
ROOTS AND BRANCHES

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Carol Izzo appreciates any genealogy-related information for the Newsletter. The information can be provided to her by e-mail (jizzo@totcon.com), at meetings, or at the DeLand Library Genealogy Room with her name on it. Please put your name on the article so you get credit.

Meeting Schedules

The Roots and Branches Society meets at the DeLand Library at 6:00 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month, September through June.

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REMINDER!

Do not forget to renew your annual memberships! Memberships run from June to June.

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NEW BOOKS IN THE DELAND GENEALOGY LIBRARY

1. **Mayflower Families - Volumes 8-20.** Donated by Marjorie Heaney. Below (left picture) is the set of donated books with Dr. Robert Fox (Left) and Dr. Tom Calvin (Right) who are on our book committee.



Also pictured (right picture) is Marjorie Heaney with her donated Volumes 8-20 of the "Mayflower Families."

2. **Directory of Scottish Settlers in North America** by David Dobson, Volumes 1-5

3. **The People's Clearance 1770-1815** by J.M. Bumstead. These books are an account of Highland Scottish immigration to Canada.

The Directory of Scottish Settlers and The People's Clearance were donated by Phyllis B. McPherson in memory of her husband Keith. They are relatives of Marjorie Heaney.

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Married to an Alien - Michael John Neill

The "confusing" census entry is viewable at: www.rootdig.com/census/verikios1920.html

I must admit the census entry confused me. The wife was a native of the state of New York State and was listed in the 1920 census as an unnaturalized alien. There is an "x" in the box for her year of immigration to the United States.

All other records clearly indicated the individual in question, Mary Verikios, had been born in New York State. While looking at other individuals on the same census page, I noted that a female neighbor born in Wisconsin was also listed as an alien with no date of naturalization or immigration. The commonality was that both ladies were married to men who were immigrant aliens. This connection warranted further study. It turned out that for these two ladies (and thousands of others), their choice of a husband impacted their citizenship.

The problem centers around the history of women in regards to naturalization. The census entries for both women indicate they were probably married around 1910. I learned that under the law in effect at that time, both women would have lost their citizenship upon their marriage to an alien. To further compound the problem, courts during this era and for some time before frequently held that women derived their citizenship status from that of their husband. There were exceptions (single women filing homestead claims were sometimes naturalized whether they were a widow or had never been married).

The history of naturalization in the United States is somewhat complex. The complexity is aggravated for women by the fact that the laws regarding naturalization and females were ambiguous, especially before 1907. For a significant portion of

(Married To An Alien...Continued from page 1)

American history, a woman's citizenship status was derived from the status of her husband. In many cases immigrant women were naturalized "by default" upon their marriage to a citizen or upon their foreign-born husband obtaining citizenship. This derivative type of citizenship is the reason there are few naturalization records for immigrant women for most of American history. For those who were "naturalized by marriage" there generally is no mention of them in any records before 27 September 1906, when Congress standardized the naturalization process and required names of spouse and children on naturalization paperwork. Also, until women received the right to vote, there was little reason for many to bother with the expense and procedure of naturalization. However, there are occasionally naturalization records for women in the 1880s, 1890s and later. Many of the children "naturalized by default" via their father's naturalization, but not listed specifically, later went through the naturalization process themselves.

To reduce confusion, here is a brief chronology relevant to the problem at hand:

1906 - The Basic Naturalization Act was passed on 27 September 1906, which standardized the naturalization process throughout the United States. Records after this date are more consistent than those before. No longer could just any court perform a naturalization.

1907 - On 2 March 1907 an act was passed wherein a wife's citizenship status was determined by the status of her husband. Here is where the confusion begins to get worse. For women who immigrated after this act (and before later changes were enacted), there was no real change from before (unless their husband was already a U.S. citizen). However, it was different for U.S.-born citizen females who married an alien after this date. These women would lose their citizenship status upon marriage to an alien. Many of these women would later become citizens again upon their husband's naturalization. Women who married men who were racially ineligible to naturalize lost their ability to revert back to their pre-marriage citizenship status.

