

# COUNTY LINE

August 2014

Volume 20 Issue 3

PCGS  
P.O. Box 2072  
Dade City, FL 33526

## Summer Research

by Janet Avery

I promised myself I would devote time this summer to my family research, where to begin. I logged onto my Ancestry account, checking to see what new items had recently been added to their site. To my surprise Pennsylvania Death Certificates (1906 to 1944) have been added. What a thrill. Out came my files and the hunt began.

My cousin Jim and I have been attempting to break down our brick wall. We have been successful in documenting our Avery's as far as Jacob born in 1784, but have been unable to locate his parents or confirm we have the correct names for any of his brothers and sisters. Now, with the newly added Death Certificates from Pennsylvania we hope to be able to confirm some of our recent finds. The first one I looked at was my Great Grandfather, Levi F. Avery, it showed both of his parents (including Mother's maiden name) and their place of birth. On to another relative (one of my Great Grandfathers siblings), her death Certificate also confirmed their parents place of birth. All and all, Jim and I have looked at as many as 25 Death Certificates. We have found a pattern, discovered that our Gr Gr Grandfather was born in NY and not PA as we had always been told.

Not only do these Death Certificates tell us parents, it also identifies the person providing the information, that information has helped us fill in blanks with married names (of our female

ancestors), dates, etc. We have discovered some had been married more than one time.

We now have a spread sheet showing the parents' names, place of birth, address at time of death and most important reason for death. Not only are we attempting to break down this wall but also document illnesses running in our family.

Ancestry also provides source Documentation when you select to print the Death Certificate. Following is the Source information for my Great Grandfather Levi F. Avery.

Below is a copy of Levi Avery's death certificate.

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS		MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH	
1. SEX <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female 2. COLOR OR RACE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Negro <input type="checkbox"/> Other 3. DATE OF BIRTH <u>March 2, 1876</u> 4. RESIDENCE <u>70 - 9 - 3</u> 5. OCCUPATION <u>Laborer</u> 6. MARITAL STATUS <u>Married</u> 7. NAME OF SPOUSE <u>Levi's Sister</u> 8. NAME OF SPOUSE <u>Levi's Sister</u> 9. NAME OF SPOUSE <u>Levi's Sister</u> 10. NAME OF SPOUSE <u>Levi's Sister</u> 11. NAME OF SPOUSE <u>Levi's Sister</u> 12. NAME OF SPOUSE <u>Levi's Sister</u> 13. NAME OF SPOUSE <u>Levi's Sister</u> 14. NAME OF SPOUSE <u>Levi's Sister</u> 15. NAME OF SPOUSE <u>Levi's Sister</u> 16. NAME OF SPOUSE <u>Levi's Sister</u> 17. NAME OF SPOUSE <u>Levi's Sister</u> 18. NAME OF SPOUSE <u>Levi's Sister</u> 19. NAME OF SPOUSE <u>Levi's Sister</u> 20. NAME OF SPOUSE <u>Levi's Sister</u> 21. NAME OF SPOUSE <u>Levi's Sister</u> 22. NAME OF SPOUSE <u>Levi's Sister</u> 23. 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# Summer Research .....continued from page one.

By **Janet Avery, President of PCGS**

Source Citation of the death certificate - Description Certificate NumberRange : 183001 - 186000

Source Information -

Ancestry.com. Pennsylvania, Death Certificates, 1906-1944 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2014.

Original data: Pennsylvania (State). Death certificates, 1906-1963. Series 11.90 (1,905 cartons). Records of the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Record Group 11. Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. [http://](http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/)

[www.phmc.state.pa.us/](http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/).

Source Description

Pennsylvania's Department of Health started keeping statewide death records on January 1, 1906. Now you can find them in this collection.

