



# Irving Genealogical Society

## Officers:

President: Joe Sissom

Vice President: Jeanne Mantooth

Secretary: Is Needed

Treasurer: Erle Kellogg

## Coming Events

**Monday, June 18 – 6:30 P.M.**  
**Our Annual Pot-Luck Supper**

**Monday, July 16** - Our program for July will be Dan Fauver who has pioneered the maintenance of tombstones in the area for the last 6 years, developing special tools to do it. A grandfather got him interested in genealogy some years ago via his 8 documented patriot ancestors. Richard Monroe has worked with Dan for several years and suggested his participation. His group has worked in cemeteries from Bonham to Ennis and we look forward to his presentation.

**Saturday, August 11, 8:15 - 4:15** – The Fort Worth Genealogical Society presents its Summer Seminar featuring Lloyd Bockstruck. His topics are: Genealogical Research in Georgia – Colonial and State Statutes: Overlooked Sources for Genealogical Research – Pitfalls. Location: Oak Hall, Ft. Worth Botanical Garden Center, 3220 Botanic Garden Blvd, Ft. Worth. \$40.00 Pre-registration (must be received by Aug. 7) - Tickets at door - \$45.00. For more information contact Ann Lefevre at 817-496-9265 or lefevrea@prodigy.net. Note: For those needing only an application, contact me at marykweber@aol.com and I will send you one.

**Monday, August 20** – Our speaker will be Jerri Stele whose subject is Choosing a Digital Camera.

## **A Note from Eve Kellogg**

After completing all chemotherapy treatments, the CT Scan, PET Scan, Throat Specialist and Lung Specialist tests, all came back clear. I am gaining my strength back and doing much better. Everyone's support and cards were greatly appreciated! It made me feel better while I was getting better. - Eve

## **Gretchen & John Update**

Gretchen King-Eastman

I have spent a little over a month in Prescott, Arizona while my Texas friends and family have been having major weather changes. The weather has been beautiful, here. We have had some rain, but generally the highs have been in the low 80's. We are in the mountains at 4500 feet. John and I have a small apartment two blocks off the Court House Square in downtown Prescott. The Square is an active part of the town, with many restaurants and stores that are thriving. Every weekend there are activities on the square--so far there have been concerts and an art and craft show, the start of a mountain bike race with many more activities planned for summer. Lots of tourists visit every weekend and the Square is very active. It is fun just to walk around and people watch.

In addition of the normal grandchild games and activities, I have had time to do some genealogy online. This has been very productive as Ancestry has some new, great data bases that I searched and found some interesting information. I went to the data base list and started down the list (it is a large list so plan to spend some time) until I found the area my family lived in or I found something that sounded interesting. I found voter registration lists, new census data bases, passenger lists, border crossing manifests (my family is from Canada), and family history books. I went to areas where my family lived and checked each data base individually and found some interesting information. I revisited areas that I thought I had all the information and found more. I did Census work, Social Security death index, California death records, Voter Registration lists and many more. I made very general searches at first, looking for families names, not individuals before looking for more specific information. My fun find was a Border Crossing list of people going from Canada to New York on TCA (the Canadian Airline in 1944). I was looking for a record on my own arrival in the United States in the early 1950's which I have not found yet. It seems my parents went from Toronto, Ontario, Canada to New York's La Guardia Airport. I found the Passenger Manifest and the border crossing card for both my mother and my father. There are their individual signatures on the cards in addition to their ages and reason for going to New York. I also found some Draft Registration Cards for WWI and WWII for John's family members. It has been a treasure trove.

For those who have not subscribed to Ancestry, remember that it is available at the Irving library. Each new data base is marked with the date it is put online, and there are new ones most every week. It is a good idea to re-search areas that you have searched before. You never know what you will find. Now I have to put all my finds in my genealogy program. John teased me, saying I had used a whole ream of paper copying all the information I had found.

## **New Books at the Irving Public Library**

The following are new titles for June in the Local History and Genealogy Department:

Boddie, John Bennett. Southside Virginia Families. vol. 2. Clearfield, 1956

Chalkley, Lyman. Chronicles of the Scotch-Irish Settlement in Virginia.vol. 1. Commonwealth Printing. 1912

Hatcher, Patricia Law. Researching Your Colonial New England Ancestors. Ancestry. 2006

Hoffman, William F. Polish Surnames: Origins and Meanings. Polish Genealogical Society of America. 1998.

Lafayette County, Mississippi, Will Abstracts. 1836-1898. Skipwith Historical and Genealogical Society Inc. 1980

Marriages Dallas County Texas. v.2 Books F,G,H. Dallas Genealogical Society. 1989.

Oconee County, South Carolina Cemetery Survey. v. 2. Pendleton Chapter of South Carolina Genealogical Society. 1984

Pine Grove Cemetery: Highway 7 West of Nacogdoches. Ericson Books. 2007

Roster of Union Soldiers 1861-1865. vol. 11, part 1-2: Missouri, Kansas, Arkansas, Louisiana, North Carolina, Texas, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and Mississippi. Broadfoot. 1998

Settlers of Lovely County and Miller County Arkansas Territory 1820-1830. Picton Press. 2002.

Smith County Texas Marriages. East Texas Genealogical Society. 1982.

## **Using Ancestry: Census Search Review, by Juliana Smith**

We all probably have at least one of them. In my case, there are several. They're those families for whom you've searched and searched and searched, but are still unable to locate in the census. You've pulled out all the stops, repeated the searches over and over, and spent more late nights than you'd care to admit trying to coax them to appear on the screen. Yet they steadfastly refuse.

For those of us who have been researching for a long time, we may know the tricks, and think we've tried it all, but sometimes it's a good idea to review and see if there's something we missed.