On 22 September 1922, Congress passed the Married Women's Act, also known as the Cable Act. Now the citizenship status of a woman and a man were separate. This law gave each woman her own citizenship status. This act was partially drawn in

response to issues regarding women's citizenship that occurred after women were given the right to vote. From this date, no marriage to an alien has taken citizenship from any U.S.-born woman. Females who had lost their citizenship status via marriage to an alien could initiate their own naturalization proceedings.

1936 - This act affected U.S. citizen women whose marriage to an alien between the acts of 1907 and 1922 had caused them to lose their citizenship status. These women, if the marriage to the alien had ended in death or divorce, could regain their citizenship by filing an application with the local naturalization court and taking an oath of allegiance. Those women still married to their husband were not covered under the act and these individuals would have to go through the complete naturalization process.

In 1940, Congress allowed all women who lost their citizenship status between 1907 and 1922 to repatriate by filling an application with the local naturalization court and taking an oath. The complete naturalization process was no longer necessary for any woman whose marriage between 1907 and 1922 caused her to lose her citizenship status.

How Does This Impact Marie? Here's where it gets a little confusing. Marie's husband, Peter Verikios, was naturalized in 1934. Marie and Peter divorced in 1940. Marie subsequently married another U.S. citizen a few years later. None of these events made a difference in Marie's status after she married Peter, for they all took place after the Cable Act of 1922, which separated a woman's citizenship status from that of her husband. Her marriage to Peter between 1907 and 1922 was the "problem" in regard to her citizenship status.

Where Should I Go? It might be worth looking into possible records whereby Marie regained her citizenship status. Given the confusion that surrounded the citizenship status of women, there might be no record at all. In this case, since Marie's origins in New York State are somewhat foggy, accessing the records may shed some light on her life before she came to the Chicago area.

That one little "X" in the 1920 census really gave me a history lesson.

Source: Ancestry.com, November, 2001

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The timeframe for European censuses should be of interest to researchers of Europe. The first census for each of the following countries began: Austria 1815; Bavaria 1818; France 1801; Great Britain 1851; Greece 1836; Norway 1815; Prussia 1810; Russia 1897; Saxony 1815; Spain 1789; Sweden 1749; and Switzerland 1860.

Source: Family Tree, October/November 2001

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If your ancestor was a prisoner of war, there is a service that may be able to help with information - for prisoners from any war, the Civil War included. Send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Andersonville National Historic Site, Route 1, Box 84, Andersonville, Georgia 31711. Include the name of the prisoner of war, which war and military information you may have, such as branch of service and unit. Cost is for copies only if information found.

Source: Family Tree

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Suffixes to German surnames often contain clues to the regional origin of the surnames: "bach" from southwest Germany; "haus" from Westphalia; "ingen" from Baden and Wurttenburg; "ski, zje" from East Pomerania; "burg" from throughout Germany, "ecke" from Hesse and Thuringia; "reuth" from Bavaria; and "inske" from Upper Silesia.

Source: Family Tree, October/November 2001

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Obtaining Vital Records in the New York City Area

Many emigrants from many countries came to the great Melting Pot - the New York City area.

New York City is comprised of 5 counties - Manhattan, Bronx (since 1898), Kings (Brooklyn), Queens and Staten Island (Richmond). These boroughs are treated differently in terms of requirements on how to and who may obtain records, and in where they are obtained from.

Obtaining records

New York City Department of Records and Information Services (Municipal Archives)
31 Chambers Street
Room 103
New York, NY 10007
212-788-8560

<http://www.ci.nyc.ny.us/html/doris/html/archives.html>

Go to this page and print out the applicable request form (the author of this article has found using the form helps, they can be a bit picky about just responding to letters). Be sure to enclose the check for the appropriate amount (see various prices on form) and a SASE. Response time is approximately one month.

