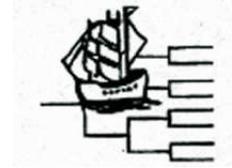


The Tracers



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

Members,

By now most of us have returned from our summer travels when we had an opportunity to visit with friends and family and maybe do some research along the way. I hope your time has been productive and well spent with much success in your research.

As you will see elsewhere in our newsletter we have had some very interesting programs. We always try to present topics of interest to our varied membership, but need your input on subjects you would like to see covered in future programs. Please let the vice president (program chairman) or any other officer know if you have suggestions for programs or are willing to give one yourself.

Our sympathy to our members who have lost family members and our best wishes to members who have had illness themselves or in their family. We wish you a speedy recovery.

Please remember that our October meeting will be on the first Tuesday of the month instead of the usual second Tuesday because our meeting room is being used for voting. I will be showing a short CD of the Cherokee Trail of Tears which is an outstanding video made by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior. This is a new CD that has not been out long. You will enjoy it very much as the participants are Cherokee Indians in authentic period dress. There are places in the presentation where the Cherokee language is used. It is translated in footnotes so you will not miss any of the action, but this will give you an opportunity to hear the Cherokee language spoken by native speakers. I will

also have some other materials to show regarding the forced removal which is known to the Cherokee as "The Trail Where They Cried." This is the first Native American program we have had in several years.

Karen Boyett has been appointed to fill the remaining term of treasurer as a result of Linda Soloski's resignation. As you begin to pay your dues for the 2011 calendar year, please pay your dues via check or cash to our Membership Chair Sandra Troublefield. Please attach a new application form containing any updated member information. Sandra will note your name, address, phone number and email address and pass them along to Karen. Thank you very much for your cooperation as this will make our organization operate more smoothly. Our membership year runs from January 1st to December 31st. The membership form is available on-line at: http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flbaghs/BAGHS_application.pdf

Happy researching,

Scott L. Peeler, Jr.
President

NOTICE: We are looking for more articles like the ones you see in this edition from our members. If you have a story to tell or photos to share, please submit an article for our newsletter that is published quarterly. The upcoming holidays are a good time to collect family history, discuss the family tree or collect that DNA sample.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM BAGHS!

BAGHS Celebrates 4th of July

From the looks of all of the fried chicken, fixings and desserts, our membership enjoyed the annual 4th of July meeting held at the Bloomingdale Regional Library on July 13, 2010.



BAGHS – 4th of July Celebration



Bloomingdale Regional Library

Holiday Party 2010:

Make sure you mark your calendar for our next social when we bring out the Holiday foods. This year the **Holiday Party will be on Tuesday, December 14th** at 6:30 pm in the regular meeting room.



Librarian Kass Evans, John F. Germany Library

At the August meeting, Kass presented a powerpoint, listing the primary resources found at the downtown Tampa library for family research.

If you are looking for family research materials, then the second floor of the John F. Germany Library should be your first stop. With over 36,000 books on genealogy, over 35,000 microfilm files and five genealogy databases, the John F. Germany collection is one of the largest in the Southeast. Only two collections are larger, the National Archives in Atlanta and the collection in Orlando.

John F. Germany Library

<http://www.hcplc.org/hcplc/liblocales/jfg/H&G/genealogy.html>

With a geographic emphasis on Florida, the southeast region, original thirteen colonies and all other states bordering on the Mississippi River, the collection includes numerous magazines and journals as well as extensive Federal census and Soundex holdings.

Dues Reminder:

Membership dues are payable on January 1 of each year. Members who are delinquent in their dues as of January 31 will be removed from the membership roll. New members joining the Society after July 1 are paid through December 31 of the following year.



Ghost Towns Return to BAGHS

Back by popular demand was Mike Woodfin and his ghost town stories and photos. Mike has traveled the country taking photos and documenting ghost towns.

