

# Cracker Crumbs

*Unlocking the Past Towards the Future*

*Manatee Genealogical Society*

*PO Box 1194, Bradenton, FL 34206*

*Tele: 941-722-5156*

WebSite: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~flmgs/index.htm> for meeting information and location

## 2011-2012

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Don't forget that the MGS Board usually meets the last Wednesday of the month at 10 AM at the Manatee History Records Library in Bradenton (Sep - Apr). All members are welcome.

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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome back to our upcoming season of meetings on the first Tuesday of each month through May. Jean Morris, our program chair, has put together a full schedule of speakers for the season.

Massive amounts of on-line data are becoming more and more available to help us. But our own Main Library, here on the Manatee River waterfront, is an overlooked aid to your research. You need to use it.

It is amazing how easy it is to overlook the answers to many of our questions when it might be sitting right outside our meeting room doors, OR by borrowing your source books from many other libraries around the country for use here at the home base. Check out our website at:

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~flmgs/index.htm> . Good stuff there also.

Computer Special Interest Group (SIG) is held immediately after every meeting; A RootsMagic interactive software SIG is held by Phyllis Doucette every 2nd Monday of the month. Professional Genealogist Donna Moughty, specializing in Irish research, conducts the Genealogy Club in Lakewood Ranch every month (starting in November).

Be open. Ask for a mentor's help from the experts among us. Or, be a mentor for others looking for your expertise. Bring your "cousin" or friend to a meeting. Help us grow in these exciting times. Bring us your thoughts and suggestions. Don't be bashful. Happy researching!

Jim Reger, President, MGS

## **WAR OF 1812**

Premiers on PBS Monday October 10, 2011 at 9pm EST

Contributed by Barb Schulz

I guess because I am the President of the Captain Ezra Jones Chapter of the War of 1812 Society, this article was extremely interesting to me. Therefore I wanted to share it with all members of lineage societies that purposes are to promote patriotism and history. Recently, I was reminded that going to school in Virginia, we were not taught hardly a thing about this war, even though we lived only 30 miles from Ft McHenry and the Flag House. My daughter and her children, all history buffs, said they too were left out of the loop on this war and the purposes behind it. Most of us know the Star Spangled Banner was written during the battle in Baltimore, and we learned the song Battle of New Orleans, BUT how much more do we remember about Madison's War?

The PBS Channel will present "THE WAR OF 1812". This was a small but bitter war that forged the destiny of a continent. For two and a half years, Americans fought against the British, Canadian colonists, and native nations in a struggle that threatened the existence of Canada, and divided the United States so deeply that the nation almost broke apart. With stunning re-enactments, evocative animation and the incisive commentary of key experts, The *War of 1812* presents a war worth remembering. Premiers Monday October 10, 2011 at 9pm EST on PBS, CHECK LOCAL LISTINGS

During the years 2011 and 2012 there will be many celebrations and exhibits on this the 200th anniversary, lets keep our eyes and ears open for these events.

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## **Changes in FamilySearch Film Ordering Brings New Convenience to Genealogists**

Contributed by Bryan L. Mulcahy, Ft. Myers-Lee County Library

It's easier than ever for genealogy researchers to order microform from the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah. Orders for all microform materials now will be placed online, making it possible for researchers to order from the comfort of their home or from any location where there is an Internet connection.

A researcher's first step is to visit the Family History Library Catalog (available at [www.FamilySearch.org](http://www.FamilySearch.org)) to select the microform they wish to order. Next, a visit to the website <https://www.familysearch.org/films> instructs customers to create a personal account and select the preferred Affiliate Library or Family History Center where the microform materials they order will be sent. They must make payment using a credit or debit card or PayPal.

Genealogy researchers are encouraged to download the User's Guide available at <https://www.familysearch.org/films> as it provides step-by-step guidelines for placing an order.

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## "Jots From Jean"

(by Jean S. Morris)

**Note:** I try to keep current with new websites which may be of interest to our members. If I miss some, please send me an email and I will check it out, or include your email with a site of interest. You can reach me at [jmorris161@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:jmorris161@tampabay.rr.com) or call 941-722-5156. Thank you.

### List of the Best People Search Engines from Cyndi's List 6/10/2011.

This is a *list of people search engines* and websites that typically allow users to search for persons in different ways including by first name, last name, phone number, address, social security number, employment history and more. Some of these sites only return results from typical public records, while other aggregate records from multiple websites and display them in one central location. Use these websites to search for people online.

[www.Facebook.com](http://www.Facebook.com) was founded in 2004 by Mark Zuckerberg, Chris Hughes, Dustin Moskovitz and Eduardo Saverin. It is primarily a social networking site that has a people search feature. Profiles are updated by the actual user, whereas other people search engines get most of their data by scanning public resources.