Records held at the Municipal Archives are:

MANHATTAN

Births July 1847-1848, July 1853-1909

Deaths 1795, 1802-1804, 1808, 1812-1948

Marriages June 1847-1848, July 1853-1937

BROOKLYN (KINGS)

Births 1866-1909

Deaths 1847-1853, 1857-1948

Marriages 1866-1937

BRONX

Births 1898-1909

Deaths 1898-1948

Marriages 1898-1937

QUEENS

Births 1898-1909

Deaths 1898-1948

Marriages 1898-1937

Town/village vital records 1847-1849, 1871-1898

RICHMOND (Staten Island)

Births 1898-1909

Deaths 1898-1948

Marriages 1898-1937

Town/village vital records 1847-1849, 1881-1898

*indexes to many of these years are also available on film through your local FHC. Some actual certificates are also filmed.

For certificates in later years

New York City Department of Health
<http://www.ci.nyc.ny.us/html/doh/html/vr/vr.html>
print out a form for the appropriate event and send it in with \$15 check. Response time takes approximately one month. As long as you are a relative you may obtain a certificate (even if you are only a cousin or niece, etc). This is very different from the rest of New York State (including the nearby counties of Nassau and Suffolk) where you must be a "direct" descendant and sometimes must prove the relationship.

(Obtaining Vital Records in NYC Continued from page 3)

Other helpful sites

**NYC Genealogical Research Services
& NYC Cemetery Research and Photography**
<http://www.jimgarrity.com>

Jim Garrity offers affordable genealogical research in the Primary Source venues of New York City. Municipal Archives, Surrogate's Courthouses and County Clerk's offices are all places he can extract records from. Cemetery research and photography is a specialty, as are low cost probate and administration file searches. Jim is a member of the New York Genealogical & Biographical Society and has full access to their resources. No minimum contracts are required of the client, you only pay for the work you need to have done, nothing more (the author of this article personally used Jim's services and vouches for his integrity and work).

Genealogical Research at the NY Public Library

<http://www.nypl.org/research/chss/lhg/research.html>

NY GenWeb Page

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~nygenweb/>

Kings NY GenWeb page

<http://community.webtv.net/shamrockroots/kingsny>

Source: Internet

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Breakthrough in Black Family History Research

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints announced in February the release of Freedman's Bank Records on CD, a unique searchable database documenting several generations of African Americans immediately following the Civil War.

The completion of the 11-year project was announced by Church officials during a teleconference between Salt Lake City and Washington D.C. News conferences were also held across the nation in Atlanta, Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, Oakland, Denver, Houston, Dallas, Raleigh, Miami and St. Louis. The Freedman's Bank project began in 1989 when Marie Taylor, an employee of the Family and Church History

Department of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, found the original microfilms of the records. She immediately recognized their significance: "When I discovered the Freedman's Bank records I envisioned African Americans breaking the chains of slavery and forging the bonds of families." Congress chartered the Freedman's Savings and Trust Company in 1865 to benefit ex-slaves, but it was anything but beneficial. After former slaves deposited more than \$57 million in the bank, it collapsed because of mismanagement and outright fraud, devastating the African American Community. Now, more than 100 years later, there is a silver lining to the disaster. In an effort to establish bank patrons' identities, bank workers at the time recorded the names and family relationships of account holders, sometimes taking brief oral histories. In the process they created the largest single repository of lineage-linked African-American records known to exist. It's estimated that 8-10 million African Americans living today have ancestors who deposited money in the Freedman's Bank.

Many genealogical researchers were aware of the existence of the Freedman's Bank records, but little use had been made of the data because it lacked effective indexes. The records presented an irresistible challenge for Taylor, who soon enlisted the help of her friend Darius Gray. Together they embarked on a lengthy, personal project to unlock the information trapped in the records.