Some of the towns included:

Stein's Ghost Town in New Mexico

<http://www.ghosttowns.com/states/nm/steins.html>

Independence, TX

<http://www.ghosttowns.com/states/tx/independence.html>

Animas Forks, CO

<http://www.ghosttowns.com/states/co/animasforks.html>

Dead Horse Mill in Crystal, CO

<http://www.ghosttowngallery.com/htme/crystal.htm>

Bodie, CA

<http://www.ghosttowns.com/states/ca/bodie.html>

Bodie was of special interest to our group as it is a popular destination with over 200,000 visitors a year. Some of the history includes the Old Standard Mine and a boom day population of 8,000 in 1877. In 1880 Bodie boasted, "1 man killed everyday"!

The town had about 2,000 building and 90% of the town was burnt down by a young boy named "Bodie Bill" in 1932. In 1962 Bodie became a State Historical Park. It is located in the hills east of the Sierra Nevada in Mono Co. CA.

We can hardly wait to see what additional travels Mike will have in store for BAGHS over the next

few years. Good luck with your Ghost Town research and come back soon.

For more of Mike's adventures see:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/mikewoodfin/>

Summer Vacations and Family Research as reported from our members:

Huffman Family Reunion in PA: by Karen Huffman Boyett

What would a summer vacation be without an out of state trip to family cemeteries or a family reunion! The Boyett's did both this summer during a trip to Pennsylvania. After landing in Pittsburgh, we pick up a jeep and head north across the Allegheny Mountain foothills and crossed the Ohio River.

One of our first stops was the Huffman family reunion in Crawford County (Linesville Borough) PA, located near the Ohio State line and the beautiful Pymatuning Lake State Park. It was a day in the country for family fun, games, cookout and fireworks. I don't know the head count, but possibly 50-60 family and friends attended from mostly the east and southeastern states, four generations from my father and his brother. We took this opportunity to share family research, photos and discuss the Huffman DNA results.



Huffman Family Reunion, Crawford Co PA

After spending several days with relatives, enjoying the cooler weather and playing a little golf, it was

time to visit some of the Huffman ancestral lands south of Pittsburgh near the Monongahela River. Our first stop was at the Large Hotel in Large, PA, near the Large family home and former Large Distillery site. My grandfathers married into families of early settlers, one of which was the Large family. This area was well known for the Whiskey Rebellion from 1791-1794 as the farmers and distillers refused to pay the new federal excise tax on whiskey and took up arms against the government. The rebellion was put down by President Washington who ordered troops in Maryland to respond and assist the tax collectors. The law was repealed in 1802.



The Large Hotel, built in 1903

The Large Hotel was established in 1903 and is still in operation today as a drinking establishment. We found that it was a great place for happy hour! Across the street from the Large Hotel was the family home of Jonathan Large built in 1838. The home has been beautifully restored and is currently a funeral home. We met with the current owner who gave us a tour and some history about how he was able to purchase the home, which had been out of the Large family for quite some time. The distillery was taken over by the National Distillery Company (after WWII?) and still made the popular rye whiskey into the 1950's. From the 1950's-1990's, Westinghouse Electric leased the land for an atomic energy research facility, and today it appears to be sparsely occupied by independent research groups. A

smokestack is all that remains from the distillery, I believe.

We also visited some Large ancestors' gravesites at the Lebanon Cemetery nearby.



Home of Jonathan Large, built in 1838

The next day we headed up to the Allegheny foothills and located the James Chapel, "Old Stone Church", built in 1817 and adjoining cemetery. Near this site was a historical marker indicating Fort Cox, 1770. The area (land patented as Coxburg) was settled by Gabriel Cox with a grant of 400 acres from the State of Virginia, later relinquished to PA. Gabriel Cox was a Major for Virginia during the revolutionary war. He built a fort for protection from the Indians and it later became a Virginia militia post. The area is situated high overlooking rolling hills going down toward the Monongahela River. In 1776 the land was in Yohogania Co VA, and then in 1780 it became Westmoreland Co and Washington Co PA, then in 1788 Mifflin Township, Allegheny County, which was formed out of Peters Township in the area of Peters Creek that ran near the Huffman property.