Viewer built on Microsoft Technology

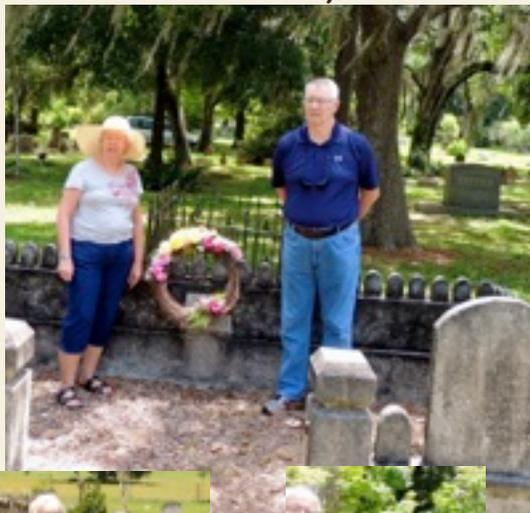
I have been working on this project just a few weeks. This research has helped open many closed doors and find doors I did not know existed. As Jim and I gather our information, we are planning a trip to Bradford County, Pa. to look for Deeds, wills, etc. Before we make this trip we want to have as much

documentation as possible to make our search easier. My next step is to review Dave Ramsey's maps on line to see what I can find about these illusive Avery's. Or maybe our October speaker Peter Summers, the President of Pinellas Genealogical Society, an FLGS award winner, can give me tips with his talk, "Maps, How to use them in Research".

My head is spinning with all the opportunities for research available on the internet, most of which has no cost involved other than time (with the exception of my Ancestry subscription).

Happy Hunting!

## Mt. Zion Cemetery Memorial Service Pictures From May, 2014



A group of PCGS members went to honor William Staten Jackson, a Pasco County pioneer buried in 1872. His descendants, Robert Strickland and his wife, and Ted Williams and his wife, joined us for the memorial. Top left shows, President Janet Avery and Vice President Charlie Plante laying the wreath. Bottom left is Helen Brown, and next picture is Tom Santa Cruz. A box lunch and conversation were enjoyed by all after the ceremony. Photos were taken by Kelly Jewett.



Some of our members that went to the cemetery in May, l - r Helen Brown, Virginia Britten, Carole West, Sarah Beth Hammond, Tom Santa Cruz and Bill Smith.

**FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK**

Hello Fellow PSGS Members,

We ended our May meeting with a trip to Mt. Zion Cemetery, where we laid a wreath on the grave of William Staten Jackson. In the weeks preceding this trip, we were contacted by several of Mr. Jackson's descendants who also wanted to join us. Some traveling from Valdosta Ga. to be a part of this event. Those members attending also placed flowers on surrounding grave sites. One of our charter members, Sarah Beth Hammond, has many family members interred in this Cemetery, she and I placed flowers on a small boys grave born in 1861 and died in 1871. His gravesite is truly the oldest one in this cemetery, Joe Henry Sumner, also related to Sarah Beth.



Check out Ancestry.com/blog to read the blog "Do you break for Cemeteries" This is a very good article with many great suggestions.

Our next meeting is September 13 with **George G. Morgan** as speaker. See the information regarding his talk in this newsletter on page 7.

Have a great remainder of your summer and we will look for everyone in September.  
Janet Avery

**Microfilm Dies!**

The "Death of Microfilm" by Dick Eastman, posted May 29th, 2014 is a must read to understand what is ahead for genealogy research using microfilm.

Very troubling is the thought that once a microfilm is gone, and the LDS does not have copyright agreements with some of the authors, and we may not be able to see that special film that has the information we will need in the future.

To read more about it see <http://blog.eogn.com/2014/05/29/the-death-of-microfilm/>

# CLUES - hidden in plain site !

*By Virginia Britten*

Many of us are too busy living our lives to remember details. Then, when one is older, we are encouraged to write about our memories but by now we have forgotten the details like dates and places. My task this year has been writing our family story and I have found my memory is fuzzy.

This summer, we had a water leak that required we open up a storage closet that had been closed for 8 years. Lo and behold, what I found were boxes of papers that I had saved over the years, some going back to before our wedding 58 years ago. As I was looking through the boxes, suddenly I was finding paperwork that included all those details I had been trying to remember. I was also finding valuable family pictures that I had put in safe keeping that I forgot about having.

