

COPPER FILINGS



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Board Message

Fellow Members,

As we prepare to say farewell to our Society, we are all forced to face the hard truth that change is inevitable. Certainly, none of us wanted this particular change, but like all of you, your board is treating these events with the grace and dignity the Society deserves.

In this issue of *Copper Filings*, you will find a report to the membership on closing the Society and distributing our assets, which notes what we have accomplished and what we have left to do on behalf of the Society. Rest assured that we are completing these difficult tasks in a professional manner in which you can all take pride. All of the documents concerning our closure will be available to our membership on our website in the near future.

Also included in this issue is a message from Kate Reeve, Head of the Library and Archives at the Tucson Branch of the Arizona Historical Society. In our meeting with Kate and other members of AHS, we found a true mixture of joy and sorrow on both sides of the table. But we came away from the meeting knowing that our records will be well cared for and the money we are donating will be used in a way that we as genealogists and family historians can be proud of. Kate has been kind enough to share some of those plans with us in her message.

We would like to take the opportunity to join our members in thanking all those who have worked so hard for this Society. Over the years, there have been many people who put their heart and soul into the operation of ASGS. Your efforts have always been appreciated, and we thank each of you.

Now, however, we must face reality. As we move on to the next chapter in our lives, we hope everyone will focus on the positive things we all gained from this Society—wonderful programs and events, quality publications, a greater knowledge of genealogy and family history, and most important, those relationships built from joining with people who shared our common passion.

The Board of Directors wishes you all great success in your journey of searching for your ancestors. Our best to you all. It has been our great honor to serve you.

The ASGS Board of Directors
Bobbi Harmon, President

Report to the Members on Closing the Society and Distributing our Assets

By Marcia Lindley

What We've Done So Far

On January 20, the Society mailed 179 ballots to its voting members pursuant to the Board of Directors vote at its meeting on January 11. We received 98 ballots by the February 5 return deadline and counted the ballots at the February 8 board meeting. The vote tally was as follows: 83 members voted to close the Society and donate our assets to the Arizona Historical Society, 12 members voted not to close the Society, and 2 members abstained from voting.

In accordance with that vote, the board has begun the process of closing the Society. Pursuant to specific board votes on each, the following actions have been taken to date:

On February 9, Sharon Scott, our secretary, sent an email on the members' listserv announcing the results of the vote.

On February 11, Sharon sent notices of the vote result to those members who do not have email.

On February 10, Arwen Newman, our website manager, removed pages from the website on joining the Society, renewing memberships, donating to the Society, purchasing items on Amazon or the Family History Store, and obtaining our research services. She also terminated our Amazon Sellers

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PHOTOS FROM OUR LAST MEETING



The Group!



Bobbi and Sherry manning the excellent refreshments!

Thank you, Bobbi, for providing the goodies. They were excellent!



Cynthia (above) and Dolly (left) winning door prizes



Jeanne and Barbara



Dolly and Jo talking to Verlene



Bobbi and Barbara



Sandy getting ready to listen to Pam's great presentation



Sandy, Sharon, Arwen and Marcia



It was wonderful to see such a great group at our last meeting. We wish you all luck in your future research!

account through which we had been selling books from the book collection.

On February 16, our president, Bobbi Harmon, together with Sharon and Marcia Lindley, our treasurer, met with the following people at the Arizona Historical Society: Kate Reeve, Head of the Library and Archives; Laraine Day, Museums Collection Manager; Jill McCleary, Librarian; and Bill Ponder, Chief Administrative Officer. We discussed how and when to carry out the members' vote to distribute Society assets to AHS.

On February 19, Marcia terminated our Amazon Associates account through which we had received a percentage of the cost of items purchased from Amazon by buyers clicking through our website.