Located in the cemetery is the grave of Lewis Huffman aka Ludwig Hoffman, b 1755 Northampton Co PA d 1833 Allegheny Co Mifflin Twp PA m. Catherine. Appears in 1790-1830 census in this area of Allegheny County PA. He, his wife and several descendants are buried at the Old Stone Church Cemetery, Finleyville, PA (pictured below).

New Huffman/Hoffman information: Revolutionary War Pension Records and Sons of the Revolution publications confirm Ludwig Hoffman is the same as Lewis Huffman, and provides important information as to other family lines and parents of Ludwig from eastern PA.



Karen at the Old Stone Church and Cemetery

Federation of Genealogical Societies National Conference: by Scott L. Peeler, Jr.

From August 18-21, 2010, The Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) held their annual national conference in Knoxville, Tennessee. This conference was co-hosted by the East Tennessee Historical Society and the Kentucky Historical Society. On the day prior to the beginning of the conference, August 17th, the East Tennessee Historical Society (ETHS) hosted an open house at their excellent McClung Historical Collection for six hours with all of their holdings opened to the conference attendees and their guests. The prestigious Museum of East Tennessee History located in the same building was also open to us at no charge. The wonderful collection covers three hundred years of East Tennessee history. ETHS provided volunteers to help researchers find materials from the vast collection. One of those volunteers was a man I had attended high school with back in the 1960's. How could he have gotten to be so old !?!? For those who do not already know, I grew up in Knoxville and had all my public schooling there, grades 1-12. ETHS is also promoting a special program for those who can trace

their families to residency in Tennessee before statehood and another program for descendants of those who served in the War Between the States (Civil War). I have completed paperwork for four of these certificates.

More than 1000 attended the conference with there being 175 workshop sessions with about 75 experts presenting those sessions. Many of the sessions were pertaining to Tennessee and Kentucky research, but there were also many other workshop topics for general research in other parts of the country since it was a national conference.

I was fortunate to be selected to take part in a special presentation the first day of the conference sponsored by ProQuest. It was designed for information service providers in a genealogical, local history, library, archive or other society serving family history researchers. This full-day program covered many Tennessee frontier records, the Tennessee State Archive and the McClung Historical Collection.

There were two very special social and historical events that were held during the evening hours for our enjoyment. "Come and Sit a Spell" was held on the grounds of the 1982 World's Fair Park which was adjacent to the Convention Center which was where the conference was held. A country-style dinner of BBQ pork, beans, slaw, potato salad, bread, drink and dessert was served buffet-style before Sheila Kaye Adams, a seventh generation ballad singer and storyteller entertained the crowd with authentic stories from the Appalachian area. She was accompanied by her adult son.

The next evening the group had a wonderful visit to the Museum of Appalachia which is located at Norris, TN about a twenty mile drive from Knoxville. The Museum is a collection of various buildings that actually served throughout the years as houses, barns, schools, churches and other pioneer buildings from the area which have been moved to this site. This unique replica of a pioneer farm/village tells the stories of everyday appalachian folks through artifacts and hand-lettered signs. We wandered from building to building at our own pace

where recreators in period dress were performing some of the arts and crafts of the past - blacksmithing, leather tooling, dulcimer playing, etc. Various barnyard fowl wander the grounds also, carefully keeping a safe distance from visitors. Larger farm animals are in pens and corrals. Thousands of household items and artifacts are on display in some of the larger buildings. The museum was started by John Rice Irwin who is quite up in years now, but he came out to be with us and performed several songs on his fiddle, much to the enjoyment of the group. There is a large open-air covered stage where a country band kept us entertained as we visited the grounds. Mr. Irwin also talked to us about his years of collecting and forming the museum. At his location we had another good down home meal just as soon as we arrived and before touring the grounds. The Museum grounds were open that evening for our exclusive use.

At the Convention Center there was an extensive exhibit hall filled with information from many different societies, book publishers, familySearch.com and Ancestry.com. Door prizes were given hourly. One of my good friends won a year's membership to Footnote. She had reported several times on how helpful it has been for her as a relatively new researcher.