Suddenly, a real timeline was appearing before my very eyes. The list included such things like our different work places, our residences, our tax returns since 1975, and our volunteer work. Also, there were pictures of our parties, celebrations of graduations, marriages and births. There were pictures of the children, grade cards, health records, receipts for our daily life expenses, including names of people we had contact with and places we had been along with dates. There were cards and letters from family, friends, strangers and business transactions.

The family story details were emerging right before my eyes, after going through about five boxes of "stuff". What we did, who we did it with, when we did it, and how we did it was answered in the

paperwork I kept. I had kept these pieces of paper and moved them about 14 times, each time adding to my collection, and now here they were, right at the time I was needing the information the most.

For a month I have sorted and scanned the information in the boxes. I am putting them into order as they happened. When I am finished, I will have a great timeline of our 58 years to write about. And better than that, I will have memorabilia to pass down to the family, and have thrown away all the junk I do not want to save.

I had written a book this spring about our trip to Alaska for the whole summer of 1972. When I wrote it, I had great trouble remembering the exact dates, and places. However, in a new found box from the closet, was a journal of our trip I had kept during the trip. Now, I can edit my book and it will have an accurate complete story of our adventures.

For instance, an entry on June 8, states, "wild horses along the road at 6:30 pm, Mile Marker 806; mileage is 4621; arrived in Whitehorse and had a Dairy Queen with Bob and Eleanor and the kids.

June 9, In Whitehorse, heard the old train to Skagway, on to Haines Jct; cereal for breakfast; snow blowing in the mountains; took pictures of Indian Graves; mileage 4772; Dall sheep on mountainside; **mountain goats grazing along the road**, arrived in Tetlin Jct at 6:45 pm; 60 degrees outside."

continued page 5

Mountain goats grazing



My boxes of clues from the closet that have been hidden for eight years revealed my whole life history.

Start looking around for your own clues that you might have forgotten about.

## In Memory

**PCGS members** offer our sincere sympathy to the family of member **Fay Williams** who passed away in June. Her husband, Robert Laurence Williams survives.

# Clues.....continued from page 4

This little record book holds the details I could not remember some forty two years later. I remembered feeding the black bear from the camper's back window, but not the place it happened. What isn't written there is my husband's reaction to the incident, as he sped away when he saw the bear stand up on his hind legs and he was that big! That comment would have been censored!

Now, I have a record for the family and crucial details about the trip to add to my story.

Other documents detail our income producing years, with dates, wages, insurance, loans, mortgages, auto histories, and all the social activities we engaged in for 58 years. For instance, what did the hotel room I stayed in Newport, Rhode Island cost in 1956? \$5.00. That is correct! I could not believe it. And it was a very nice room.

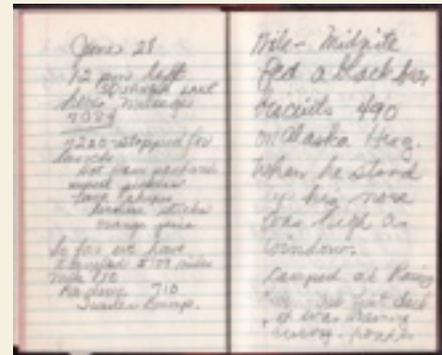
What wealth of information I have found just in boxes of "junk" I have saved. Have you such paperwork in your house? Have you overlooked some real clues right in your own house about your life's activities? Or have you kept a daily journal that could help you now remember clues in your life? I hope you are as fortunate as I have been. Please look now because the clues you seek could be in plain site. After finding them, put your records in order for your family history.

I have been using a workbook to help give me ideas of what to write about. "Reaching Back" written by Alice Chapin, Betterway Books, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1997, is a great workbook for recording your life's most meaningful moments to share with future generations. I have been using this book this summer and found that if I answer just three questions each night, I am starting to have a better picture of my life to pass on to the great grandchildren.

