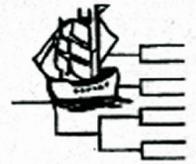


# The Tracers



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Brandon Area Genealogical and Historical Society  
PO Box 2635 Valrico, Fl. 33595-2635

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**Webmaster/Information Tech:**

Kent Akselsen

[baghs@yahoo.com](mailto:baghs@yahoo.com)

<http://www.baghs.org>

In June, George Morgan, internationally known genealogist will present our program. Because of George's expertise and experience, his programs always draw a good crowd. Be sure and attend this meeting and bring any friends and relatives who have an interest in genealogical research. George will probably bring some of his publications which are among the best in the field. He has a new book which has recently been published.

We are very sorry to announce that Melissa Riley who was our liaison from the Bloomingdale library had been transferred to another branch of the library system. We certainly appreciate all Melissa has done to help BAGHS and many of us enjoyed the excellent programs she presented on genealogical research at the library for the general public. Mr. Jim Shelton who was formerly head of the genealogical section of the main library in downtown Tampa is now the head of the Bloomingdale branch and will be attending our meetings and serving as our library liaison. We look forward to working with him.

Be sure to check out our website which lists our monthly programs and other pertinent information for our members. If you have not yet done so, please supply the website with a

## Greetings Members,

BAGHS continues providing interesting programs for our members and guests. The May meeting was presented by Sally Miller, DAR member from Dade City, who gave a very interesting slide program about the symbolism on tombstones. Most were taken from Evergreen Cemetery in Gainesville, Fl. where Sally previously lived. She is a several generation Florida native. Our prior meeting was about DNA.

list of the names you are researching.

Also, remember that our July meeting is one of our two covered dish dinner meetings held annually. We call it our “4<sup>th</sup> of July picnic” even though we hold it in our usual meeting room in the library free from ants, flies, mosquitoes and heat. Think of one of your favorite dishes that you can bring to share with our members.

Summer will soon be here and that is a time when many of us make trips to visit family and friends and also take advantage of opportunities to do research. Have a safe and successful trip if you are planning to be away during any part of the summer. Maybe you can present a program based on some of your research or findings when you return.

Happy researching,

Scott L. Peeler, Jr.

President

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## Tips From The Pros

### Support your Local Society

1. *by Jana Sloan Broglin, CG*

Support your local society. The title may be a bit of a take-off on the old movie, “Support Your Local Sheriff,” but the meaning is basically the same. Support. Do you support your local genealogical society? Been meaning to go to a meeting but haven’t? Don’t have any ancestors from the area? Think again! Even if you don’t have any ancestors in the area where you live, you can contribute to the local society by helping transcribe records, give speaking ideas for the meetings, or even bring cookies. Remember, someone where you DID have ancestors may be

thinking the same thing. Why should I contribute? Wouldn’t you love it if they helped transcribe records you needed in your research?

If you live in a state with an active statewide society, attend those seminars and conferences. Speakers at these events can give insight to genealogical research not only within the state but out-of-state as well. Exhibit halls can have everything from books and CDs to DNA testing and information, and genealogical supplies. Many of the regional and state conferences also have local societies exhibit. What better way to find out about a society than to speak to representatives of that organization? Local society exhibits may also have publications for sale as well as a calendar of their society meetings.

So get out there! Support your local society.

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## The Year Was 1872

1. [The year was 1872, and in the U.S., it was an election year.](#) In a landslide victory, President Ulysses S. Grant won a second term, defeating Horace Greeley, carrying 286 electoral votes to his forty- two. In that election, votes were cast by several women, including one [Susan B. Anthony](#). The suffragette was later arrested and in 1873, after her trial, she is fined \$100--a fine which she would never pay.

Also that year, for the first time, a woman was nominated for President of the United States. [Victoria Woodhull](#), who grew up amidst a traveling family that sold patent medicines and fortune-telling, was nominated by the Equal Rights party, with Frederick Douglass nominated as her running mate--a nomination he later declined. Victoria and her sister, Tennessee, had with the help of Cornelius Vanderbilt, become the first women to found a banking and brokerage firm on Wall Street. From there, she and Tennie

began publication of "Woodhull and Claflin's Weekly," which tackled many of the issues that interested them such as labor rights and women's suffrage. It was her advocacy for "free love" that earned her the contempt of many, and amidst attacks on her person, "Woodhull and Claflin's Weekly" published a story revealing an affair between the highly respected Rev. Henry Ward Beecher and his best friend's wife, along with another scandalous expose. The story landed Victoria in jail on election day for libel and for sending obscene materials through the mail, a violation of the Comstock Act.

