



Irving Genealogical Society

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IGS Homepage - <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txigs/>

DUES!

Have you paid your dues yet? Our yearly dues for 2010, which are \$20.00 for individuals and \$25.00 for families, can be mailed to: IGS, P. O. Box 170881, Irving, TX 75017-0881. A copy of the Membership Application is included with paper copies of this newsletter and can be used to accompany your payment. Dues are our primary source of income and needed to pay for the operating expenses of the society, which the board has kept to the bare minimum.

This Month

- July 12th** Board of Directors meeting – 7pm. Genealogy Section at the Library, 3rd Floor. All members are welcome.
- July 19th** *General Meeting – 7pm 1st Floor, Central Irving Library – Speaker: Tresa Tatyrek Using the Bureau of Land Management Website*

Next Month

- Aug 15th** Board of Directors meeting – 7pm. Genealogy Section at the Library, 3rd Floor. All members are welcome.
- Aug 22nd** General Meeting – 7pm 1st Floor, Central Irving Library – Speaker:

Future

- November 4-6** Texas State Genealogical Society's 50th Annual Conference. For more information visit the TSGS website <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txsgs/> .

Honor Your Ancestors

...with a donation for much needed genealogical research materials. The Irving Genealogical Society and the Irving Public Library will purchase research materials for the Genealogy and Local History Section of the library.

Each item purchased will be identified with a beautiful bookplate acknowledging your ancestor and your gift.

Send your donation to:

Irving Genealogical Society
P. O. Box 170881
Irving, TX 75017-0881

Be sure to include your name, your ancestor's name and dates of birth and death if known.

July Meeting: Tresa Tatyrek - Using the Bureau of Land Management Website

Tresa Tatyrek has been interested in family history and genealogy since childhood. She began doing extensive research in 1997 using Family Tree Maker as her genealogy program. The research has evolved into tracing over forty of her and her husband's family surnames. The results of her research are on her web site at: <http://www.magnoliamanorgenealogy.com/>.

Ms. Tatyrek has given presentations on a variety of genealogical topics including using the program Family Tree Maker, the Internet, Courthouse Research, and Research Trip Preparation. She does volunteer work for several local groups. She served as President of the Dallas Genealogical Society for three. She is involved with Grapevine Namedroppers, a member of the Cross Timbers Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the National Genealogical.

What's in a Name?

From Barb Lancaster Tsirigotis

Did your Irish ancestors "Eat the Soup?" Many Irish names were originally spelled with an "O" in front of them. For example: *O'Malley, O'Toole, O'Kelley, O'Neil, O'Loague, O'Henry*. Once in America many of these names dropped the "O". Why? Some names were changed simply to Americanize the name. There was a time in our history when the Irish were considered lesser citizens and dropping the "O" was a way of disguising their place of origin.

During hard times in Ireland, families were hungry and the English government was overtaking their land. The Irish were issued an ultimatum. They could accept the new rule of the English government and they would receive food to feed their families, and a parcel of land to grow food crops. It is said that part of accepting English rule meant dropping the "O" from their name. Therefore, when a former Mr. O'Kelley became simply Mr. Kelley, it is said that he "ate the soup" indicating that he sold out or gave up his name and heritage for food for his family. Many families were in such dire need that they had no choice. It was a negative, derogatory statement to be told, "you ate the soup." Irishmen who retained the "O" in their name looked down on those who dropped it.

Clerks at immigration stations changed some names upon arrival in America because the original name may have been difficult to pronounce or the spelling didn't make sense to the clerk. Many of the immigrants were illiterate and unable to spell their name for the clerk; or may have been afraid to correct or challenge the clerk on the spelling.

My mother-in-law's surname, Pekic - a Croatian name, is pronounced "peck-itch". In 1911, an elementary school teacher who had trouble pronouncing it changed the spelling of the name. She changed it to Package. The family name has been spelled PACKAGE since that time.

Abstracting and Transcribing Records for Publication -1997 audio tape of Brent Holcomb

Have you ever considered transcribing or abstracting records for publication? Here is an overview of what you can expect to find in some older records. First, there are some questions you must ask yourself.

- What are you going to transcribe for publication?
- Is the market already saturated with this type of information?
- Is this a series of records or data I would find useful as a researcher?