### **Are You Searching Direct?**

If I'm missing an ancestor in a census, rather than trying to catch them in a big global search "net," I go right to that particular census year and search it directly. At Ancestry.com, the census search forms differ from year to year based on what information is searchable in each index. More recent census years often have more fields that can be used to zero in on your ancestor. Just remember not to fill in too much search criteria, or you risk ruling out your ancestor's entry. Start with a broad search and then rotate in new search criteria until you get a manageable number of hits.

### **List Your Attempts**

When you're working with a lot of options, it's easy to miss one if you don't keep track. The 1930 U.S. Federal Census search page at Ancestry has seventeen search options, sixteen of which you could use to locate your hidden ancestors (assuming you don't know the microfilm number). When you're trying out variations and combinations of search criteria in each field, it can be confusing. Without keeping track, it's easy to miss that "magic combination." Keep track of which searches you have performed and review the list periodically to look for combinations you haven't tried. Even if you give up for a while, as you learn new information about the family, when you revisit the list, you'll realize you haven't performed a search using that new tidbit.

### **No Last Name**

It seems like most of the problems I have in locating my elusive ancestors come from misspelled or mis-transcribed surnames. But yet, I often find myself still using surname variations as part of my search criteria. That can be a roadblock and I have to remind myself to try leaving it out completely.

This week, I was talking to my uncle, who is also interested in family history. He was telling me how he was unable to find his family in 1930. He knew family names, ages, and where they were living, but with searches focusing on variations of the surname Barnby, he was still coming up empty.

I searched for one of the children, Charles, using only the given name, and entered his parents' given names of Henry and Mary, specifying only the location of Stark County, Ohio. There they were indexed as Bamer. When I glanced at the image, I could see how this mistake was made. Upon closer inspection, it appears that the name written was actually Barnes, instead of Barnby.

Here were two layers of problems with the surname. It was written wrong by the enumerator and then indexed incorrectly, further corrupting the name. In addition, all three names—Bamer, Barnes, and Barnby—have different Soundex codes, so a Soundex search wouldn't have found the family. A wildcard search for Bar\* would have missed them as well. (For wildcard searches at Ancestry, an asterisk (\*) represents 0-6 characters and a question mark (?) represents one character. Neither can be used in the first three letters of the name.)

### **Sound-Alikes**

The previous example is a good reminder to learn the Soundex codes for the surnames and common variations you're searching. (An easy way is to use the [Soundex Converter](#) at RootsWeb.com.) That way when you enable the Soundex search functionality (by selecting Soundex from the drop-down menu for Spelling), you know what searches you are covering. If a common variation of your ancestor's name has a different code, you'll want to do a separate search for each code.

### **Look-Alikes**

My uncle told me he had actually searched for Barnes as a variation of Barnby. Looking at the letters, it's easy to see how "rn" may have been interpreted as an m. Look at the letters in the names you are searching for. What might one letter or a pair of letters be confused with? Try imitating handwriting styles used in census images in that area. (I've found one of the best ways to imitate some enumerators' handwriting is to put the pen between my toes, spin around a few times blindfolded, and then try to write it. If that doesn't work tie a pen to your pet's paw and let them take a whack at it.)

### **Names and Dates**

In another example, my boss was telling me about a family she had been unable to locate. The surname was Jones and in addition to the surname being mis-transcribed, several family members' given names were wrong as well. In this case, one of the siblings of her ancestor was named Abner and she knew he had been born in 1921 in Utah. I entered only the first name Abner, his birth year, and Utah in the appropriate fields and he turned up, the only Abner born in Utah in 1921—enumerated with the last name Dones.

### **Track a Neighbor**

You've probably heard professionals advise you to make note of the neighbors of your ancestor. This is good advice. Not only could they be related or turn up as witnesses or sponsors in other records, but they can sometimes be used to locate your ancestors. If you have an ancestor in 1880, but are unable to locate them in 1870, despite strong evidence that suggests they had been in the area at that time, look around at the neighbors from 1880 and try a search for one of them. Perhaps the handwriting on their name was easier to read, and their entry fared better than that of your ancestor.

Older neighbors, who would have likely had their home for a few years are good candidates for this. Also, people who owned their home, rather than renters, are more likely to have been the same place through more than one enumeration. Renters, particularly when you're searching in an urban environment, often moved more frequently.

### **Are They Really There?**

So you have them in their hometown in 1860, and there again in 1880, but you can't find them in 1870. Did you ever consider the possibility that they moved away for a time, only to return? Perhaps an economic hardship caused them to leave for a time to find work. Or maybe there was an event that damaged their property and they had to move in with relatives for a time, until they could raise money to rebuild. Or maybe they went in search of an opportunity that just didn't pan out, so they returned to the area where other family members had remained. There are a lot of reasons why your ancestors may have moved on for a bit, only to return. Investigate the history of the area in which they lived for clues, and broaden your search horizons by using names, ages, and search criteria other than location. You may find them someplace unexpected.

It's also possible that they were missed by the census taker. Remember that in rural areas especially, the route of the enumerator might not have been as simple as walking door to door, up and down the block. They would have been traveling through areas with few or no roads and a house off the beaten track might have been missed entirely.

But don't give up without a good fight. Census records give us a wonderful look into our ancestors' households and the clues we find in them can really push our research forward. So dust off one of those elusive ancestors and challenge yourself to locate them once and for all!

*Juliana Smith has been an editor of Ancestry.com newsletters for more than eight years and is author of "The Ancestry Family Historian's Address Book." She has written for "Ancestry" Magazine and wrote the Computers and Technology chapter in "The Source: A Guidebook to American Genealogy," rev. 3rd edition. Juliana can be reached by e-mail at [Juliana@Ancestry.com](mailto:Juliana@Ancestry.com), but she regrets that her schedule does not allow her to assist with personal research.*