined the War effort. Two family members have been identified as fatalities. This book provides a unique insight into how small communities contributed to the War for Freedom.

Within its pages is a summary of the origins of Clan Little, genealogical sketches of the first three generations of Littles in New England, an unpublished eyewitness account of the Peterborough Littles by Fred Cheney written in 1940, and a contemporary biography of Verle and Martha Little of Gridley, California.



Three LITTLE Generations in Colonial America

Jesse C. Little, Author

ISBN 978-173942320

Glue Pot Press, Publisher



TEN GENEALOGY INFLUENCERS

By Michele Lewis

TikTok is considered a social media platform for the “younger generation,” so how did a baby boomer genealogist end up as a TikTok creator? My daughters started sending me TikTok videos on every subject you could imagine, recipes, jokes, consumer warnings, you name it. When one of my daughters started making videos of her own, I thought, “I can do that!” and the Genealogy Help Desk, now a part of Genealogy-Tok, was born. In addition to genealogists, there are many historians who cover a wide range of topics to help us all with our research. While not everything shared on the app is completely sourced, you are sure to enjoy quirky biographies, indigenous tribes, military battles, and more! You can always follow up with the creator or conduct your own research to separate fact from fiction. Here are my top ten genealogists to follow on TikTok in no particular order:

- @photodetective** (Maureen Taylor)
 When it comes to dating old photographs, Maureen is an absolute expert. She is also the go-to person for photo storage ideas and digitizing tips. Having followed her work for many years, I was thrilled to discover her on TikTok, where she continues to share her valuable insights and engage with a new and diverse community of photo enthusiasts.
- @thedanielsgenealogy** (Daniel Loftus)
 Daniel has become very popular on all social media platforms and if you haven't heard of him, I would be surprised. He is based in Ireland and runs “Project Infant,” dedicated to documenting every mother and child who died in one of Ireland's mother and baby homes. Daniel is only 19 years old and a breath of fresh air in a more middle-aged industry.
- @gwyneths.stories** (Gwyneth Humphreys)
 Gwyneth's content is a captivating journey through the lives and histories of her ancestors, brought to life through old photos and family stories. With a voice as melodic as it is engaging, she has a remarkable talent for drawing in her audience and immersing them in the rich tapestry of her family's past. Gwyneth reminds us that behind every old photo lies a story waiting to be told.
- @theformidablegenealogist** (Jen Shaffer)
 Jen is an experienced professional genealogist who provides invaluable advice. Her extensive knowledge covers a diverse range of subjects, making her insights beneficial to any genealogist. Whether you're just starting out or looking to improve your research skills, Jen's general tips and tricks are sure to be both informative and helpful.
- @jesse7699** (Jesse Northen)
 I am a sucker for royal genealogies and Jesse uses the best charts explaining the interesting ways the royals are related to each other. While some of his stories are more speculative and fanciful, Jesse is always careful to provide disclaimers on such videos. In addition to his entertaining content, Jesse has also introduced me to several excellent books on royal genealogies that have earned a spot on my Amazon wish list.
- @housegenealogy** (Adrienne White)
 Genealogy is typically associated with tracing the lineage of people, but it can also be applied to the study of a historic home. Adrienne specializes in house histories and her videos feature fascinating photographs. She delves into various aspects of a house's history, including its architectural style and design, the identity of its builder, and the genealogy of the families who have lived there over time.
- @jencoffeelover** (Jennifer Holik)
 Jennifer also has a specialized niche in the genealogy research community. She focuses on the social structure of our ancestor's family, identifying patterns of behavior with a particular interest in how trauma can affect multiple generations. She utilizes genograms to visualize and understand family dynamics, a technique commonly used in the field of mental health. Additionally, Jennifer is an expert in military history from World War I through Vietnam, making her a valuable resource for any military-related inquiries.
- @millennialstonecleaner** (Wade Fowler)
 While there are numerous TikTok accounts dedicated to cleaning headstones, I am cautious about promoting this activity without proper knowledge and training. However, I strongly recommend Wade's account, as he is a professional who not only cleans but also repairs grave markers. He also researches the deceased, providing fascinating insights into their lives.
- @taneya.koonce** (Taneya Koonce)
 Taneya is passionate about preserving memories, photos, heirlooms, and artifacts. With her practical approach and insightful tips, you will learn how to integrate these cherished items into your family's story, safeguarding them from being forgotten or lost over time. Taneya also offers guidance on how to effectively organize and store these precious treasures.
- @madhattergenealogy** (Michele Simmons Lewis, AG®, CG®)
 And of course me! From sharing tips to discussing my current projects and methodology, I'm here to help you on your family history adventure. My content is focused on using the Genealogical Proof Standard (GPS) for your research so you do not become a “copy and paste” genealogist.



Michele Lewis, AG®, CG® is a genetic genealogist committed to helping adoptees find their biological families using the latest research and technology. She also enjoys assisting with lineage society applications and lineages submitted to the Cherokee Nation.

Michele has been conducting research for over 30 years and is accredited in the Southeast region which includes Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, and Florida. She is also a board-certified genealogist through the Board for Certification of Genealogists. Her education includes courses through Brigham Young University, Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research, Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy, and National Institute for Genealogical Studies.



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UGA Virtual Chapter

July 18	7pm MT	Christian Churches in the Colonial Era <i>Rev. David McDonald</i>	online
Aug 15	7pm MT	Church and Religious Records <i>Rev. David McDonald</i>	online

Genealogy ProTalk Webinars

July 11	6pm MT	Genealogy Surprises, Discoveries, and Outright Lies: Sorting Out the Facts <i>Melissa Barker</i>	online
Aug 1	6pm MT	Virtually Presenting Research to Your Client and Family: a Recipe for Success <i>Claudia Sudweeks</i>	online

UGA DNA

Aug 9	7pm MT	Discovering Genetic Ancestors	online
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