On February 24, Sharon and Arwen, together with their probably-reluctant spouses Scotty and Dean, went to the Society storage unit, unloaded its entire contents into their vehicles and onto Dean's trailer, and transported the contents to the Arizona Historical Society. Marcia met them at AHS to sign the paperwork for ASGS to donate the items to the Historical Society. Included in those items were the Society's historical records, such as old secretary's minutes, old financial records, the historian's scrapbooks, and the masters and one bound copy each of issues of the *Copper State Bulletin* and *Copper State Journal* and the few extant copies of *Copper Filings*. In addition, we donated shelving, coffee urns and other hospitality supplies, an old laptop computer, and unsold copies of the *Arizona Genealogical and Historical Research Guide*. Finally, we gave the Historical Society a check in the amount of \$2,000 to enable AHS to begin processing the materials and to purchase boxes to archive our historical records.

The next day, Sharon terminated our rental contract with Public Storage for the storage unit.

Pursuant to a board vote on March 8, Marcia sent refund checks on March 10 to those members who had paid 2011-2012 dues in advance. In addition, she sent checks to those life members whose accounts had not been exhausted, refunding the balance of their unearned life membership purchase.

On March 8, the board also voted to solidify ASGS's legacy by donating missing Society publications to major genealogical libraries. The list included such facilities as the Family History Library, the Allen County Public Library, the DAR Library, the Arizona State Archives Genealogical Library, and the Mid-Continent Library. Arwen surveyed the libraries' holdings for missing publications, had the publications printed, and she and Sharon mailed them on April 21.

And, on April 9, Marcia closed the PayPal account after having previously transferred all its funds to our checking account.

What We Will Be Doing

Just before our May meeting, the board met briefly to approve Articles of Dissolution. Marcia will file the articles with the Arizona Corporation Commission once all bills have been paid. After the commission approves them, it may require us to publish them one time in a local newspaper. That requirement will be carried out if imposed.

After our May meeting, most of the remaining physical assets will be taken to the Historical Society, including the

projector, the remote control, the wireless microphone, and our badge cases.

Bobbi and Sharon will close the credit card account.

The Internal Revenue Service will be notified that the Society is relinquishing its nonprofit status.

After all requirements of the Corporation Commission are met, Marcia and Sharon will close the bank accounts, including the checking account, the life members savings account, and the reserve fund, and obtain a cashier's check for the balances in those accounts payable to the Arizona Historical Society. Marcia will then deliver that check plus her treasurer's records, Sharon's current secretary records, and the President's fireproof safe to the Historical Society.

The post office box rent is paid through the end of December. We will return the post office keys shortly before the rental term expires. That should allow sufficient time after the Society closes for us to handle any mail that requires a response.

The Society listserv will be disabled so it will no longer accept new posts.

Arwen will post a message on our website directing people to the Historical Society's website and giving a short history of the Society and the members' decision to close its doors. We own the domain name through April 2013 so the information will remain on our website through that date.

And, because we will continue to own the domain name, Arwen will post on our website the documents Marcia signed donating our assets to the Arizona Historical Society and the lists of assets donated.

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A Message From the Arizona Historical Society

By Kate Reeve

Sad news, good news. It started with a startling February 9th phone call from Sharon Scott delivering the unexpected news that the Arizona State Genealogical Society would be shutting down effective June 30th. As I was absorbing the enormity and the sadness of this news, Sharon continued and said that the ASGS membership had voted to donate their association records, publications, and funds to the Museum and Library/Archives of the Southern Division of the Arizona Historical Society. I was initially overwhelmed by the offer and as I notified other administrative, museum, education, and library/archives staff of the offer, they all had the same reaction: Sad news, good news. We mourn the ending of a wonderful organization that many of us have worked closely with over the years. We are grateful that we will have the opportunity to honor and preserve the hard work of so many dedicated ASGS members.

On February 16th, members of the ASGS Board met with AHS staff, including Laraine Daly Jones, Museum Collections Manager; Bill Ponder, Chief Administrative Officer; and me, Kate Reeve, Head of the Library and Archives, to discuss the logistics and the legalities of the donation. We were grateful to learn that there would be funding not only to support the archival processing of the association records and scrapbooks dating back to 1965 but additional funding to support the pre-

servation of items in our collections that are of such importance to genealogical researchers. Fittingly, a hearse helped to deliver the donation on February 24th, and AHS volunteers and staff were busy sorting and storing the carefully organized boxes of records and research, carts filled with hospitality supplies and shelving, and 290+ copies of the invaluable reference book, *Arizona Genealogical and Historical Research Guide*. The education department was delighted to acquire the research materials on Tucson pioneers. Archival staff and volunteers are still sorting through the boxes and creating a processing plan that will incorporate the research, publications, and records into what will be the Arizona State Genealogical Society manuscript collection, 1965-2011.