The [Amnesty Act of 1872](#) pardoned more than 150,000 Confederates, but excluded about 500 of those who had held a higher rank of authority. With the right to hold office and vote restored to these ex-Confederates, there was a shift in the balance of power and many of the reforms of Reconstruction were phased out. 1872 [also marked the ending of the Freedman's Bureau.](#)

In the northwest, attempts to force a group of Modoc Indians to return to a reservation in Oregon resulted in the [Modoc War \(1872-73\)](#). Following sieges of the Modoc who were near Tule Lake, California, the group was eventually split and sent to reservations in Oregon and Oklahoma.

[In November, "The Great Boston Fire of 1872"](#) largely destroyed that city, burning more than 700 buildings, and killing thirty people, twelve of them firemen.

1872 was historic in terms of conservation [as Yellowstone became the first national park](#) in the world. The move gave 1,221,773 acres protection "from injury or spoilation, of all timber, mineral deposits, natural curiosities, or wonders within." There are now [388 national parks](#) in the United States

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## More Tips From The Pros: Date Estimates-More Than A Good Guess

1. From Sherry Irvine, CG, FSA Scot

Most online database websites provide a field for selecting the date range of a search, or the age range of an individual in a particular record. An age range is, in fact, a date range because you are estimating the period of years in which a birth took place. Regardless of the nature of the date estimate or the breadth of years you choose to search, careful analysis should go into the choice.

When searching for an individual take into account what date information you have and where it came from. Can it be considered accurate? What did a record state? Some individuals regularly lied about age, not necessarily with any consistency as to the error. Some records did not require an accurate age, perhaps just an indication the individual was over the age of twenty-one.

A successful search could also depend upon the date when the record was made. This is true of wills. The date of probate is more significant and may have been years after the date of death.

If you choose the Advanced Search at Ancestry, or when a search form includes the date range option, you select a year and then select a number of years either side of it:

+/- 0 (meaning exact),  
+/- 1 (a three-year span),  
+/- 2 (a five-year span),  
+/- 5 (an eleven-year span).  
+/- 10 (a twenty-one-year span), and  
+/- 20 years (a forty-one-year span).

Keep in mind that the year you are estimating from may not be the best

middle year for the plus and minus range for the search tool. Sometimes I estimate a birth as after a certain date (e.g., after 1847). In this case, I would not set 1847 as the middle year, but choose 1851, plus or minus five to cover the years 1846 to 1856. Some websites ask for a start year and an end year to set your search, which saves some mental arithmetic.

Keep some other factors in mind as you set date ranges. Is the name common or rare? Setting a date range is one way to reduce the number of results, but keep track of what you do in case you must work step- by-step--perhaps ten years at a time--through a long period. Also, when searching a single record, make sure you know its starting date. For example, with civil birth records in England and Wales, the start date is 1 July 1837, and your range of years should include dates that fall after that.

Finally, your estimate may sometimes depend upon historical knowledge. The year a family migrated to North America is a good example. Check into the history of the country of origin, and the particular place. Discovering a year of political upheaval or some years of great hardship could help focus a search.

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## The STRANGER

A few years after I was born, my Dad met a stranger who was new to our small town. From the beginning, Dad was fascinated with this enchanting newcomer and soon invited him to live with our family. The stranger was quickly accepted and was around from then on.

1. As I grew up, I never questioned his place in my family. In my young mind, he had a special niche. My parents were complementary instructors:

Mom taught me good from evil, and Dad taught me to obey. But the stranger...he was our storyteller. He would keep us spellbound for hours on end with adventures, mysteries, and comedies.

If I wanted to know anything about politics, history or science, he always knew the answers about the past, understood the present, and even seemed able to predict the future! He took my family to the first major league ball game. He made me laugh, and he made me cry. The stranger never stopped talking, but Dad didn't seem to mind.

Sometimes, Mom would get up quietly while the rest of us were shushing each other to listen to what he had to say, and she would go to the kitchen for peace and quiet. (I wonder now if she ever prayed for the **stranger to leave.**)

Dad ruled our household with certain moral convictions, but the stranger never felt obligated to honor them. Profanity, for example, was not allowed in our home ... not from us, our friends, or any visitors. Our longtime visitor, however, got away with four-letter words that burned my ears and made my dad squirm and my mother blush.

My Dad didn't permit the liberal use of alcohol. But the stranger encouraged us to try it on a regular basis. He made cigarettes look cool, cigars manly and pipes distinguished. He talked freely (much too freely!) about sex. His comments were sometimes blatant, sometimes suggestive, and generally embarrassing.

I now know that my early concepts about relationships were influenced strongly by the stranger. Time after time, he opposed the values of my parents, yet he was seldom rebuked ... and NEVER asked to leave.

More than fifty years have passed since the

stranger moved in with our family. He has blended right in and is not nearly as fascinating as he was at first. Still, if you could walk into my parents' den today, you would still find him sitting over in his corner, waiting for someone to listen to him talk and watch him draw his pictures. His name?

We just call him, "TV."

\* \*Note: This should be required reading for every household in America!\*\*

He has a wife now....We call her "Computer."