[www.MyLife.com](http://www.MyLife.com) was launched in 2009 by Jeffrey Tinsley. It was the product of a merger of Reunion.com and Wink.com. MyLife offers a subscription service for people to see who's searching for them, get regular updates and find out what sites their contacts are using. *Caveat.* There are more than a typical number of complaints about this company around the web. Cyndi's List has chosen not to sign up for any of their free or paid services. Due to the sheer volume of complaints, you may want to do some additional research before signing up for any of their services. [My personal take on this site, is that after I found a person, and told them to stop searching for that person, they continued to do so.....and once they get your credit card, watch out, every time you click on the sight, you get a bill! Jean]

[www.WhitePages.com](http://www.WhitePages.com) Founded in 1996 by Alex Algard, WhitePages.com went on to the Internet in 1997. Currently the site offers the ability to: find people by name, zip code, area codes, phone number and address; and finding businesses by name, phone number, location, address or category.

[www.LinkedIn](http://www.LinkedIn) founded in 2002, the LinkedIn.com website was launched in mid 2003. It is a social site for business professionals. Anyone who creates an account can quickly and easily create a free professional resume. It currently has nine million users worldwide and makes it a great alternative resource to use when searching for people. You can search by name, company, school, location, and refine your search in a number of advanced ways.

[www.Intelius.com](http://www.Intelius.com) Founded in 2003, it is a full fledged business and consumer information service provider. They scan millions of public records to deliver its results to a number of advanced queries within seconds. You can use it to search for people by name, phone number, email address, other addresses, social security number and user name; perform specific background checks as well as a number of other related services. Fee based.

[www.PeopleFinders.com](http://www.PeopleFinders.com) Founded in 1992 by Robert Miller, it is a fee-based subscription service that searches billions of public records to help you search for people, businesses, and perform background checks. You can search by name, reverse phone numbers and address, social profiles, criminal records, SSN and more. You can pay for one-time reports or monthly subscription fees.

[www.123people.com](http://www.123people.com) Founded in 2007 by Martin Stemeseder and Markus Wagner, it is a real-time search service for people, and is similar to a meta-search engine in that it searches a number of available web sources and aggregates the data into one result, that includes blogs, social networking accounts, images, web links, micro-blogging platforms videos, news, documents, domain names, phone numbers, business profiles, and connects you with premium public records services.

[www.Addresses.com](http://www.Addresses.com) Cyndi could not find much background info on this site, and they do not really list any company info on their website. The domain name was first registered in 1996. It is a really basic people search website that appears to get most of its data from other people search sites and the yellow pages databases. You can perform person lookups by name, reverse phone number, reverse home and business address, and business name.

[www.USSearch.com](http://www.USSearch.com) was founded in 2004. It is an intelligent people search engine that helps you locate and verify persons data through its database correlated from numerous public records resources. You can pay for one-time reports or subscribe to the service that allows you to perform: people searches, reverse phone lookups, email search, social network search, property records, criminal records and background checks.

[www.PeopleLookup.com](http://www.PeopleLookup.com) is primarily a front-end web service to the Intelius public records database. You can use their services to obtain property reports, background checks, criminal checks, death records, divorce records, civil records, court records. You can also perform social, phone, address and email searches on it.

[www.Pipi.com](http://www.Pipi.com) Started in 2006. it crawls the deep-web to extract facts, contact details and other relevant information from personal profiles, member directories, court records, scientific publications and many additional deep-web sources, and then displays that information on easy-to-read web page. Their results provide a ton of free information, but to retrieve additional details you will have to pay a fee to them or a third party resource for finding people's specific information.

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**Pennsylvania Open Records Update.** Vital Records Bill SB-361 was scheduled for an important vote in State Senate Public Health & Welfare Committee June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Go to this web site at <http://users.rcn.com/timarg/PaHR-access.htm> under Latest News. The bill will make birth certificates over 100 years old, and death certificates over 50 years old Open Records. It does not force them to be put online, but making them open records is required before anything at all can be done. This same bill passed in this committee unanimously in 2010 in the previous session. But we cannot assume that it will be passed again. Pennsylvania is one of only a few (less than ten) states which have refused to open their vital records (birth and death) regardless of age (they begin in 1906). All of these records, including those of persons who died in 1906 are not considered public records by the state. I will continue to keep you posted on this subject. Jean.

**Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh, PA.** A new genealogical institute of learning announces a genealogy educational opportunity planned for July 2012, consisting of four courses. It will be held July 23-

27 at LaRoche College, Pittsburgh According to Elissa Scalise Powell, CG, CGL, and Debora Lichner Deal, directors of GRIP, "the demand for in-depth genealogical education is so high that week-long courses sell-out shortly after registration opens, disappointing many potential students. At the same time, genealogists who have taken many courses want to hear about 'new content.'" GRIP seeks to satisfy this growing need for high quality genealogical education through its week-long courses with internationally recognized instructors. for more information, visit the GRIP website at <http://www.GRIPitt.org>

