

HGSG – ISSN 1529-6016

THE HUDSON GREEN

Quarterly Newsletter of the



Member of the
Ohio Genealogical Society

Sustainable Genealogy: Separating fact from fiction in family legends

by Richard Hite

Book Review by Beth M. Bush

Richard Hite, who has been researching his family genealogy since 1979, has written this book citing examples of his own family ancestors with methodologies of figuring out what is fact and what is fiction. He is currently the State Records Coordinator of the Rhode Island State Archives and Public Records Administration.

Many family historians fall into the trap of family oral or written history handed down from generation to generation. The three guidelines one must ask in guessing how accurate a family story an older relative (informant) has told: 1) Did the informant know the people involved? 2) If so, how old was the informant when the people involved died? 3) Whether or not the informant knew them, did he or she grow up in the same vicinity as the people in the story? Most of these stories are never researched for facts. They are taken for granted that they are true because they have been told generations ago and they make for an interesting story. Always verify the statements by documentation.

The author covers other categories such as surnames and various ethnic backgrounds, tracing your lineage to wealthy, royalty, notoriety, Native American or historical figures and the latest - DNA testing. Checking the chronological relationships is another factor in checking the facts of your ancestors. For example, a story is told that an ancestor was General George Washington's right-hand man during the Revolutionary War when actually the ancestor with the same name wasn't even born yet. Even though this ancestor may not have been the same right-hand man to General Washington, there may be an interesting story to tell anyway. It's always good to know the truth rather than carrying on the false identity of an ancestor that isn't even related to you.

Facts are backed up by documentation – that being the original source of information. While death certificates are a good source of identifying the death of a person, it doesn't necessarily mean that the other information such as parents' names or place of birth is accurate. You must look at the name of the informant on the death certificate – this person may not know the facts; therefore, this information cannot be trusted. A better document to check for parents' names would be a marriage certificate. There are many other documents such as census records that the author cites for verifying ancestral ties to other ancestors with that name.

This book is a good textbook both for beginners and seasoned genealogists on how-not-to get trapped on the wrong road in tracing your family tree.

Editor's Note: This book has also been reviewed by Bobbi King in Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter, February 7, 2014 at: http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2014/02/book-review-sustainable-genealogy-separating-fact-from-fiction-in-family-legends.html

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HGSG

Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee of Barbara Behling, Betty W. Franklin, and Richard Satava submitted the following slate of officers for 2014- 2015:

President:

Lynda Brodine

Vice President:

Helen Soblosky

Secretary:

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Nancy Brock, Ted Minier

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Beth Bush and Marion Else

Anyone wishing to propose another name for any office is encouraged to do so at the Annual Meeting on June 7, 2014, but must first get the consent of the person being proposed. We hope that our members will join us at the Annual Meeting.

The Hudson Green is glad to publish member's articles on their family research, travels, or tips that were helpful in investigating their genealogy. Send your article to:

Hudson Genealogical Study Group
Hudson Library & Historical Society
Dept. G
96 Library Street
Hudson, OH 44236-5122
or
E-mail Gwen Mayer at
Gwen.mayer@hudson.lib.oh.us

The Hudson Green Editorial Board

Editor.....Stefanie Hughes
& Elsie Thomas
Layout.....John Franklin
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President's Message

HGSG's May meeting is scheduled for an off-site workshop at Laurel Lake. The introductory workshop under the auspices of Susan Busco, Laurel Lake's Activities Director, will be assisted by Laurel Lake residents Susan Conrad, Grace Lewis and Marion Else. Beginning research will be covered with first five generations, using computer resources with Dick Satava and German & Polish library contacts. Individual help will follow lunch served by Laurel Lake.

At a winter DAR/OGS workshop in Canton, I plugged in Bergolzh, Ohio. To my surprise, there was a response. I found a Stokes whose uncle married my Call grandmother. She knew the Morgan Raider's tale of how my aunt's fresh bread saved the farm. We are planning a trip to Bergolzh later this year to consult with the couple who operate the Historical Society for help in locating the farm. Sidebars can give parallel information that is useful. Stokes ancestors go back to before 1700.

A service available through the state is an injection process that identifies ancient bones buried without a casket. I hope to establish the final resting place of Alexander Call, my DAR ancestor.

While in Jefferson County, I revisited the house my grandmother Call was born in. At the rear of the property is a small ancient Indian mound where stories abound of dancing and ceremonies atop the grave. Through contacts with the state historical society, I learned of the man who selects mounds for exploration. I am hoping to get his input.