Laraine Daly Jones and I have met to plan how we can best use the funds to promote and support the work of genealogists who use our museum and library/archives collections. Most of the ASGS donation will go toward preserving AHS collections that are so important to genealogists. Members who attended the 2010 annual banquet will remember the powerful program Laraine provided as she presented historic quilts, guns, and the dirt-stained dress of Apache May. At the same program, Librarian Jill McCleary gave members a glimpse into the treasures of our libraries and archives: books, maps, diaries, newspapers, census records, microfilm, photographs, manuscripts, and more. We plan to use a good portion of the money to preserve and digitize some of our most fragile territorial newspapers and to develop our Arizona genealogical resource collection.

Future researchers and genealogists will benefit greatly from this generous donation of the Arizona State Genealogical Society. We acknowledge this gift with gratitude and are honored to be entrusted with the legacy of the Arizona State Genealogical Society.

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Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness & More!

By Arwen Newman

What can be better than free or almost free? Not much.

The following websites can help you to access unpublished, low-cost, or free information from locations you can't hop into a car and drive to in less than a few hours (which – last time I checked – would be anything further than Phoenix).

Many of you have probably visited the Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness website at www.raogk.org. If you haven't, you should check it out! The site is entirely run by volunteers. For a thank you and a reimbursement of the costs incurred by a volunteer, you can obtain photos, copies, video, and more. You may browse a list of volunteers who research in areas all around the world, and you can request one or two records for one or two ancestors from any volunteer once a month. This is a great resource if you need a court record and the courthouse staff doesn't respond to mail requests. Or what if that courthouse staff requires information from an index that is only located in the courthouse before they can access a record for you? You could request that a volunteer examine the index so you can order your entire file.

A site that specifically handles photographs of tombstones is www.findagrave.com. You can search the site to see if a person you are interested in is already in the database and “request a photo” if there isn't one already there. If you don't find an ancestor and know where the person is buried, you can register with the site, create a webpage (called a “memorial”) for any person, link it to the cemetery in which that person is buried, and then “request a photo.” An email goes out to registered users in the area near the cemetery letting them know that someone would like a picture. I have experienced mixed success with this service; some requests have been filled within a few days, and others are still lingering almost three years later. But the cost benefit (absolutely free) is immense compared to arranging a trip to a location to obtain a photo. Sometimes the volunteers are quicker than asking a relative who lives near the cemetery to “drop by” and get a photo for you!

The message boards at Rootsweb/Ancestry (boards.rootsweb.com or boards.ancestry.com – they have the exact same content, just a slightly different look) are a place where you can ask for lookups as well. You can navigate to a locality board where you can post your request for help – including such things as obituary lookups.

If you have ever seen a CD database advertised through www.genealogy.com and found one index entry you need, you can try requesting a lookup at www.ancestralfindings.com or loricase.com/CDs/cdlist.html. I know I've looked at those CD lists and can't justify spending about \$30 for that single entry – especially if it might not be a match for the person I am researching. Please read the rules regarding making lookup requests from volunteers very carefully. They will not respond to requests about “all persons with surname X.”

Another resource for free lookups is geneasearch.com. They offer lookups from CDs, reference and regional resources books, city directories, cemetery photos, and more.

A list of over 1500 volunteers who focus on resource books is the “Books We Own” list at www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~bwo/index.html. Their list even includes international resources; you can request lookups in books related to Fiji, Cuba, Austria, India, Italy, and the list goes on.

If you need an obituary, you can try the Obituary Lookup Volunteers at freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~obit/ovlist.html. A great feature of this site is that they also list online obituary indexes.