**Where can I find Masonic records?** From *Genealogytoday.com* 7/14/2011. edited by Elisabeth Lindsay. Many people are interested in finding their ancestors' Masonic records. The types of information contained in Masonic records may be useful, especially for time periods where records are scarce, although the amount of information may vary, depending on the Lodge and its record-keeping practices. Unfortunately, there is no central repository for Masonic membership information and no "one-place" to check online. Local lodges functioned independently; thus, writing to the local Lodge (or Grand Lodge of that jurisdiction) may be the best way to find personal information on a particular individual. The website [www.masoniclodgelocations](http://www.masoniclodgelocations) provides addresses worldwide. Keep in mind that genealogy is not the primary focus of Lodge secretaries, so be kind . . . and most of all, be patient. Records may be difficult to access, and certain records may not have survived the ages, so it may take some time to receive a response. It may also be possible to find your ancestor's name and other useful information online. The **Genealogy Today Subscription Database** (formerly, Family Tree Connection) includes a variety of Masonic rosters, lists, and other miscellaneous information - such records may include individual or group photos, complete documents, and scanned pages. Also, the Live Roots search engine is a great place to do a broad, online search - just enter the search term "masonic," as opposed to "masons" to avoid results with the surname Mason. Results include not only the resources of the Genealogy Today website, but those of major genealogy websites and more obscure websites such as Masonic cemeteries.

**Researching Masonic Records** by John S. Yates, Box 3496, Wichita Falls, TX 76303, 1995. 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. The author has perused many files of deceased Masons, and states that they often contain personal correspondence dating from the late 1800s, obits, and in his own case, his father's WWII discharge paper which he used in place of a birth certificate. Info varies on applications, but after 1930 they become more specific. Family data was not required until after 1930. Structure of the Masons is given, a good outline on how to write, where to write, and how to compile your letter to the specific State Grand Masonic Lodge.

**www.randymajors.com's Historical County Boundary Maps.** An on-line tool that uses Google Maps to display county boundaries by historical year. Type in any present-day place in the U.S. and any Historical Year to see a map of the county boundaries then in effect, along with all of the current Google Maps places, roads, etc. to put the historical map in a current or familiar context. You can then click on any county on the map to see the specific history of the boundary changes, and type in different years to see the boundary changes over time. Based on the Atlas of Historical County Boundaries, a project of The Newberry Library. [Your editor typed in Washington Co. Pa. the year 1775. The map shown was as I expected, it showed Westmoreland Co. Pa. from which Washington Co. was formed in 1783. It also stated that Westmoreland Co. Pa. was formed 2/26/1773 from Bedford County with reference to Pa.Statutes, chapter 678, section 1/8:314. It showed the outline of Washington Co. on an overlay of Westmoreland Co. with all known towns then shown. I was pleased to see this locator, and advise that ALL researchers do the same with states, counties and town that they are interested, in the U.S.

**Republic of West Florida: The Sons & Daughters of the Province & Republic of West Florida 1763-1811**

The objective and purpose of this organization is to perpetuate the memory of the character, deeds and lives of these early inhabitants of West Florida prior to 7 Dec. 1810. To collect and preserve records, documents, and relics pertaining to the history and genealogy of the Republic of West Florida; to inculcate patriotism, and to enjoy in other education, historical genealogical, patriotic, literary and social activities. Membership is open to men and women 18 years or older, who can prove lineal descent from an ancestor residing in the area between the above dates, on land in that part of the Province of West Florida, as it was governed by England and Spain, south of the 31<sup>st</sup> parallel east of the Mississippi River, north of the Gulf of Mexico, and west of the Apalachicola river. Also eligible are lineal descendants of ancestors who settled east of the Mississippi River as far north as the 31<sup>st</sup> parallel and the mouth of the Yazoo River (above present day Vicksburg MS and south of a line running due east from the mouth of the Yazoo across the state of Alabama south of the present day Demopolis to a point on the west bank of the Chattahoochee River near present day Columbus, GA and west of said river between 1763 and 30 March 1798. An annual assembly of all members of the society is generally held in the month of May in Louisiana. View their web site at <http://republicofwestflorida.org>

Miriam J. Robbins of Switzerland Indiana [www.switzerlandkiz.in.us/hs\\_vevaynewspapers.php](http://www.switzerlandkiz.in.us/hs_vevaynewspapers.php)

Take a look at this site which includes articles on Australia, Canada, Ireland, Mexico, United Kingdom, United States, FAQs and Resources.

[www.ArchivesUM](http://www.ArchivesUM) is a database to help researchers locate archives and manuscript collections at the University of Maryland Libraries. Some of the aides are finding aids/indexes to the above collections, which can be as simple as a listing of folders (often called an inventory or preliminary inventory), but it can also be a complex document that places materials in context by consolidating information about the collection, such as history or biographical note and a description of the arrangement of the collection.

Cyndi Ingle Howells [cyndi@cyndislist.com](mailto:cyndi@cyndislist.com) is asking our help. She is still paying off the expense for the site upgrade [which is easy to use, more visible, take a look]. She has been operating the Cyndi's List since 4 March 1996.....FREE. In the beginning there were 1025 links, today there are over 315,000, and the site continues to be one of the top research spots online for genealogy. It has always been FREE to everyone to use. To date Cyndi's List has been supported solely by advertisements; and the site is in the final processes of a major upgrade the first since 1998. Goals for upgrading include easier use for both the administrator and site visitors, making adding and updating links a quicker process for everyone. Improved navigation is very expensive. YOUR donations would help the site to grow and expand, thus making your searching much easier and more productive. Donate via PayPal with credit cards at [www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webser?cmd=s-xclick&hosted\\_button\\_id=AVHEW94ZDTBJ](http://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webser?cmd=s-xclick&hosted_button_id=AVHEW94ZDTBJ) or mail donations (checks) to PO Box 1110, Milton, WA 98354.