Another interesting fact: there is an Obediah Williams obelisk at Union Cemetery, Steubenville. Each of the children has a spot radiating from the obelisk. Also my grandfather's grave is located exactly 275' due west of his parent's plot.

HGSG members Gwen Mayer, and Betty and John Franklin judged the DAR essay contests and Good Citizens Award. I hope some of you will be interested in judging in the future. You will learn to appreciate the many talents of our young citizens.

Consider joining HGSG, as the benefits are many. Members-only lock-ins allow you to research with expert guidance, and gives you the ability to communicate with our state historical groups and new friends with like interests.

President Lynda Williams (Berohn) Brodine

Area Genealogical Activities

(From Cleveland District Round Table)

Wednesday, 2 April 2014, 1:00-2:30 p.m. Cuyahoga West Chapter, OGS offers free Family History Research Help Session, Computer Lab, Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Rd., Westlake

Monday, 7 April 2014, 7:00 p.m. Betty Franklin will present "Reading Old Handwriting, or Why Didn't They Use a Typewriter." East Cuyahoga County Genealogical Society, Ross C. DeJohn Community Center, Marsol Road, Mayfield Hts., OH.

Saturday, 12 April 2014, 9:30 a.m. Dr. Mary Boehnlein will present "Using Newspapers for Genealogy Research" at the regular meeting of NEOCAG at Mayfield Library, 500 SOM Center Rd., Mayfield Village, OH.

Sunday, 13 April 2014, 2:00 p.m. Medina County Genealogical Society presents, "Using Maps to Solve Genealogical Puzzles", by Tom Neel, OGS Library Director, Medina County District Library, 210 S. Broadway, Medina.

Monday, 14 April 2014, 7:00 p.m. Lorain County Chapter-OGS, "Unlocking the Keystone State: Key Resources and Repositories for Pennsylvania Research" presented by Chris Staats, North Ridgeville Public Library, 35700 Bainbridge Rd., North Ridgeville.

Saturday, 19 April 2014, 9 a.m. CAGG General Meeting with general program/speaker. Breakout sessions for the major genealogy software programs start at 11 a.m.; brown bag lunch; computer fundamentals from 1 -2 p.m., Fairview Park Library, 21255 Lorain Road.

Saturday, 12 April 2014, 10:00 am - 12:00 p.m. - Greater Cleveland Genealogical Society "Clandiggers" help session for genealogists at the Fairview Park branch, Cuyahoga County Public Library, 2nd floor.

Monday, 21 April 2014, 6:30 p.m. - Greater Cleveland Genealogical Society program "Cleveland State University Special Collections" with Bill Barrow, Fairview Park branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library.

Saturday, 26 April 2014, 8:30 am – 2:00 p.m. "Family History from the Past Into the Future," a free workshop with many topics, many speakers is to be presented at the Westlake Family History Center, 25000 Westwood, Westlake, OH 44145.

Saturday, 26 April 2014, 9:30 a.m. African American Genealogical Society meets at Shaker Heights Main Library. A recap will be provided of one of the most important tools in the genealogist's arsenal of resources: The U.S. Census. The member workshop will focus on the variety of data available within this record and how to access online.

Wednesday, 30 April-Saturday, 3 May 2014, OGS Conference is at Kalahari! Many great speakers and activities! See www.ogs.org for more information.

Monday, 5 May 2014, 7:00 p.m. Lisa Louise Cooke will present "Google Search Strategies for Common Surnames." DVD with Skype conversation at Euclid Public Library, 631 E. 222 St., Euclid, OH 44123. Note place substitution.

Saturday, 10 May 2014, 9:30 a.m. NEOCAG will hear Alan Rabe bring us up to date of the new *FamilySearch* Family Tree updates and features. 500 SOM Center Road, Mayfield Village.

Saturday, 10 May 2014, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Greater Cleveland Genealogical Society "Clandiggers" help session for genealogists at the Fairview Park branch, Cuyahoga County Public Library, 2nd floor.

Saturday, May 10 2014, 2:00 p.m. Medina County Genealogical Society presents, "Pre-1850 Tic-Marks – What Can They Tell Me?" by Peggy Clemmens Lauritzen, AG, Medina County District Library, 210 S. Broadway, Medina.

Monday, 12 May 2014, 7:00 p.m. Lorain County Chapter OGS - TBA

Saturday, 17 May 2014, 9 a.m. CAGG General Meeting with program/speaker. Breakout sessions for the major genealogy software programs start at 11 a.m.; brown bag lunch; computer fundamentals from 1 -2 p.m., Fairview Park Library, 21255 Lorain Road.

