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# Roots and Branches

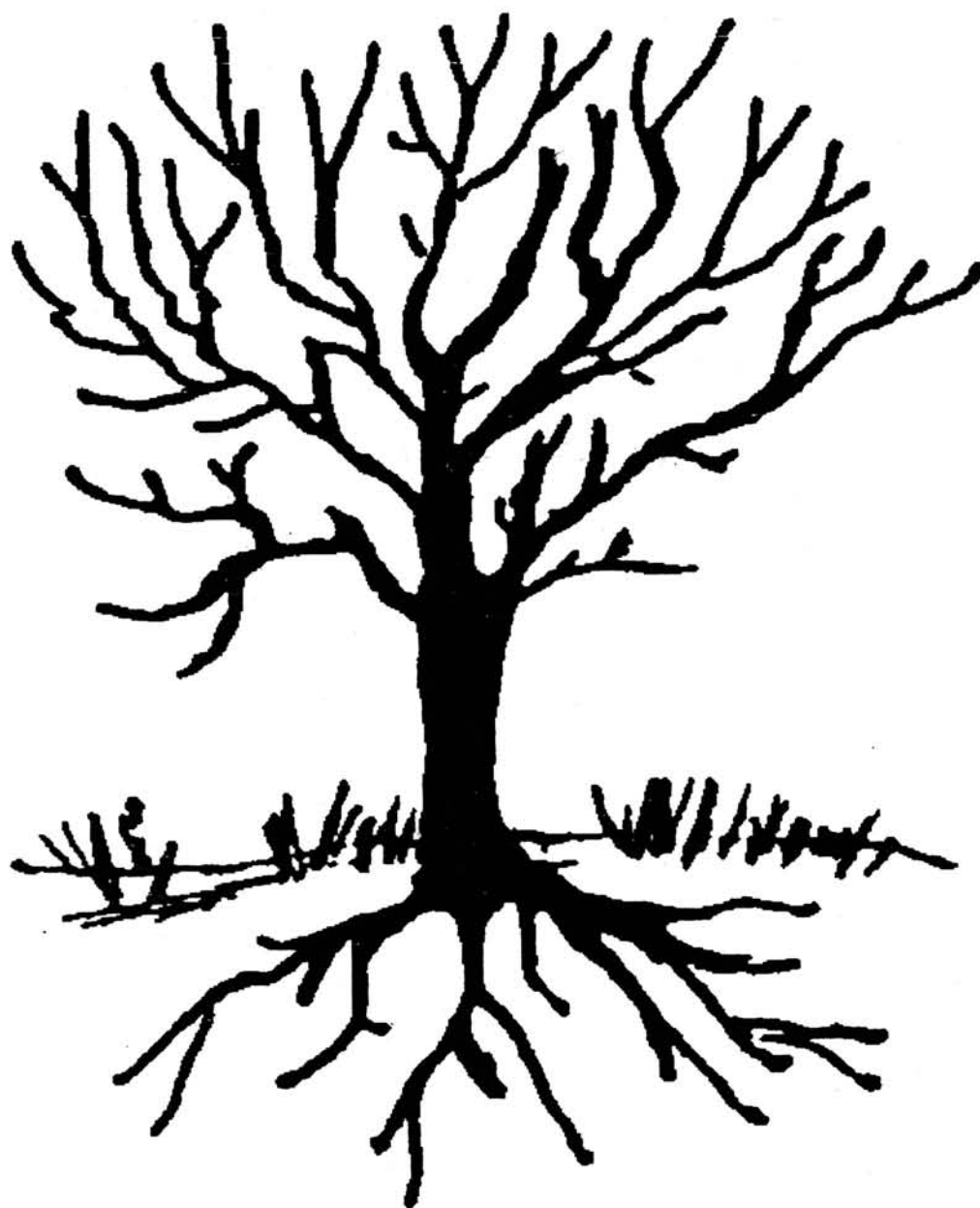
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Volume 5 Issue 4

FEB- MARCH 1997

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE ROOTS & BRANCHES GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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DATES IN OUR PAST

Here are a few dates that you may be able to use in your notes sections of your genealogy, to indicate what was going on while some of your ancestor's were living. If you are interested in this sort of information let the editor know, and we will continue this in subsequent newsletters.