Visit our Member Donna Moughty's new web site at [www.moughty.com](http://www.moughty.com) Donna will be speaking at our January 3, 2012 meeting on "Jumping the Pond: Finding the Origins of Your Immigrant Ancestor." Donna is a specialist on Irish Research. Also take a look at her BLOG and subscribe to it for methodology, technology, the Internet, Mac computers, and Irish Research. She is a big fan of historical novels, she is currently reading *Fall of Giants* by Ken Follett which follows five families (Russian, German, English, Welsh and American) leading up to and during World War I.

## USING PERSI [PERIODICAL SOURCE INDEXES] TO LOCATE ANCESTORS

(by Jean S. Morris, Oct. 4, 2011)

1. Periodicals are one of the most valuable printed sources for family historians.
2. Libraries, genealogical & historical societies house these periodicals.
3. Indexes to Periodicals are a valuable resource.

The earliest index to selected genealogical periodicals is Joel Munsell's *Index to American Genealogies* - 1900, with a Supplement published in 1908.

Donald Lines Jacobus indexed major American periodicals in his

*Index to Genealogical Periodicals* (3 vols) in 1932-1953 GPCo. 1978.

Carl Boyer republished the former in 1988, making it easier to search.

*GPAI [Genealogical Periodical Annual Index]* was published annually from 1961 by various publishers.

4. PERSI [Periodical Source Index] was begun in 1986 by the Allen County Public Library in Ft. Wayne IN. This library gathered periodicals from every large genealogical society in the US. ONLY periodicals donated to the library are indexed, by subject, place name, and surname IF an article title contains a surname.

When an article of interest is found, the researcher may request a photocopy of it through interlibrary loan by contacting Allen County Public Library. You can also download a PERSI Order Form.

### USING FILBY & MEYER'S PASSENGER AND IMMIGRATION INDEXES

1. Anyone with ancestors who entered the US between 1500 and 1900 will find these lists as a useful database. For those whose family members came to America through ports other than NYC & Ellis Island, it allows for easier searching of thousands of source records organized in a concisely coded manner.
2. When you find an ancestor or your surname, copy the Volume & page #, and the Code # - and then go to the front of the volume and locate the Code # and copy the entire entry, Author, Title, date of publication of the publication, and proceed from there. Search diligently, and Search each Series [these are held here in the Bradenton Central Library]. Some libraries may not hold all currently published volumes to our current year of 2012, BUT you can search these on Heritage Quest.

### SOME PASSENGER & EMIGRATION VOLUMES HELD IN THE BRADENTON CENTRAL LIBRARY

Atlantic Bridge to Germany by Charles M. Hall, 19 vols.

Bentley, Eliz. Passenger arrivals at the Port of New York 1820-1832 in 2 vols.

The Famine Emigrants 1846-1851 7 vols. [Ireland]

Filby's Passenger & Immigration Lists Indexes from the year 1538 in 39 vols.

to the current year of 2012. The entire set.  
Genealogies in the Library of Congress [from the Magna Carta thru Vol. 5, 1975]  
German Immigrants from Bremen to New York 1847-1871 in 4 vols.  
Germans to America in 2 Series, 1<sup>st</sup> Series Jan 1850 thru Jun 1897 in 69 vols.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Series Jan. 1840 thru Dec 1849 in 7 vols.  
Glazier, Ira. Emigrants from the United Kingdom 1870 to Apr 1872, 4 vols.  
GPAI [Genealogical Periodical Annual Index] from 1962 - 1976  
Greek Immigration Passengers by Boultosos in 3 vols. 1885-1910  
Italians to America by Glazier & Filby, 22 vols. Jan 1880-Apr. 1903  
Migration from Russian Empire 6 vols. Jan 1875-Jun 1891  
Palatines to America. Vols. 1-10  
Search for Missing Friends (Irish) 8 vols by O'Keefe, 1831-1920  
Wurtemberg Emigrants Index, late 18<sup>th</sup> century German, by Trudy Schenk  
in 7 vols. to 1900.

### SOME WEB SITES

Ancestors on Board. Explore over 24 million records of immigrants and tourists leaving England for Australia, Canada, India, New Zealand, South Africa, America between 1890 and 1960. Subscription site but it offers a free search.

Bremen Passenger Lists 1920-1939, 2851 lists survived port fires, check the Bremen Chamber of Commerce web site. Free [See Bremen above for earlier lists]

Castle Garden free online database can be searched for immigrants who arrived there [in NYC] 1830-1890.

[www.CyndisList.com](http://www.CyndisList.com) Visit this site for hundreds more Immigration & Passenger sites.

Danish Emigration Archives, free contains lists compiled by Copenhagen police from 1869-1940, volunteers will check the list for you for free.

EllisIsland.org (all nationalities).

Finland Institute of Migration Emigrant Register - this web site contains passport records, passenger records, and info on deceased Finns abroad.