Records or groups of records that cover an entire state or several states are likely to be better sellers. A good case in point is Lloyd Bockstruck's *Revolutionary War Bounty Land Grants Awarded by State Governments*. Also, earlier records of the colonial and revolutionary periods are likely to be more sought after. Brent Holcomb's books on South Carolina marriage records are popular because of the lack of available, regular marriage records in South Carolina prior to 1911.

If you are just beginning, you may want to work with records in a more limited area. Most of the records transcribed today are county records. These are the records most used in genealogical research. Wills, probates, deeds, marriage records, and court minutes are the records most likely to be published.

Make certain you are working in an area where you know the surnames fairly well. Poor handwriting may make it difficult to read the names accurately in the best of circumstances. Check to see if the newspaper notices for your area have been published; if not, this will be a good place to begin to learn the names because there won't be a handwriting problem as they will be in print. Whatever record you transcribe, try to start with the beginning of the series. Begin with Book A or Book 1, whatever the sequence may be. If you are continuing where someone else left off, be sure to begin with the very next book or record in the series. If there are gaps in the series, explain the gaps in your introduction. Explain in your introduction where the record is housed or located, the form of record (original record, microfilm) the condition of the record, what records are missing, and what you transcribed.

Most likely you will be working from recorded copies, such as wills, because they are the most easily accessible. In some areas the originals may not have survived or may not be easily found. If you happen to have two copies of the same documents, be sure to compare the two. Be certain to give an accurate reference; book, page number or box and estate number or however the documents are identified. Identify the location of the document, such as courthouse, microfilm produced by archives or LDS and give the identifying roll numbers.

A title at the top of every page should identify the records transcribed, such as, Richmond County Georgia Wills. The opening paragraph of the will usually gives the name of the testator, perhaps his residence and occupation and possibly the date. Include all that information when transcribing. List every given name mentioned, especially legatees and the bequest left to them. Current standards demand this inclusion. For instance, if John Jones left his eldest daughter Malinda a mahogany bed and dresser, those items should be included because it's very possible that those items have been passed down through the family. If the list becomes too long and cumbersome, list a few of the major items and state "and other items." If slaves are mentioned, be sure to include them by name. If land is mentioned, include the acreage and location. Pay attention to details in dating. If the date is given as "the first day of the seventh month of the year 1799"

include this exact language because it is indicative of Quakerism. Most often records will read “the 5th day of September 1799.” The names of all witnesses and the date of proving should be included. This proves that the person was alive at the time the will was written and signed, and most certainly dead when the will was proved. This narrows the time period when he died. If the witnesses appeared in court or in front of a JP, this proves the witnesses are still alive at the time of prove up.

Nuncupative Will or Death Bed Will

In this type will, the individual states what he wants done with his possessions after his death. Usually there are 2 or 3 witnesses. Often the individual died that same day. In most states, land could not be devised through a nuncupative will, it was only for personal property. If there was land in the estate, it was handled as if the person died intestate or with no will. When transcribing a nuncupative will, transcribe it verbatim.

Estates may reveal more than a will. If these are recorded in volumes, they will most likely be recorded individually and at different times. In other words, nothing happens at the same time. The person dies, somebody takes out the citation on the estate and letters of administration are issued. A warrant of appraisement is issued to certain people to physically go to the deceased's place of residence and appraise the estate; but this process may take them a month or more. So, if it's recorded in chronological order in the book there are going to be a number of pages between these entries. You will find several entries pertaining to the same estate scattered throughout the book or books. The index will guide you to each book where an entry is made. But for transcribing purposes, they are to be transcribed in the order in which they were recorded; and, include the dates.

The date of application for administration and the details of publication of the citation should be included. Not all states require this step; but, when an individual died intestate and an administration of the estate was requested, a citation was issued to all the kindred and creditors to come forward. The citation was read in public, most often in church near where the deceased lived or church he attended. It may have been read at muster or anywhere a large group of people gathered.

In the inventory, the date of the records, the names of the appraisers, slaves by name, any tools indicative of occupation, notes or debts due should be included. Inventories can sometimes tell you more about a person than a will. The names of purchasers at the sale are important because they are usually neighbors and family. You may even find the family Bible listed among these. Any claims against the estate should be listed. There may be powers of attorney of non-resident heirs included. Most certainly include those in your transcription. If there is a final settlement, it may name the heirs; in the case of women, it may list their husband's name and the amount received by each. Legatees who received equal amounts were of equal relationship to the deceased. If the citation was published in a newspaper, you may find the entire newspaper in the packet or even an obituary.