I used this time away to visit with many friends and relatives in East Tennessee and made every possible effort to visit as many museums and historical sites as possible along my route. My only hurdle was being in some locations on Sunday and Monday when most museums are closed. I also included a stop at the Georgia State Archives and the Southeastern Branch of the National Archives which have beautiful facilities at Morrow, Georgia, just south of Atlanta. They are now much more accessible than they were when they were located in the city with huge traffic and parking problems. My big disappointment is finding that the materials I wanted from the National Archives Branch are only available in DC.

If you have never attended a national conference I certainly would suggest you make the effort to do so in the future. Next year's conference will be held in

Springfield, Illinois. The networking you do with other researchers is incredible. I didn't even write about all the "coincidences" that turned up as I talked with others attending the conference. It truly is a small world. I think I must have been connected in some way to half the people there.

Vacation in Kentucky: by Shirley Griffin

My Family Reunion in Kentucky, July 2010 – Shirley (Crawford) Griffin:

I left here in Florida July 3 and flew to Louisville, Kentucky, with plans to visit relatives on my father's (Crawford/Miles), mother's (Dartis) and husband's (Griffin/Weaver) sides of the family.

Louisville, Ky. My cousin Gary Bradley and his wife Glenna picked me up and took me to their large house on the south side of Louisville. All of their kids have grown up and moved away. We visited and discussed our next day agenda which would be July 4th.

Bardstown, Ky. We were to meet down in the county in Bardstown (about 1-1/2 hours away) at our old cousin's house, Ella Mae (Greathouse) & Joseph Bevins by 1:30. Everyone was to bring a covered dish. Our cousins Ella Mae and Joseph were getting everything together. Our cousin Fay Greathouse was in the hospital so she was not able to come, but her daughter Janet was there to help serve the food and organize the games. All together we had around 50 people, some of them I had not seen for years. They shared sitting on the swing, we ate, and laughed about old times, til late afternoon.

Louisville, Ky. Next morning after church we all headed to a special restaurant in Louisville named Cunningham's, and we had over 20 people. It was buffet style so each person chose whatever they wanted to eat. We shared pictures and laughed and told old stories. What a beautiful day we had at the restaurant.

I spent the night with one of the oldest cousins Mary Rose (Miles) and Charles Harden back in Louisville for Sunday night and Monday all day. We ate and

sat on her big old porch with pretty flowers. Husband Charles and she love to cook. She is 87 years old and he is around 88. Her daughter Delores with her two daughters came over and stayed to very late. What a reunion with that set of cousins on my dad's side.

Indianapolis, Ind. Then I left with my cousin Anna Pearl (Miles) Bailey (widow) and we went to Indianapolis, Indiana. It was her baby brother's birthday, Mickey "Mouse" Miles. I got to meet his wife and two sons, one a Fire Chief of Indianapolis, other one works with the IRS. Drove back to south Louisville to her son's and daughter-in-law home in a beautiful suburb. Dinner was waiting for Anna, her sister Sandra (Sandra and her daughter Suzanne drove from Atlanta) myself and others. Anna Pearl comes from a very large family, nine of them and they are all very close to each other. There was only one child at dinner: Anna's grandson, 2 years old, who had a ball with all of his cousins. We all departed near dark. I spent my last night with my cousin Mary Rose (Miles) Hardin, 86 years old, then I left the next day to go to Owensboro, Kentucky.

Owensboro, Ky./Evansville, Ind. I took a 3 hour bus ride to Evansville, Ind., to visit my cousin Willa Mae (Nealy) Tyler, 81 years, on my mother's side, in Owensboro. Her son, Leroy Tyler, picked me up in Evansville. Willa Mae also has 9 children, only one deceased. We ate, cooked, walked, looked at old pictures, and visited some of her children's homes. I stayed there for three days, and took the bus back to Louisville on July 11th.

Louisville, Ky. The last few days I spent with Gary and Glenna and Anna Pearl Bailey. Also had visits with my nephew Roland Weaver (his mother: Adell Griffin Weaver) on my husband's side, and my cousin Delores. Cousin Mary Rose's daughter took me to the airport for my return home July 14th, and my daughter Gina picked me up at the airport back home.