German Roots: German Genealogy website [www.germanroots.com](http://www.germanroots.com)  
for Passenger Lists on this site go to [www.germanroots.com/onlinelists.html](http://www.germanroots.com/onlinelists.html)

Immigrant Ships Transcribers Guild always need volunteers. They have already transcribed more than 9000 passenger manifests. This is a FREE site where you can search the entire site by surname, captain's name, port of arrival, or departure, ship name or browse by location. Take a look!

PERSI is on HeritageQuest via your Bradenton Central Library current card, for FREE.

National Archives of Canada Immigration Records Collection. Search this online free index of Canadian immigration records 1925-1935. Free

Norwegian Emigration Records. The Digitalarkivet at the Univ. of Bergen provides Free online access to these records, plus census and other Norwegian records.

The Ships List - Take a look, many thousands of free pages related to immigrants from English speaking countries around the world, newspaper accounts, shipwreck data, ship photos, even diaries and journals.

UK Victorian Prison Ship Inmates can be found on [www.Ancestry.co.uk](http://www.Ancestry.co.uk) look for site *Prison Hulk Registers and Letter Books 1802-1849*

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## ***Scots-Irish in the United States and Canada***

Contributed by Bryan L. Mulcahy, Reference Librarian,  
Ft. Myers-Lee County FL Public Library, Ft. Myers, FL

The Scots-Irish, Ulster-Irish, or Ulster-Scots, are an Irish ethnic group that originated in Scotland, and to a lesser extent, England. Settlers usually came from the Scottish Lowlands, Galloway, and the Scottish Borders. Descendants are primarily found in the six counties of Northern Ireland where they are known as the Ulster-Scots. In the United States and Canada, they are known as the Scotch-Irish. Most Scots in the Republic of Ireland are part of the Ulster-Scots group and live mainly in and around Donegal.

The Ulster-Scots are strongly identified with Protestantism and, in Ireland, Unionism. Unionists supported the concept of a unified Ireland and Northern Ireland as part of the United Kingdom versus being part of the Republic of Ireland. The Ulster-Scots were predominantly Presbyterian but also included Anglicans, Congregationalists, and Quakers. In the United States and Canada, Scotch-Irish people tended to gravitate towards the Presbyterian, Methodist, and Baptist denominations.

Upon arrival in Canada and America, they often formed distinctive communities with extremely unique social characteristics and practices that often set them apart from other ethnic groups. Around 500,000 settlers arrived between 1717 and 1776. They encountered the same harassment by British authorities as had occurred in Ulster and motivated many to leave for the frontier and rural isolated communities.

They disdained the British mandated state church, the Anglican Church in Ulster and all Roman Catholics. Roman Catholics offended them due to "papist traits" and religious wars in Europe which they viewed as an attempt to destroy all forms of non-Catholic worship. These early Scots-Irish settlers usually referred to themselves simply as Irish, without the qualifier "Scotch" or "Scots". It was not until the mass immigration of Catholic Irish in the 1840s due to the Irish Potato Famine that they began to call themselves Scotch-Irish to distinguish themselves from these new arrivals.

Scotch-Irish Presbyterian settlers in New England often found themselves on the front line of the French and Indian Wars having moved out into the frontier areas as a result of friction with the Anglicans who dominated the urban areas. They supported the colonists in the American Revolution and formed a large part of the ranger companies, notably Rogers Rangers. By 1763, the number of immigrants to Canada began to rise. The first significant groups of Canadian settlers arriving from Ireland were Protestants from predominantly Ulster and largely of Scottish descent who settled in the mainly central Nova Scotia in the 1760s. Some came directly from Ulster, others from New England.

After the American Revolution, many United Empire Loyalists joined the established Ulster-Irish who came from Ulster. The United Empire Loyalists were those American Loyalists who fled to Canada and other British colonies after the British defeat. Settlement areas included Quebec, Ontario, New Brunswick, and

in Nova Scotia. Scots-Irish migration to Western Canada has two distinct components, those who came via eastern Canada or the United States, and those who came directly from Ireland.

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## **LOCATING FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS & RECORDS**

by Jean S. Morris, September 2011

**Fraternal Organizations.** Do you have an ancestor who belonged to a fraternal organization? If so, go to [www.exonumia.com/art/society.htm](http://www.exonumia.com/art/society.htm) which is a web site which deals with all sorts of fraternal organizations contains "Complete List of Fraternal Organizations: A-Z". The free site is sponsored by Rich Hartzog, hartzog@exconumia.com, the list contains 55 pages of names of Societies, with many Links. Its editor asks readers to share their knowledge with him. He shares some dates of formations of the groups, and provides some Links to help you further your research.

**GEN-FRATERNAL Mailing List:** [www.rootsweb.com/-fuller/gen\\_mailgeneral.html#GEN-FRATERNAL](http://www.rootsweb.com/-fuller/gen_mailgeneral.html#GEN-FRATERNAL) for family historians using fraternal or benevolent society resources in their research. This includes identifying grave marker symbols as well as organizational regalia in photographs, jewelry and other sources to establish an ancestor's membership in an organization. From organization identification, the list will also be a forum for questions, help and direction on where and how to access the extant records of these organizations. [from Cyndi's List]. <http://www.cyndislist.com/>. See her list for hundreds of references.