Sunday, 18 May 2014, 12:30 p.m. Cuyahoga County Lineage Groups will hold its annual induction ceremony at a luncheon at Cleveland Yachting Club, 200 Yacht Club Drive, Rocky River. Speaker will be Steve Korpos Jr. from the Midwest Railroad Preservation Society. Reservations by May 5.

Monday, 19 May 2014, 6:30 p.m. - Greater Cleveland Genealogical Society program "Researching Your Pre-1850 Ancestors." with Margaret Cheney. Fairview Park branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library.

Saturday, 24 May 2014, 9:30 a.m. African American Genealogical Society meets at Shaker Heights Main Library. The Education Committee will review the ways vital records (births, deaths, marriages) can be used to fill significant gaps in a family search. The member workshop will delve more into where and how to search for this information.

Monday, 2 June 2014, 7:00 p.m. Potluck! "The Doctor's Black Bag, Home Remedies and Folklore," with Summit County Historical Society. East Cuyahoga County Genealogical Society, Ross C. DeJohn Community Center, Marsol Road, Mayfield Hts., OH.

Monday, 9 June 2014, 7:00 p.m. Lorain County Chapter OGS, "Genealogical Research in Kentucky" presented by Tom Neel, OGS Library Director, at North Ridgeville Public Library, 35700 Bainbridge Rd., North Ridgeville

Saturday, 21 June 2014, 9 a.m. CAGG General Meeting with general program/speaker. Breakout sessions for the major genealogy software programs start at 11 a.m.; brown bag lunch; computer fundamentals from 1 -2 p.m., Fairview Park Library, 21255 Lorain Road.

Saturday, 21 June 2014, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. All-day conference on Italian genealogy with eight sessions for beginners and experienced researchers. Sponsored by the Cleveland Italian Ancestry Organization (CIAO) and the Western Reserve Historical Society. \$45 registration covers continental breakfast, buffet lunch, and copies of handouts for all classes. Contact Pamela Dean at WRHS pdean@wrhs or (216) 721-5722 x1523

Saturday, 28 June 2014, 9:30 a.m. African American Genealogical Society meets at Shaker Heights Main Library. "Researching using FamilySearch and *Ancestry.com*." *FamilySearch* is a readily available database that can be accessed on the web and *Ancestry.com Library Edition* can be accessed on library computers. The member workshop will include hands-on participation.

“It’s a Small World”

By Nancy Brock

How often have you said or have you been told, “it’s a small world?” A fellow member of the Hudson Genealogical Study Group, Trudy Painting, and I found out we took dancing lessons from the same teacher, Miss Ruth Wurgler. I had a recital in 1954 and 1955, Trudy’s was in the 1956 class.

Trudy had been trying to contact Ruth and set up a get together. We were able to finally meet and have breakfast with Ruth in Independence. It was such a pleasant visit. Miss Ruth’s teacher was Hazel Doran. Ruth began her teaching career out of her mother’s basement until she built her own studio at Garfield Blvd. and East 94th St. in Garfield Heights.

Many of her former students remain in contact with her and have taught and have been in the theater. Cheryl Armstrong, a former student, was in the movie *Those Eyes, Those Lips*. Miss Ruth had students on the Gene Carroll Show. She also danced with Dick Blake on the Cleveland Arthur Murray Show.

Side note: HGSG secretary Carleen Welch’s dad and Ruth Wurgler have known each other since first grade. Isn’t it a small world?



Nancy Brock, “Miss Ruth” Wurgler (dance instructor), and Trudy Painting



Doran Dance studio in Garfield Heights at Garfield Blvd. and East 94th St. where Ruth Wurgler instructed for many years.

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Recent Acquisitions to the Archives

By Gwen Mayer



Weights, Money and Other Measures used by our Ancestors, by Colin R. Chapman

Meet Me at Ray's: A Celebration of Ray's Place in Kent, Ohio, by Patrick J. O'Connor

John J. Gilligan: The Politics of Principle, by Mark Bernstein

Unlocking the Secrets in Old Photographs, by Karen Frisch

Change and Constancy – Western Reserve Academy 1967-1982, by James Gramentine

The History of Fairfield, Fairfield County, Connecticut (Vol. 1 and 2), by Elizabeth Hubbell Schenck

A Guide to Chicago and Midwestern Polish-American Genealogy, by Jason Kruski

Dictionary of Americanized French-Canadian Names, Onomastics and Genealogy, by Marc Picard