Deeds

A long series of deeds in a given county is boon to research in any area. Names of adjacent landowners, former landowners, witnesses and other items may be found which would otherwise be lost unless abstracts are published and indexed. A deed abstract should include the date of the deed, names of grantor and grantee, the occupations and residences if stated, the consideration and the kind of money. Forty pounds, forty pounds currency, and forty pounds sterling are different. If the deed says forty pounds North Carolina currency and it isn't a North Carolina deed, that may be very good clue as to where the person lived or came from recently.

The marks of the grantor and witnesses should be recorded as accurately as you can reproduce them. Sometimes the clerks did not record the marks. Often, people just simply made an “X”, but some learned to make their initials too or drew a crude picture.

If you find the old form of lease and release, include them both as one instrument. This is an ancient form from England used in the county where the first document is a lease for the first year and the second document is a release. They are usually dated one day apart.

Always remember to look at the end of a deed for the dower relinquishment of a woman who might have had rights in the property. While it is usually a wife, it may also be the mother or stepmother. If a person inherited land by primogeniture, that is the eldest son, the widow of the deceased still had a life estate in the property and she had a 1/3 dower right from her husband in that property for her life. If there was more than one signature, one may be the wife and the other the mother or stepmother of the deceased. Be sure to give a book and page number of the deed. If it covers several pages, indicate that by (pages 19 – 24).

If you find the clerk made an error in numbering the pages, indicate that in your introduction. Perhaps the clerk numbered pages 99, 100, 101, 202, 203....but it doesn't appear that 100 pages are missing from the book. It's obvious the clerk made a mistake in numbering. If you see that pages have obviously been torn out of a book, indicate that in your introduction as well.

If you work in an area that has extant marriage records, these should be of primary interest for transcription. Be sure to include all names, bride, groom, witnesses, officiate and title (JP, minister, Notary, etc.). If these are marriage bonds, the date of the bond, the name of the bondsman should also be included. If there is a return on the marriage license or record, be sure to include that date as well and who married them. If there is a consent of parent or guardian or any indication of ages of the parties, that should also be included. Books listing marriage information are always popular. Some later marriage records may even include the parents' names.

Court minutes are important records and are infrequently indexed in their original form. If you happen to find an index for these records, they are rarely complete. Therefore, court minutes are an important record to publish. Be sure you understand what type of court minutes are available. In North Carolina the Minutes of Pleas and Quarter Sessions are the basic record of the county. They usually exist from the beginning of the county through 1868. The Virginia Order Books are similar and well worth looking into. In South Carolina there are only 11 counties with court minutes. They have all been published. They contain jury lists which list only free holding males of age; records stating an individuals advanced age and the fact he can no longer serve on a jury; even naturalizations are occasionally found in court minutes. Pension applications were occasionally recorded in court minutes. Depositions and excuses for failure to appear at jury are also found. The court minutes are themselves abstracts and should be transcribed verbatim. Include the date of the court minutes at the top of each page (June Court 1876) or (First Monday After the second Tuesday in October 1893). The correct court date is important. Occasionally, court minutes for a single day can go on for several pages.

A book is only as good as its index; therefore include every name in the index. Including place names in the index can also be very helpful.

You may consider publishing your transcribed or abstracted information in a genealogy quarterly. This would relieve you of publication costs.

Should you decide to put your abstracted/transcribed information in book form, don't advertise your book until it is ready to go to the publisher. Small ads in genealogical publications can be helpful. Give the reader an idea of what type information is in the book, maybe even a sample of some of the listings in the book. However you present your work to the public, it is always appreciated and a very rewarding experience.

[Printed with permission from Brent Holcomb via email 9 July 2010 to Barb Lancaster Tsirigotis.]

Late News

The IGS recently donated a copy of Land Deed Genealogy of Cannon County TN 1836-1857 by Thomas Partlow in memory of **Joe Sissom**, our friend and former president. This volume covers Deed Books A-L and contains the early deeds and wills of Cannon County.

If you are in the San Antonio area in mid October you might stop in to hear John Philip Colletta at the Doubletree Market Square. This one day seminar is hosted by the San Antonio Genealogical and Historical Society on October 16th. Details can be obtained in the library.