Genealogical Trekking and meeting new cousins: by Monique Groulx

In the past two years, while expanding the branches of my family tree, I encountered several new cousins, especially when I started to build my Groulx family tree online at Ancestry.com. I had never met these cousins face to face. However, I communicated with each of them almost weekly if not monthly through e-mail messages in exchanging data, stories and photos. I had a yearning to meet them. Some live in the United States but several live in Quebec or Ontario, Canada.

This summer, since I was traveling to Canada to help celebrate the 65th wedding anniversary of my mother's last surviving sibling out of 17 children, I decided to try to meet as many of those new cousins who lived on the way to my destination.

My first stop was in Schenectady, New York, where I finally hugged my cousin Tom Gilmartin with whom I had been communicating for a year.

My father had given me a box full of photos pertaining to his mother Alma Larivière's family. For years, I had been collecting data on the Lariviere family whose original name was Chapdelaine dit Lariviere. I had completed that branch of my father's maternal line and I was lamenting not knowing anyone with whom to share all those photos and data. I had posted a message online seeking information about my grandmother's mother, Honorine Croteau. Finally, Ian Nicoll responded and put me in contact with his Uncle Tom Gilmartin who was seeking information about the Lariviere family. It just happened that his grandfather, Napoleon Lariviere and my grandmother, Alma, were brother and sister. And, it was his grandfather who had moved to Florida after his wife Roseanna Loiselle's death. Had it not been for Tom's grandfather, my family probably would never have moved to Florida. It is he who encouraged my father to move to the Tampa Bay area where he lived with his second wife. Napoleon Lariviere who had changed his name to Rivers while raising his family in Cohoes, New York, had been very close to his sister Alma and her family while all of them lived in Cohoes, N.Y. However, my father and his parents returned to live

in St-Edouard, Quebec, in 1930 and after Alma's death in 1942, my father had lost touch with his Uncle's family.

I spent a couple of days with my new encountered cousin, Tom Gilmartin, who organized a small family reunion in his home in Schenectady. It was such a pleasure to meet one of Uncle Napoleon's grown elderly son, Armand, and some of Napoleon's grandchildren and great grandchildren. We were able to identify the persons in lots of our photos and we visited the family graves at the Waterford Cemetery, near Cohoes.

Armand remembered playing with my father when he was a small child in Cohoes, N.Y. Armand and my father were born a few months apart, my father in St-Edouard-de-Napierville, Quebec, and Armand in Cohoes, N.Y. Because my father spent the first ten years of his life with his family in Cohoes, Armand and he saw each other often. I have a photo of a family picnic in which Armand and my father, Jean-Paul Groulx, were young boys. I wished my father had been alive to chat with his old cousin!



Family picnic near Cohoes, N.Y. circa 1924. My father is the little boy on the right side in front of his parents, Henri Groulx & Alma Lariviere and Armand Lariviere Rivers is the little boy in the middle in front of his parents Roseanna Loiselle & Napoleon Lariviere Rivers. The two girls are Armand's sisters, Jeannette and Alice. Alice is the one standing on the left in the back. She is Tom Gilmartin's mother. The other adults are my father's uncles & aunts. Of all the persons in this photo, Armand is the only one still alive. He is 88 years old.



Small family reunion on June 20, 2010 at Tom Gilmartin's home. Sitting from left to right are: Monique Groulx with her dog, Sassy; Armand Lariviere Rivers, son of Napoleon Lariviere Rivers; Rosanne Nicoll, granddaughter of Napoleon.

Standing from left to right are: Heather Gilmartin, Tom's daughter; Wayne Rivers, Armand's son; Cindy & Tom Gilmartin, grandson of Napoleon; Ian Nicoll and his son Liam. Ian is Rosanne's son. The photo was taken by Ian's wife, Elihsa.

New Members Needed:

Reach out to your neighbors and friends who may have an interest in History or Genealogy and invite them to our next meeting. The application membership form is available on our web site. http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flbags/BAGHS_application.pdf

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