The above, as well as additional, free lookup services can be found at www.cyndislist.com/lookups.htm.

On the other hand, if you are looking to volunteer, consider signing up with one of these groups if you feel you can help. Check Find A Grave and the message boards for the area in which you live and help people by taking photos or doing lookups. Also consider signing up for an indexing project which you can participate in from the comfort of your own home. The two biggest projects are Family Search Indexing at www.familysearch.org/eng/indexing/frameset_indexing.asp and Ancestry's World Archive Project at community.ancestry.com/wap/download.aspx. Both projects are making their volunteer-created databases free to the genealogical community.

There are many transcription groups which need volunteers. The Tombstone Transcription Project is located at usgw-tombstones.org/. The USGenWeb Census Project can be found at www.us-census.org/. A group that is indexing England and Wales's post-1937 birth, marriage, and death indexes is FreeBMD. To learn the process for contributing to that project, check out www.freebmd.org.uk/7steps.shtml. Anything that you have personally transcribed or compiled and which you own the copyright to can be donated to the USGenWeb Archives Project usgwarchives.net/. See usgenweb.org/projects/index.shtml for a list of all of USGenWeb's projects.

If you'd like to try your hand at volunteer researching, Unclaimed Persons needs volunteers to compile family trees and locate living family members of persons who have died with no family to claim them. Several county coroners offices from around the United States request aid in locating the families of their unclaimed decedents. The families helped by this group have been estranged for many reasons, and living relatives appreciate knowing what happened to their relative. It is amazing to watch this group go to work with nothing more than a name and some dates and locate living family members to notify about the death. Go to www.unclaimedpersons.org/ to learn about volunteering for this project. You will need to create a Facebook account and return a rules agreement in order to participate in this research.

Hopefully this list has given you some great ideas and has also triggered thoughts of volunteering for one or more of these projects!

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Contest Winner

The judging committee is pleased to announce the winners of our second *Copper Filings* writing contest! The topic was: "Who do you think you are?" How did you first get hooked on genealogy?"

OUR FIRST PLACE WINNER IS: Bonnie Briscoe. (Entry published in the last issue.)

HONORABLE MENTION: Kenneth R. Castle, Jean Banowit, and Eileen Fullenwider. (Two of which you will find below; the others have been printed in previous issues.)

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What Did You Do Last Summer?

By Jean Banowit

Lorna said she had found more ancestors and shared photos with distant cousins. I wanted to hear more. I was having lunch with staff from the elementary school on the first day back in the fall. I had been newly assigned to this school and was trying to get to know my new co-workers. Lorna was the library-media specialist and she was "into" genealogy. While the other teachers seemed bored with Lorna's sharing of her summer findings, I was enthralled and wanted to learn how I too could find my roots.

At home that afternoon, I dug out the family tree that my cousin Clark had made after an interview with our grandmother. He included all the ancestors she could remember. Clark's mother, my aunt Elsie (Dad's sister), had sent me this chart

some time back with a note saying, "Here is something for you to work on someday." I guess someday had arrived. I also had a computer printout from my mom's sister, Aunt Dorothy, of some of the relatives in that family.

With this data in hand, I confronted Lorna with more questions. She was a wonderful teacher. She took me to the National Archives Branch in Chicago, the Newberry Library, and a number of seminars at various Chicago-land genealogical societies. We went to the local Family History Center and I ordered some films to look at. This was in the days when Ancestry.com was still new. It periodically offered free access for a month. I searched every day during those months. Finally gave up and subscribed.

Lorna was a real planner. We had to go to the Archives on a Tuesday, as that was the day it was open later than 5 PM. We left our suburban homes at 9 AM to miss the rush hour traffic. We stopped at a McDonald's near the Archives for breakfast; we needed enough fuel to be able to work all day long. We didn't want to be the first patrons at the Archives. Sometimes the earliest in were bumped from their microfilm readers when others came in. If we were early, but not too early, we had less chance of getting bumped. We kept working until about 5:30 or 6 PM. Then we stopped at the nearby Red Lobster for dinner – to miss the evening rush hour traffic. I think Lorna just liked eating the cheddar cheese biscuits. After dinner, we drove home. Lorna had a similar plan for the Newberry Library, except we ate at Dave and Busters because it validated parking for the lot where we left the car.