Emigration from the United Kingdom to America

Annals of Witchcraft in New England and Elsewhere in the United States, by Samuel G. Drake

A Complete Directory of Crawford County, Pennsylvania 1879-80

Pennsylvania Soldiers of the Revolutionary War, Living in States other than Pennsylvania, by Paul W. Myers

Genealogical and other Newsworthy Items abstracted from The Pittsburgh Reporter Jan. 25, 1822-Dec. 25, 1827, by Paul K. Heckethorn

Sustainable Genealogy: Separating Fact from Fiction in Family Legends, by Richard Hite

Mayflower Families through Five Generations Volume 23, Part 2 and Part 3

Spotsylvania County, Virginia Marriage References and Family Relationships 1721-1800

Contributions to the History of Ancient Families of New Amsterdam and New York, by Edwin R. Purple
Makers of Coaches, Carriages and Wagons

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O'Sullivan (O Suillebhain) The Earliest Irish Royal Family History and Genealogy

Scots in Southern Europe, 1600-1900, by David Dobson

Without Indentures: Index to White Slave Children in Colonial Court Records (Maryland and Virginia), by Richard Hayes Phillips

Baltimore County, Maryland Marriage Licenses (Feb. 11, 1815 to Apr 30, 1823), by Michael A. Ports

Baltimore County, Maryland Marriage Licenses (May 1, 1798 to Feb. 11, 1815) , by Michael A. Ports

White Maryland Runaways, 1720-1762

Index of the Rolls of Honor (Ancestor's Index) in the Lineage Books of the NSDAR V. 1-4, by Daughters of the American Revolution

History of Butler County, Pennsylvania V. 1-2
To Raise up a Nation, by William S. King

German Immigrants in American Church Records – Vol. 7: Iowa West Protestant

German Immigrants in American Church Records – Vol. 8: Iowa Northeast Protestant

Soft Gold: A History of the Fur Trade in the Great Lakes Region and its Impact on Native American Culture, by Ted Reese

The Family of James Tagg and Rebecca (Heighton) Tagg of Kettering, England and Portage and Lawrence Counties, Ohio 1814-1900

Ohio Photographers, 1839-1900, by Diane VanSkiver Gagel

Hudson Genealogy Study Group Programs for 2014

MAR	Sat	1	How to Preserve Family Photos	Polly Reynolds	10 a.m.	Flood Room
	Sat	1	Quarterly Board Meeting			
	Sat	15	Translation Websites	Mary Hughes	10 a.m.	Flood Room
APR	Sat	12	Fairview Park Library Field Trip – Help Session	Sign-up Archives		
	Wed	30	OGS Conference - Sandusky OH	Individual Registration		
MAY	Wed	7	NGS Conference - Richmond Virginia			
	Sat	17	Intro to Genealogy for Laurel Lake	Lynda Brodine	10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Laurel Lake
JUN	Sat	7	Annual Meeting: Russian Connection Who Do You Think You Are?	Chris Driver	10 a.m.	Flood Room

HUDSON GENEALOGICAL STUDY GROUP

Membership Information for 2013 – 2014

(Please Print)

Name _____ Maiden Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip (+ 4 if known) _____ - _____

Current e-mail address _____ Phone Number _____

Genealogy Software used _____

Surnames you are researching _____

Geographic area of interest _____

New member _____ Couple membership _____ Renewing member _____ OGS member _____

Programs you would like to hear in the future _____

The membership year runs from September 1 to August 31 the following year. Please complete and include this form with your check by September 30, to ensure accurate information for our membership booklet. HGSG dues are \$15 per year (or any portion of the year) for couples and individuals.

Send this form and your check made payable to **HGSG** to:

Hudson Library – Dept. G.

96 Library Street

Hudson, Ohio 44236-5122

Membership Fee _____ \$15.00

You may include an optional contribution for HGSG if desired _____.

Hudson Genealogical Study Group
Hudson Library & Historical Society
Dept. G
96 Library Street
Hudson, OH 44236-5122



SPEAKERS BIOGRAPHIES

Past HGSG President, Mary Hughes, will speak on Websites that will translate written text from one language into another, from the free sites to the full service translation websites, and how they help you and their pitfalls.

Please join us for interesting and educational programs!

NEXT MEETINGS

Saturday, March 1, 10:00 a.m.

Polly Reynolds

“How to Preserve Family Photos”

Flood Room

Saturday, March 15, 10:00 a.m.

Mary Hughes

“Translation Websites”

Flood Room

Saturday, April 12

Fairview Park Library Field Trip

Help Session

Sign-up Archives