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### AN INTERESTING LITTLE NOTE

We welcome every honest immigrant..provided he leaves off his former nationality and becomes an American, desirous of fulfilling...the duties of American Citizenship." Teddy Roosevelt.

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## Starting Pre-1850 Census Searching

1. *by Michael John Neill*

The difficulty with American census records before 1850 is that only the heads of household are listed. All other members of the household appear, but are hidden under tally marks. This week we look at finding a family in the 1840 census. Future columns will discuss additional situations and problems with using census records before the 1850 enumeration.

### General Suggestions for Pre-1850 Census Searching

Have maps so that the relative positions of all counties, states, and other political jurisdictions involved are readily available. Maps should be contemporary to the problem under study. Current maps may lead to incorrect conclusions.

Consider all reasonable matches when performing searches. Don't

assume the first "close" match is the right person or family. Use adequately broad search parameters (consider also performing separate wildcard and Soundex searches) to make certain that all reasonable matches to the desired person have been returned. You may want to include adjacent states if necessary.

Use all known and extinct post-1840 records to determine which individuals likely were living in the household in a given census year, what their approximate ages were in that year, and where they probably were living. Keep in mind that census-takers occasionally make mistakes, tally marks can be put in the wrong column, and that names can easily be spelled incorrectly.

Compare the age groupings of the located families with the known ages of the individuals.

Remember that the oldest male in the household is not necessarily the head of the household.

Pay special attention to female heads of household.

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## SAVING YOUR FAMILY ALBUMS

*by Maureen Taylor*

A reader expressed concerns about her twentieth-century black and white pictures.

I have my grandmother's photo albums and some family pictures. The albums are black construction paper sandwiched between heavy black cardboard and held together by a string.

Some of you may be nodding your head in agreement, murmuring, "I've got one of those." In this case the images date from 1918 through 1930's. She wonders what to do. She'd love to move the image to another album but then she'd lose the captions.

These albums present multiple issues. First there is the construction of the albums. The pages and the covers are made with acidic paper and the creator of the

album used glue to affix the images to the page. The other problem is that the black paper may not be colorfast which means if these pages ever got wet the color would leak out of the paper.

Back in the 20's, few were concerned about the longevity of pictures. At that time the majority of nineteenth century images in family collections were holding up pretty well. Daguerreotypes still sparkled in their cases, paper prints hadn't yet become yellow and tintypes remained pristine. What was there to worry about? It was the color disaster of the 1960's (when color prints began to shift colors and fade away) that brought to everyone's mind the future of their precious family pictures.

The acidic papers in these albums get brittle with time. The adhesive begins to seep through the print staining the image on the front and making it nearly impossible to remove pictures from the pages.

Removing pages from albums is not advised. You want to retain the original order of the prints and not lose any information. Albums are put together by an individual in a particular order for a specific reason that often tells a family history story. Plus you don't want to lose the captions.

There are things that you can do to save these albums! The simplest solution is to wrap the whole album in a piece of unbleached muslin and store it in an acid and lignin free box. That way you won't lose any pieces.

Another option is to interleave the pages with either thin polyester sheets (sold in specialty shops) like "Light Impressions" or you can use acid and lignin-free paper available in stationary and art supply shops. The biggest problem with this method is that added volume may break the binding of the album.

Don't remove the pictures: scan them instead. If you try to take them off the page, it's highly likely that you'll tear the images when trying to remove them. Even if you use a product for dissolving adhesive, there could be unforeseen problems. Instead, invest in an inexpensive scanner and copy each of the pages. Print out the images on a photo printer using acid- and lignin-free paper and high quality inks such as Epson's Durabrite, HP's

Pixma, and Cannon's Viverra. You can also print out the captions. Then, reassemble images and captions in an acid and lignin album and wrap the

original as mentioned above. You can then rest easy knowing that this family history treasure isn't being subjected to any more handling.

You can even add your own comments to the new album making it a multi-generational genealogical document, and since you have scans, you'll be able to make duplicates for other interesting family members.

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## GOOGLE MAPS

### **maps.google.com**

A cool mapping site, Google Maps allow you to view a standard map view, a satellite view, or a view of the terrain. How tall was that mountain that great-grandpa had to traverse to visit the nearest town? Zoom in on the terrain view and it will tell you. Going to visit a library or courthouse for the first time? Google Maps has "street view" available for growing number of cities. You can zoom in on an address and see the actual building. Using the rotation arrows you can turn around and look at the other side of the street, move down the street and see landmarks you will be able to use as you navigate your way. Street view can also enable you to see buildings in your ancestors' neighborhoods that are still standing.

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## From Your Editor

I would like( Need) more articles from our club members in order to produce the newsletter every 3 months. I can't do it **without** your help.

My Email address is [rfield22@verizon.net](mailto:rfield22@verizon.net). You could E-Mail it to me or bring it to our meeting. Thanks

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