When my husband and I retired and moved to Tucson, I was delighted to have more time to work on my obsession. I told Joel that I wanted to join the local genealogical society and make friends there. I wanted my new friends to share my interest in research. I was thrilled with what I found in ASGS. The monthly meetings were interesting, the seminars were great, and the classes with Barbara Salyer were fabulous. As my second genealogical instructor, Barbara took over where Lorna had left off. I learned to organize my family records, where to search when vital records were not available, the value of land records, what's available at the University of Arizona Library, and so much more. The trips that Barbara planned to Salt Lake City, Fort Wayne, and Boston were great learning experiences.

Someone asked me recently when I thought I would be finished with my genealogical research. Without hesitation, I answered, "Never!" I see this as an on-going project that offers new ways to branch out with each new tidbit of information I learn. I have not found any other "hobby" that I have pursued as fulfilling as family history research. I can't imagine what I'd be doing now had it not been for Lorna's sharing of her summer finds at that lunch back in 1996.

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It All Started with Tave

By Eileen Fullenwider

Tave...you just gotta love her!

Having been born in Choudrant, Louisiana, in 1900, she inherited Southern charm that made everyone feel better just by having known her.

Raised as a young girl in St. Louis till the 1920s provided her with the dancing, singing, acting in vaudeville that led her to the "lights, camera, action" of Hollywood.

She was an entertainer. Life for her was a stage!

Her generation forever changed the culture of women.

1. They were the first to date without chaperones.
2. They were the first to drive cars.
3. They were the first to vote.
4. They were the Jazz Age.
5. They "raised hemlines."
6. They lived through WWI.
7. They lived through WWII.
8. They lived through the Depression.
9. They lived through Prohibition.
10. They sent sons to war.
11. They were Rosie the Riveters.
12. "They" were Hollywood.

Octavia Louisiana White was the melody part of the White Sisters. My aunt Justine was the alto.

In 1922 they arrived in Hollywood seeking stardom.

Their agent was Sid Grauman (built the Grauman's Chinese and Egyptian theatres on Sunset Blvd. in Hollywood).

1923, Octavia was an extra in one of the first "talkies"...Cecil B. DeMille's "Ten Commandments".

She was a "Torch Singer" at the Coconut Grove Nightclub in Hollywood, singing with big band orchestras and entertaining movie stars.

Mid-1930s she joined a troupe and went to Panama, the Canal Zone, a place many Americans travelled to in the 1930s.

She was the torch singer at Kelley's Ritz in Panama...met my father who was the heavyweight champion of the Canal Zone.

I found letters that reveal their charming love affair. She even sang on the gambling boats that toured the Los Angeles Harbor, while my dad played poker.

The 1940s find them back in Hollywood and Long Beach, California.

World War II and she joined the ranks of thousands of women in the USA that became known as "Rosie the Riveters," the women who machined the war.

I grew up in Hollywood, singing, dancing, going to movies, plays, and award shows.

She was an entertainer...how good does it get? She made people happy...how good does it get?

Family history, of course, and why not, because I want to know all about those who inspired my mother.

So, for me, It All Started with Tave.



Tave is on the right.

Three Brick Walls and Shafts of Light

By Kenneth R. Castle

Case 1: Why isn't Joseph S. Probasco buried with his wife Margaret?

Joseph S. Probasco was a tailor and was found in the 1850 US census in Cincinnati, Ohio,¹ with his wife Ellen and daughter Martha. He was found in the 1860 US census in Lafayette, Indiana,² with his wife Margaret and his daughter Martha. He was found in the 1870 US census, still in Lafayette, Indiana,³ with his wife Margaret at the home of his son-in-law Eli and daughter Martha. The 1880 US census⁴ shows Margaret still living with her daughter and husband Alexander in Lafayette, Indiana, but no sign of Joseph. A tombstone picture and a compilation of tombstone inscriptions from Greenbush Cemetery⁵ in Lafayette shows that Margaret Probasco died March 7, 1883, aged 55 yrs, 1 month, 27 days, and that she was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Note the changes in names, but I believe that the Ellen mentioned above is Margaret, and I can show that Eli is actually Alexander through their marriage certificate⁶ in 1870. The 1873-1874 city directory⁷ also showed Mrs. Margaret Probasco, but no Joseph. Did he die between 1870 and 1873?