1664- The Dutch surrender New Amsterdam to the English and the name of the colony is changed to New York.

1707 May 1, England and Scotland are joined under the name of the United Kingdom of Britain, and the Union Jack is adopted as the National flag.

1719-1729 The Colony of Carolina is divided and becomes the Royal Colonies of North Carolina, and South Carolina.

1756-1763 French & Indian War, extension on the American Continent of the European Seven Year War.

Mar. 22, 1765 Stamp Act imposed on America by the British.

Mar. 24, 1765 Quartering Act providing for the Board and upkeep of British Troops in America.

May 29, 1765 Patrick Henry offers a number of resolutions in the Virginia House of Burgesses, opposing the attitude of the British Government in the Colonies.

Mar. 5 1770 The Boston Massacre, several colonists are killed and wounded by British Troops in street clashes.

Dec. 16, 1773 The Boston Tea Party.

1774 Sept. 5 to Oct. 26. The First Continental Congress is held in Philadelphia and is representative of all the Colonies except Georgia.

1775-1783 American War of Independence. Starts with Battle of Lexington & Concord (Apr. 1775) and ends with the British surrender at Yorktown Oct. 19, 1781.

1775, June 15. George Washington is made Commander in Chief of the Continental Army

1776 July 4. Congress adopts the Declaration of Independence.

1783, Jan 20- Sept. 3. Treaty of Paris between the United States, Great Britain, France, Spain and Holland recognizes the Independence of the 13 United States. Great

Britain cedes Tobago and Senegal to France, Spain keeps Minoran and Florida.

DUES

The fiscal year of the Roots and Branches Genealogical Society runs from July 1. to June 30. Under this condition Dues Are Due by the First of July.

Due to the fact that many of our members are not in the area during the summer we have been accepting dues for the 1996-97 fiscal year up to the present time. The 1997-98 dues are due prior to July 1st 1997. All dues collected after Feb. 28th will be credited for the 1997-98 fiscal year.

If all our members can submit their dues prior to, or at, our June meeting, we will be able to better plan our budget and allow our 1997-98 officers to plan our yearly activities and to allow them to purchase additional books, and or CDs for the computer.

We certainly will accept payment as we have in the past. If your address label does not have a number on the first line, our records indicate that you have not paid your 1997 Dues. If this is a mistake please contact Tom Calvin.

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Meeting Schedules

Board Meetings:

Friday- 10 AM to 12 Noon

March 28

April 26

May 31

General R&B Meetings

Thursday- 6 P.M. to 8 P.M.

April 4

May 2

June 6

HANSEN'S TEN RULES FOR USING INDEXES.

By James L. Hansen, State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

- 1) An index is only an index. It is not a substitute for the record being indexed.
- 2) The larger the size of the index, the more easily pertinent listings are overlooked.
- 3) In a given record, any vowel may at any point be substituted for any other vowel- or consonant.
- 4) Virtually every pre- WW 2 record, in whatever form we see it today, originated as an attempt by an individual to put on paper what he or she thought was heard.
- 5) There is no perfect indexing system.
- 6) It doesn't matter how you spell the name, it only matters how the indexer spelled it.
- 7) Just because an index is described as complete or comprehensive, doesn't mean it is complete or comprehensive.
- 8) If you haven't found it in the index, you can only conclude that you haven't found it in the index. You cannot conclude that it is not in the record.
- 9) The index isn't always at the back of the book.
- 10) Sometimes it is best to ignore the index altogether.

And rule # 11, which Mr. Hansen added:  
 "An index can help you find things that are not where you think they belong."

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ANCESTOR ARRIVALS

It is possible that even though your ancestors may have come through New York City, they may not have been processed at Ellis Island. Here's where they were processed if they arrived at the port of New

York City between August 1, 1855 through the end of 1924:

- 1 Aug. 1855–18 Apr. 1890: Castle Garden
  - 19 Apr. 1890–Dec. 1891: Barge Office
  - 1 Jan. 1892–23 June 1897: Ellis Island
  - 14 June 1897–16 Dec. 1900: Barge Office
  - 17 Dec. 1900–31 Dec. 1924: Ellis Island
- (Source: Bismark Manden Hits. & GS, December 1994, page 2)

CASTLE GARDEN by Donald L. Peoffer

If our European ancestor immigrated through the Port of New York, we commonly believe their first arrival destination was the well known Ellis Island. This is not true if they arrived prior to January 1, 1892 as the Ellis Island immigrant receiving station did not open until this date.