AOH founded in 1836 for Catholic men of Irish descent - [www.aoh.com](http://www.aoh.com)

AOKMC Ancient Order of Knights of the Mystic Chain, [www.phoenixmasonry.org](http://www.phoenixmasonry.org)

AOUW Ancient Order of United Workmen. [www.phoenixmasonry.org](http://www.phoenixmasonry.org)

BPOE founded 1868 in NYC as a drinking club called "Jolly Circle." site: [www.elks.org](http://www.elks.org), African Americans have a separate Order called Improved BPOE with a women's auxiliary.

B'nai B'rith was founded in 1843 in NYC as a Jewish fraternal organization, as they were excluded from Masonic orders.

FOE founded in Seattle about 1900, [www.foe.org](http://www.foe.org)

IORM possibly a descendant of Sons of Liberty claims to be the oldest secret society in America. The present organization was founded in 1834. Based on Masonic rituals and Native American terminology. Local lodges are called tribes. Ironically, until 1974 Native Americans were not admitted. [www.redmen.org](http://www.redmen.org), Pocahontas womens auxiliary of Improved Order of Redman

IIOF founded in 1843 influenced by the Masonic group. [www.ioof.org](http://www.ioof.org)

DOR Daughters of Rebekah founded in South Bend IN in 1851, [www.ioof.org](http://www.ioof.org) / [rebekahs.org](http://rebekahs.org)

KC, KofC founded in 1882 in New Haven CT for Roman Catholic men. Called the "Catholic Masonic Society."

CDA auxiliary of KofC founded 1903 from a Chapter of Daughters of Isabella DOA

[www.daughtersofisaabella.org](http://www.daughtersofisaabella.org) originally called Daughters of Queen Isabella of Castile founded in 1897, [www.aoh.com](http://www.aoh.com), a Catholic, Irish American organization.

KP KofP founded in Washington DC in 1864 for government clerks. [www.kofc.org](http://www.kofc.org),

www.pythias.org , Pythian Sisters founded in 1888 in Concord NH as auxiliary to KofP,  
www.pythias.org/sisters

LOM founded in 1888 in Louisville KY, a wildlife fraternity.

Women of Moose founded in 1912.

Moose International www.mooseintl.org

MWA founded in Lyons, Iowa in 1883, www.modern-woodsmen.org

OSI, O of SA Order of Sons of Italy in America, founded in NYC in 1905. www.osia.org They also established orphanages and homes for the aged.

PEO Sisterhood "Protect Each Other" female society founded in Iowa in 1860, www.peointernational.org

POH Patrons of Husbandry, Grange, www.nationalgrange.org

SSON/SOFN Sons of Norway founded in Minneapolis MN in 1895, www.sofn.org

Woodsmen of the World www.woodsmen.com

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## ***Using Maps and Gazetteers for Genealogical Research***

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Maps and gazetteers are very important tools for locating ancestors and understanding their geographical surroundings. Obtaining the knowledge of where to look for your ancestors is the most important part of family history research. Without knowing where they resided, accessing their records is virtually impossible.

While home sources may provide clues as to previous residence, maps and gazetteers identify the specific place or places of residence, including the surrounding hills, valleys, and waterways. All of these factors may have impacted life decisions made by the individual or family of interest. Geographical features often impacted migration routes and may have determined where and why they ended up in various localities.

Home sources and genealogy books dealing with specific ethnic groups usually contain chapters dealing with migration patterns in North America. Gathering these types of clues involves patience and skill. Once the process has been started, maps and gazetteers often provide the next step in research. Genealogical research using maps can intimidate researchers. Following the simplified strategies below can make it easier.

1. Locate each place on your list using a current road atlas, making note of its current county or parish. Note the major roads that pass through or close to the area.
2. If you cannot locate the site, consult a gazetteer for the state, city, or county. Determine where the town or community was originally located and then try to find a map from the period that shows the original site name. Local and state historical societies are a good source for these types of queries. Make note of the date of the gazetteer and/or map that listed the place and what county or parish it was located in at that time.
3. County, parish, and state borders have changed over time. The town or community is usually, but not always, in the same state, but now may be is now part of an adjacent county.
4. Not finding various places is common for a variety of reasons:
  - a. Small towns or unincorporated communities may not appear on many road maps.
  - b. Towns may no longer exist or were swallowed up by adjacent communities.
  - c. Name may have changed due to an event that occurred long ago.
  - d. The community may have been a postal drop with a few adjacent houses for workers and their families.

5. When researching sites in the United States, two excellent sources to utilize are:
- a. *Map Guide to the U.S. Federal Censuses 1790-1920* by William Thorndale and William Dollarhide. Compare the location of the town or community, as you know it, against the appropriate map in the book. This book will help you to find the current county and the town, city, or county that existed at the time your ancestors lived there.
  - b. *Ancestry's Red Book*. This book provides detailed information about each county or parish, it's records holdings, and contact information, including the websites for many courthouses. This enables the user to contact the correct jurisdiction for queries.