**Now, with the clues I found in the my closet, I can give better answers.**

In the May issue of our newsletter, Gene Poast told about a story of trying to get ahold of some of his cousins and he said this, "When I contacted the son, he said he was the only one of her three sons that knew she died, he had arranged the sale of her house, made all the funeral arrangements and had boxes of family pictures and documents that he would be glad to send to me **as he had no idea what to do with them.**

I think there may be a lesson here: Never throw anything away. You may find a need for it much later."



Journal from 1972

## "Funeral Sermons".....Tips by Editor

Have you ever heard the words "Funeral Sermons"? In all my years of researching, I have never known about these elusive resources. During this summer, you might have time to investigate this new source.

Genealogist Mary Harrell-Sesniak posted this great 10 page article on GenealogyBank Blog at this link: [http://](http://blog.genealogybank.com/funeral-sermons-how-to-research-funeral-records-for-genealogy.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+GenealogyBankTheOfficialBlog+%28GenealogyBank+-+The+Official+Blog%29)

[blog.genealogybank.com/funeral-sermons-how-to-research-funeral-records-for-genealogy.html?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+GenealogyBankTheOfficialBlog+%28GenealogyBank+-+The+Official+Blog%29](http://blog.genealogybank.com/funeral-sermons-how-to-research-funeral-records-for-genealogy.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+GenealogyBankTheOfficialBlog+%28GenealogyBank+-+The+Official+Blog%29)

Try it and see if you can find any family sermons for your ancestors. Let us know about your success. We need articles for the November PCGS "County Line..." with the deadline of October 30, 2014. Please send us your story before the deadline to [Jverly@gmail.com](mailto:Jverly@gmail.com).

## AMERICAN NEWSPAPER REPOSITORY NOW AT DUKE UNIVERSITY

To save newspapers from being destroyed after they were microfilmed, a man named Nicholson Baker started a one man crusade to save papers for posterity. He created a non profit American Newspaper Repository which eventually collected more than 7,000 bound volumes of original American newspapers using his own money. Soon he was helped by others. To read more about his efforts see [http://web.archive.org/web/20070824161139/http://home.gwi.net/~dnb/former\\_newsrep.html](http://web.archive.org/web/20070824161139/http://home.gwi.net/~dnb/former_newsrep.html)

At this site you can even read the full list of what they have available for research.

After the year 2004, the collection was moved to Duke University. To find more about this please go to <http://web.archive.org/web/20070824161124/http://home.gwi.net/~dnb/newsrep.html>

If you would like to use the collection for research, please get in touch with Duke's Rare Book, Manuscript, and Special Collections Library by visiting that page. Here you can also read samples of the newspapers and articles from the list of titles in their repository.

As I was browsing through the list, I was intrigued by a 1901 article about W. R. Vanderbilt Jr's "Red Demon", a new automobile weighing 1 ton, having 43 horse power with the ability to run 70 miles per hour. To see this story, see [http://web.archive.org/web/20070825005853/http://home.gwi.net/~dnb/gallery/red\\_demon/red\\_demon.htm](http://web.archive.org/web/20070825005853/http://home.gwi.net/~dnb/gallery/red_demon/red_demon.htm)

Lots of these older newspapers have brilliant color illustrations and are a marvel to see. If you are looking for some researching entertainment, this would be the place to look for unusual newspapers that have been saved from destruction.

Of course, it takes money to keep a project like this, and there is a place for you to contribute to help with their expense.

Or, if you have an old newspaper that you would donate to be preserved, this would be the place to inquire about doing so.

If you would like to read the article in which the headline reads "Edison Fears Hidden Perils of the X-rays" in the "New York World", Monday, August 3, 1903, page 1, go here <http://web.archive.org/web/20070810162431/http://home.gwi.net/~dnb/readlist.htm>

Thanks to the foresight of Nicholson Baker, we now have these precious records saved. Look today to see if they have saved the paper important to your family's history.

by the Editor

## National Archives

OPEN GOVERNMENT PLAN  
National Archives and Records Administration  
2014-2016

Just what does the NARA have up their sleeve? Digitizing all of their records and making them accessible to the public in the 21st Century, that is what. Read all about it at the archives.gov website. <http://www.archives.gov/open/open-government-plan-3.0.pdf>

Having access to everything by the internet would be a dream come true. Remember when we use to wait weeks for an answer to our requests, and at a supreme cost? This initiative would put an end of the wait. They are asking for help in this big project. Please scan the proposal from the archivist. It is heavy reading, but very worthwhile to get a glimpse of the future plans of our National Archives. Volunteer, if you can.