Castle Garden on the waterfront was officially opened as America's first receiving station for immigrants on August 1, 1855. It received the vast majority of European immigrants from that day until its closing on April 18, 1890. Following its closing and for the next two years a temporary location known as the Barge Office and annex, a landing place in Battery Park close to Castle Garden, was used. Castle Garden was originally a fort named Castle Clinton. The first three ships discharged immigrants (mostly German and Irish) on August 3, 1855. They were the forerunners of some eight million immigrants who would use this facility from 1855 until 1890.



TRY CALIFORNIA IN 1850 if an ancestor can't be found in the 1850 federal census in the state expected, try California. Some 100,000 gold seekers went there then including some 3000 Virginians. A quarter of them were back home by 1855. (Various sources)

CENSUS CURIOSITIES (Found in the Ensign Magazine of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, March 1996, p.58)

Interesting details discovered during the process of indexing the British 1881 Census

- \* The wife, mother and daughter of James Christmas were all named Mary Christmas.
- \* Frank Guest was listed as a visitor
- \* Harriet Goodhand was listed as a domestic.
- \* The families of William Lovergrove, Henry Dearlove and William Darling all lived on the same block in Oxfordshire. A woman named Rose married Robert Garden.
- \* Emma Boatwright marries a seaman.
- \* Mr. Thorn lived in Rose Cottage.
- \* Robert Speed, a bus driver and post runner.
- \* Robert Robb, a detective.
- \* Phoebe Brain, a scholar.
- \* One woman's birthplace was listed as "in stage coach between Nottingham and Derby".
- \* John Pounder, a blacksmith.

OLD NAMING PATTERN FOR CHILDREN

The first son was usually named after the father's father. The second son was usually named after the mother's father. The third son was usually named after the father. The fourth son was usually named after the father's eldest brother. The fifth son was usually named after the mother's eldest brother.

The first daughter was usually named after the mother's mother. The second daughter was usually named after the father's mother. The third daughter was usually named after the mother. The fourth daughter was usually named after the mother's eldest sister. The fifth daughter was usually named after the father's eldest sister.

Try this pattern when looking for a possible name for a parent. (Antique Wk., 5-13-1996)

CENSUS PROBLEMS ?

(Maybe this is why we can't always find our ancestors ???)

1790—Washington, D.C. is with the Montgomery and Prince George Counties in Maryland.

1820 & 1830 – Wisconsin is in the Michigan Census.

1836— Iowa Territory Census includes Minnesota

1840— Montana is with Clayton Co. Iowa

1860— Colorado is with the Kansas Census. Montana is found in the Nebraska Census under "Unorganized Territory" which also included what is now NE Colorado. Nevada is included with the Utah Census. Oklahoma is with Arkansas, which was then Indian land. Wyoming is included with Nebraska.

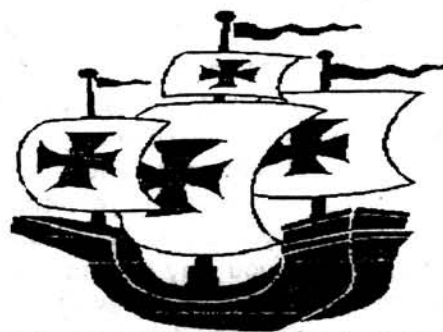
And prior to 1860, IA did NOT mean Iowa, but Indiana.

Virginia once covered many thousand square miles than it does now. A reference made to a person having been born in Virginia, could mean could really be born in part of: Illinois from 1781-1818, Indiana from 1787-1816, Missouri from 1775-1792, West Virginia from 1769-1863, North Carolina from 1728-1803, Ohio from 1728-1803, Pennsylvania from 1752-1786, and Tennessee from 1760-1803.

( From the Iowa Lakes GS Teaser, June 1996, Spencer, IA 51391-3235)

MEDICAL DOCTORS

An index of every known doctor in America since 1607 is available. Include a SASE when writing: National Institute of Health Library, 9000 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20892



Material from The Jan/ 1997 Newsletter of the La Crosse Area Genealogical Society, LaCrosse Wi.