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## *Focusing On the Place and Redrawn Boundaries*

Compiled by Bryan L. Mulcahy, Reference Librarian, (date 9/4/2008)  
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Counties usually have genealogies just like people. Some counties had one "parent county" while others had as many as three or more. Some counties were later subdivided or produced "children" counties. Before you can do effective research in a specific locality, you must first learn what jurisdiction that area was in during the specific time period of interest. This will enable you to know which areas might contain records and information about your ancestors.

Jurisdictions may be designated as follows:are defined as follows:

1. Towns
2. County
3. State
4. Province
5. State
6. Judicial court designation (20<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals)

As populations increased, large original counties were often subdivided to form new counties to enable local governments to govern the area more effectively. Generally, records created up to the time of the split would be kept in the old or parent county. Records created after the split would remain in the custody of the newly formed county. Your ancestors may have lived in the same house or farm for generations, yet by virtue of multiple subdivisions of boundaries over time, they will appear in records for each county that had jurisdiction over their land at various points in time.

Conducting any type of genealogical research, regardless of the country, requires an understanding of national, provincial, and town boundaries at given times of history. These same criteria applies all to all genealogical records whether they be census, probate, land, tax, school, immigration/naturalization, or vital records.

The ability to locate place names and legal jurisdictions is important in genealogy because most records of genealogical value are organized by township, county, or provincial jurisdictions. When researching ancestors in foreign countries, you must determine how their legal jurisdictions are organized based on localities of residence.

Because many states in America have towns and counties of the same name, you must determine which state the ancestor lived in to narrow down your search. This factor often applies in foreign countries as well. Counties and provinces are political subdivisions of states and countries. If your notes or compiled research mentions landmarks, or specific geographic features such as creeks, hills, rivers, roads, etc., make sure you include them with your notes. Their current boundaries will seldom match those from various historical periods. Boundary changes are a common occurrence in genealogical research.

Boundary issues are one of the leading causes of problems for genealogists attempting to locate their ancestors for the following reasons:

1. Boundaries of many political jurisdictions have often been divided and subdivided numerous times yet the family has lived on the same piece of property or house for generations.
2. Boundary changes were often caused as given jurisdictions attempted to overcome issues caused by:
  - a. Land located in areas of disputes
  - b. Areas difficult to access due to natural barriers such as mountain ranges, rivers, etc.
  - c. Because land areas in counties were once much larger than people can comprehend today, people in different parts of the town, territory or county often had different names for the same place or tract of land!
  - d. Multiple jurisdictions (towns, counties, states, countries) may have laid claim to the same area and referred to it by different names. This is especially true in European research. It will also apply to research in the United States and Canada, albeit to a lesser degree.
3. As these new counties or jurisdictions came into existence, the following changes often take place:
  - a. The street address or rural route designation often changes.
  - b. The land in the sub-divided part becomes a new county with a new county name.
  - c. County name may be changed in response to a legal directive or a decision to honor someone.
  - d. Town names may change for similar reasons.
  - e. Towns, villages, etc., that once existed may have been absorbed by neighboring communities, or were abandoned due to economic reversals, natural disasters, or other reasons.
  - f. Many towns that no longer exist or are now populated by less than 200 people no longer appear on most modern maps.

When researching places or jurisdictions where ancestors lived, you must determine the name of the town, province, or county as it existed at the time of residence. Old maps and gazetteers are often considered the best research tools for this task for the following reasons:

1. Often reveal the changing place names
2. Contain cross references with the old names
3. Contain cross references to localities that no longer exist or are too small to appear on modern maps
4. Provide chronological clues
5. May reveal natural barriers that could have played a role in the division and sub-division

6. Provide clues on what counties are candidates to have public or other types of records containing genealogical information on the ancestor and/or his family
7. May reveal landmarks and other pertinent details such as churches, cemeteries, factories, roads, waterways etc. that were located in the area at that time and no longer appear on modern maps

If your notes, documents, family Bibles, etc. or information gleaned from family interviews, reviewing home sources, or family traditions place your family in a given region but your research comes up empty, draw a circle 25 and 50 miles around the area where you can pinpoint the residence of your ancestor. Any modern day counties or jurisdictions that fall within either of these rings should be checked for records even if they now fall into neighboring states, counties, provinces, or countries. This applies to research in Europe, Canada, United States, or Latin America. The reasons for following this would be:

1. Due to the lack of efficient roads or transportation, modern day rules mandating that records and official documents must be recorded in the county or jurisdiction of residence did not apply.
2. People normally went to the closest courthouse, church, or civil registrar that was accessible by road, waterway, or path that existed at that time.
3. Jurisdictional boundaries have changed on a regular basis
4. It is not unheard of for a genealogist to research a family that lived on the same tract of land for generations. Yet the further back in time they research, they will discover that the tract has been part of anywhere from 3 to 7 counties which may or may not be in the same state, county, or province.

For those with Internet access, the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) is the United States largest official database for official place names. GNIS is maintained by the United States Geological Survey. The database provides comprehensive information on place names, county names, and what boundary changes have occurred over time. GNIS contains over two million entries. The database includes names of places that no longer exist as well as secondary names that were sometimes used for existing and non-existent (in modern times) places.