Taylor asked inmates at the Utah State Prison, South Point Correctional Facility, to participate in the challenging project. The Church had previously established a family history center at the prison, where inmates voluntarily donated their time to family history projects. The one-of-a-kind facility occupies three rooms filled with microfilm readers, microfiche readers and 30 computer stations.

The inmates extracted, linked and automated the 480,000 names contained in the Freedman's Bank records. The entire process involved approximately 550 inmates who vied for the opportunity to contribute their free time to the project. Theirs was a freewill gift—not a prison work assignment.

Gray said of the project, "The depositors of the Freedman Bank were former slaves—men and women who had little education, little money, and little anticipation of what the future would ultimately yield. But today they can be found, remembered and appreciated by those who enjoy a very different life."

(Breakthrough in Black Family...continued from page 4)

The Freedman's Bank Records CD is available at cost for \$6.50. It can be ordered over the Internet at www.familysearch.org or by calling Church distribution centers at 1-800-537-5971 and asking for item #50120

Source: Church of Latter Day Saints News Release

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A TRIBUTE TO OUR ANCESTORS

By Roy Stockdill, Hertfordshire, U.K.

They did not choose us, nor we them, we never knew them, nor they us, yet we are inextricably bound together for all eternity and there is no law in the universe, nor metamorphosis physical or spiritual, than can ever alter this inalienable truth.

Often we may wish for different ones and feel moved to deny the ones we have, but this is futile as it is foolish to invent spurious ones, for our deception will surely be unmasked, if not by others, ultimately by our own conscience.

We owe everything, our very existence, to our ancestors, and yet we know next to nothing of them because mostly their lives were so humbly recorded. It is good that we seek to expand our knowledge of their lives so that we may better understand our own.

They made us, body and soul, and we must accept without complaint or rancor what they were and what we are, for nothing and no one can ever change this fact and it is barren folly to dwell obsessively upon it.

We recognize that the legacy of genetic inheritance is a double-edged sword. We should be grateful for those gifts of personality and disposition our ancestors bestowed upon us which we find beneficial and not rail against those traits we find less appealing, for it is surely in our own hands to change them.

We should take pride in our ancestors and their achievements wherever possible, whether highborn or low, rich or poor, prince or pauper, and not seek arbitrarily to revile or condemn them for acts of which we knew nothing of the causes.

We must learn from them, from their mistakes as well as their successes: from their tragedies as well as their triumphs; from their sins as well as

their virtues; from their hopes as well as their fears. Posterity and history are irrevocably intertwined in the present. No coherent vision of the future can exist without an affinity for the past and recognizance of the lives of our forebears.

Remember that we, too, are the ancestors of those yet unborn and we should seek to leave for them a heritage of which they can be proud as we are of that which our forebears bequeathed to us.

We bless and thank our ancestors for the legacy of the good things they gave us, forgive them their errors and pray that we will endeavor to use wisely the knowledge which they handed down to us.

Source: Beverly Outlaw

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EVENTS

1. April 7, 2002 - The Florida Genealogical Society, in partnership with the History and Genealogy Department of the John F. Germany Public Library, presents George G. Morgan, beginning at 2pm, in the auditorium of the John F. Germany Public Library, Ashley Drive, Tampa. Mr. Morgan will be speaking on the topic of preserving your genealogical treasures. The presentation is free and open to the public. For more information, call Scott L. Peeler, Jr. at (813) 685-2544 after 10:30am.

2. May 2, 2002 - Roots and Branches will present *Internet and Genealogy* as its program.

3. June 6, 2002 - Roots and Branches will present *Basic Computers* as its program.

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SOME INTERESTING BOOKS

1. *Collector's Guide to Early Photographs*. By Henry Mace.

2. *Restoration and Photographic Copying*. By Alexander Shafran.

3. For identifying time periods in photographs or paintings:

—*American Victorian Costume in Early Photographs*. By Priscilla Harris Dalrymple.

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DAR Florida Chap. website addresses including the Colonel Arthur Erwin Chapter DAR e-mail address: <http://www.FLDAR.org/links.htm>