Genealogy 101 Starting From Scratch

by Terry Tippits.

So you'd like to know who your ancestors are and where they came from but you don't have a clue about how to find out. Wonder no more.

For starters, a pencil and notebook will get you up and running. Along with those two essential items, you will want a small supply of family group sheets and a few pedigree charts. (You can get these latter two at the Genealogy room in the library or at any Family History Center).

1. GATHER YOUR RECORDS TOGETHER:

go through your home records and gather together any of those( i.e. birth certificates, baptism records, death certificates, marriage licenses etc.) containing information you will need for a pedigree chart or family group sheet.

2. START WITH YOU:

Now you're ready to begin, and the best place to start is with is you. Take out a pedigree chart,(copy included in this newsletter R&B) and write your name on the first line(women should use their maiden names) then fill out the rest of the chart as far as you are able with the information you have on hand. Do the same with the family group sheet. When you have made use of all the information you have, then its time to start gathering knowledge and records from others.

3. PUMP THE RELATIVES:

Contact your relatives for information. Uncle Bob may have already traveled down part of the research path you're just starting on, and it makes sense that you would coordinate your efforts with him so that you can both avoid any duplication of effort. If however, you find that no one else in your clan is doing research, then you get to start from scratch. From relatives you may get such records as pedigree charts (make copies of blank charts and show or tell them how to complete them ED.), family group records, birth, marriage and death certificates, family Bibles,

obituaries, family histories, diaries, and journals. You may also get useful information from personal interviews. This is where a tape recorder will come in handy. Grandma Charity may be guessing as to the date her father was born, but may be bang-on as to the location of his birth. A tape recording makes it easy for you to fill in your notes later on, and can be used for double checking the accuracy of the notes you took at the time.

4. DOCUMENT YOUR SOURCES.:

Good genealogists are naturally suspicious of poorly documented information they receive from someone else. Even if its you who found the original information, don't assume that you'll always be able to remember where you got it. Murphy's law dictates that the source you don't get around to documenting will be the very one you will need to log back to and look again later on. When relatives run out of ammunition to give you, then it's time to grab the research shovel and start digging through the original records. If this seems a bit overwhelming, just remember an old Chinese proverb. When building a mountain, with the first bag full of sand dumped, completion has begun. (From the Greater Omaha GA, Vol. 21, No. 4, November 1996)



Children are small creatures who make parents old and grandparents young

Nothing is so soothing to our self esteem, as to find our own bad traits in our forebears. It seems to absolve us. (Van Wyck Brooks, Monroe County Iowa GS V Vol. XII #3, 1996)

DNA- For a fee of \$55 you can now preserve a sample of your own DNA for future generations. Your genes will be housed in a glass capsule. Encased in a handsome metal chamber, and engraved with your name. If you are interested--write to--Third Millennium Research, Inc.--5739 33 NE- Seattle WA. 98105

(from The New Brass Key, Nebraska State GS, Summer 1996)

20 WAYS TO AVOID GRIEF IN YOUR GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH(cont.)

- 6: Don't forget to make frequent backups of your computer disks.
- 7: Store backup copies of your computer disks and photocopies of your irreplaceable documents in a safety deposit box or in someone else's home.
- 8. Remember that ..." if it's in print, it isn't necessarily fact." Information in recently published local or family history is often based on that from older published works. If the older books are incorrect, the erroneous information is simply repeated and further disseminated.
- 9. The earlier the time period in which you are researching, the less consistent our ancestors were about the spelling of their surnames. Also many of them were illiterate and could not tell a record keeper how their names should be spelled.
- 10. Family traditions of close connections to famous figures are usually false, but there may be a more obscure relationship involved. Perhaps the famous person spent a night at your ancestor's estate instead of (as the legend goes) marrying into the family. (To be continued)

BOARD MEMBERS

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THANK YOU !

The officers and all present and past members wish to thank Bette Lane and Leymoyne Meichner for all their help and time willingly given to the Roots and Branches Society. Bette has had to give up her position as Book Committee Chairman due to health concerns and Leymoyne (1st. Pres. of R&B and currently 1st V.P.) is leaving the area. We will miss them both and hope that Bette will be able to attend our meetings in the future, and that Leymoyne will visit when she is near. Our thoughts will be with them both.



Found another 17th. cousin 12r.

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