.....End of the Line.

**George G. Morgan To Speak in September.**

George G. Morgan is the president of Aha! Seminars, Inc., and an internationally recognized genealogy expert who presents at local, state, national, and international genealogical conferences, webinars, and on cruises and tours.

George is the prolific author of literally hundreds of articles for magazines, journals, newsletters, in genealogical publications, and at online sites in the U.S., Canada, the U.K, Singapore, and elsewhere. He is co-author, with Drew Smith, of the book, *Advanced Genealogy Research Techniques*, published by McGraw-Hill. George is currently working on the fourth edition of his book, *How to Do Everything: Genealogy*, to be published by McGraw-Hill in January 2015.

George is past Vice President of Membership for the Federation of Genealogical Societies and past president of the International Society of Family History Writers and Editors (ISFHWE) and a past officer of the Florida State Genealogical Society and the Florida Genealogical Society (Tampa). He is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists and numerous societies in the U.S. and the U.K.

George and Drew Smith produce *The Genealogy Guys* SM Podcast on the Internet at [genealogyguys.com](http://genealogyguys.com). It is the longest running genealogical podcast, with thousands of listeners around the globe.

Come and hear George's presentation, Guests \$20., or join PCGS on or before Sept 13 and the fee will be waived. Tell all your friends this is the best opportunity to hear this great speaker at this special rate. Of course, there is no charge for our members for any of our monthly programs.

**UPCOMING Events**

**September 13, 2014 PCGS Meeting- George G. Morgan**, noted genealogist and lecturer will be speaking. Please plan to attend this important meeting. His topic will be "Five reasons the Records Aren't in the Courthouse".



George G. Morgan

**October 11, 2014 PCGS Meeting - Peter Summers**, the President of Pinellas Genealogical Society, an FLGS award winner, will be speaking about "Maps, How to use them in Research". To get a glimpse of him and hear him tell about the Largo Library watch this video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7qSSGOIR5l8>

**November 8, 2014 PCGS Meeting- Peter Summers** returns for his second part of his Maps presentation.

**December 13, 2014 PCGS Annual Meeting - Debra Fleming**, PCGS Program Chair, will talk about "Fraternal Organizations and the Role they Play in Genealogy." Being our Annual Meeting, the General Election will be held for Officers for 2015 and Directors.

**W E L C O M E ..... NEW MEMBERS**



**Ted and Barbara Williams**  
 Researching Surnames of Grundin and Fell  
 Williams, Jackson and Strickland  
 German and Swedish locality.



## SOCIETY INFORMATION

Meetings are the second Saturday of each month, September through May of each year. There are no membership meetings held in June, July, and August. The public is welcome to attend.

Meetings are held from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints at 9016 Fort King Road ( State Road 41), between Zephyrhills and Dade City, Florida.

## MEMBERSHIP

Open to all persons interested in genealogical research. Annual dues cover the period from January 1 through December 31 of the same year.

Pasco County Genealogical Society  
P.O.Box 2072  
Dade City, FL 33526

[www.rootsweb.com/~flpcgs/](http://www.rootsweb.com/~flpcgs/)

Visit us on Facebook, too.

“ Researching Our Ancestors is Family Fun.”



<http://files.usgwarchives.net/fl/pasco/cemetery/mtzion.txt>

This is an index to all the people buried at Mt. Zion Cemetery that we visited in May, 2014. It will give you a quick look at all the graves we missed and alert you to others you may remember.

## COUNTY LINE.....

FROM:  
PCGS  
P.O.Box 2072  
Dade City, FL 33526

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