### **What are the best sources for locating city, county, and township name changes?**

1. Ancestry's Redbook [Genealogy Ref. 929.1 ANC]
  - a. Available in most library genealogical collections
  - b. State by state listing of all current and discontinued counties in the United States
  - c. Provides information on when counties were organized and from what parent county, counties, or territory they were subdivided from
  - d. Identifies each county seat with relevant contact information
  - e. Contains excellent maps defining every county, bordering counties, even in surrounding states
2. Everton's Handybook for Genealogists [Genealogy Ref. 929.1 HAN]
  - a. Gives concise histories of each state, lists state capitols and county seat information, and territories that each state was formed from
  - b. Provides county name, map index reference number, date created, dates of availability for United States Federal Census information, Parent county or territory from which organized, county seat

- information including address and zip code information for requesting records, including information on counties that no longer exist and who incorporated them
- c. Detailed county maps and 120+ migration trail maps
  - d. Descriptions and addresses for major repositories in each state
  - e. Protocol for requesting vital records
  - f. Complete contact information for libraries, repositories, and historical/genealogical societies
3. Map Guide to the United States Federal Census: 1790-1920 [Genealogy Ref. 911.73 THO]
    - a. Shows all U.S. county boundary changes as they have occurred from 1790-1920
    - b. Contains 400+ maps with old county lines superimposed over modern ones to highlight boundary changes at 10 year intervals
  4. GNIS: Geographic Names Information System Database <<http://www.geonames.usgs.gov>>
    - a. Official database for place names in the United States
    - b. Contains features for international searching
    - c. Will respond to written and phone inquiries about present, past, and secondary, locations for more than 2 million place and geographic feature names in the U. S.
    - d. Written or phone inquiries should be sent as follows:  
*Mailing Address:* U.S. Geological Survey, 523 National Center, Reston, VA 20192 or *Telephone:* (703) 648-4544
    - e. Lists the names and locations of churches and cemeteries, including many that no longer exist
  5. Historical Atlas & Chronology of County Boundaries, 1788-1980. John H. Long Editor. Boston, MA: G.K.Hall, c1984.
    - a. Project funded by the National Endowment of the Humanities through Chicago's Newberry Library
    - b. Volumes include chronologies, separate detailed maps for each county's different configurations; county areas; tables of censuses; state outline maps for the censuses; and a bibliography
  6. Historical Society or Local Genealogical Society Repositories often have one or all of the following tools that are useful for tracking down obsolete towns, counties, etc.:
    - a. Oldest surviving maps, gazetteers, or atlases
    - b. Old city directories
    - c. Old postal directories
    - d. Sanborne insurance maps
    - e. Maintain researcher or local family history files from prominent or founding families
  7. Local libraries in the locality of residence (historical versus modern times) may offer the following items or services:
    - a. In the absence of a local historical or genealogical society, they may house the oldest surviving maps, gazetteers, or atlases.

- b. Keep oldest surviving newspapers on microfilm (newspapers are considered by many genealogists to be a more accurate reflection of the history of a county or region than what would be found in a county history)
- c. Often have published county histories or vertical files with local history materials from newspapers, personal collections, etc.
- d. Often have old city and/or postal directories as part of their collection
- e. Many genealogical societies maintain their collections as part of or in conjunction with the local library in the area or region
- f. These collections are often staffed by members of the historical or genealogical society
- g. Address books, directories, and Internet based sites containing contact information for societies, repositories, and courthouses nation-wide or world-wide

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NOTE: This study guide is meant to serve as an overview or outline for patrons using the genealogy collection at Fort Myers-Lee County Library. The compiler emphasizes that the information contained in this study guide should not serve as a substitute for taking the time to read one of the books or articles cited in the bibliography, or attend lectures given by the subject specialists cited as authors.

## *Some New Books at the Library*

We thank Kevin Beach of the Manatee County Library for providing us this nice summary of new material that have been added to our genealogy collection. Thank you Kevin!!

### **Genealogy - new acquisitions May to September 2011**

Scots Episcopalians at home and abroad - 929.3411 Dob  
Revolutionary war pensions awarded by state governments - 929.373 Boc  
Passenger and immigration lists index - 2012 supplement - 929.373 Pas  
1887 history of Columbia County, pa... - 974.8 Eig  
Tombstone inscriptions: St. John's Lutheran and reformed...(PA) - 929.3748 Dra  
Burial records of Luzerne Co, PA - 929.3748 Bur  
Cemeteries of northern Columbia Co., PA - 929.3748 Col  
Carbon Co, PA - 19<sup>th</sup> Cent tombstone abstracts - 929.3748 Sen  
Tombstone inscriptions: Luzerne Co, PA - 4 vols - 929.3748 Dra  
Pennsylvania births, Carbon Co, 1795-1825 - 929.3748 Hum  
North Carolina headrights, 1663-1744 - 929.3756 Whi  
Guide to diaries in the R. Stanton Avery special collections - 929.1 Gui  
Index of surnames appearing in the Hazelton semi-weekly, 8 vols. - 929.3748 Dra  
Guide to the manuscript collections of the NE Historic Gen Soc - 929.1 New  
American naturalization records, 1790-1990 ... - 929.1 New  
Columbia and Montour Co, PA - 912 Col

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