After I corresponded with the Tippecanoe Historical Society, they were able to contact the Greenbush Cemetery caretaker, and I was then informed there were no other Probascos buried there. Also, the THS found no probate records for Joseph or Margaret. Hence the brick wall question. It took a couple of years to finally decide that perhaps Joseph might still be alive elsewhere. By searching the 1880 census again, I

found a Joseph Probasco living in Centralia, Illinois,⁸ and married to a woman named Lucy. But could I show this Joseph to be my Joseph? Searches were also made of the 1850, 1860, and 1870 censuses for any Joseph or J. S. Probasco: seven were found in 1850 (mine is actually J. S. listed as born in Ohio), six were found in 1860, five were found in 1870, and seven were found in 1880. In all four censuses there was only one listed as being born in either Ohio or Pennsylvania, the first three being my Joseph, and in 1880, the one married to Lucy.

Illinois has a very good vital records site, and I found the marriage index record⁹ for Joseph S. Probasco and Lucy L. Davis on January 2, 1876. Of special interest was the record indicating he was Joseph S. This was one indication that this might be the right person, and the year was consistent with the earlier timeline with Margaret. In the 1880 census he was also listed as being from Pennsylvania which was consistent with the earlier census locations. Finally, his occupation was listed as taylor and farmer (an unusual entry in that it names two professions). I then found him in the 1900 US census,¹⁰ married to Lucy and still in Centralia. The most negative correlation relates to the indicated birth years from the censuses: 1820, 1822, 1820, 1837, 1832. Could it be that he misled Lucy or Margaret about his age? Other than the ages, the data supports fairly well the hypothesis that Lucy's Joseph is also Margaret's. I have not found any definitive disqualifying information.

Lessons Learned: Assume nothing. Keep an open mind. Use multiple search criteria.

¹1850 US Census, Cincinnati Ward 8, Hamilton, Ohio, Roll: M432_690, p. 627B, Image 186

²1860 US Census, Lafayette, Tippecanoe, Indiana, Roll: 653_300, p. 815, Image 487, FHL Film 803300

³1870 US Census, Lafayette Ward 1, Tippecanoe, Indiana, Roll: M593_362, p. 56B, Image 116, FHL Film 545861

⁴1880 US Census, Lafayette, Tippecanoe, Indiana, Roll: 314, FHL Film 1254314, p. 269A, ED 27, Image 0008

⁵FindAGrave Memorial 35362752, personal communication from the Tippecanoe Historical Society

⁶Purchased from the Tippecanoe County Clerk

⁷Personal communication from the Tippecanoe Historical Society

⁸1880 US Census, Centralia, Marion, Illinois, Roll: 234, FHL Film 1254234, p. 239D, ED 127, Image 0663

⁹1876-01-02, Vol D, p. 104, Marion County, Illinois, see website <http://www.idph.state.il.us/vitalrecords/genealogicalinfo.htm>

¹⁰1900 US Census, Centralia, Marion, Illinois, Roll: T623_327, p. 27B, ED 19

Case 2: Who is Andrew Booth's wife Sarah White related to?

In the obituary for Sarah White Booth published April 24, 1911, in Stevens Point, Wisconsin, newspaper information¹ is given for her birth on June 8, 1836, in New York City and her marriage on September 5, 1852, to Andrew J. Booth. In several US census years, she indicated her father was Canadian or French-Canadian, and her mother was English. The initial attempts to determine Sarah's family line looked for a girl aged fourteen years in 1850 of New York birth. Andrew was also born in New York in Steuben County – was that where they met?

I found 22 Sarah Whites living in New York in 1850 aged 13-15 years old. Several could be discounted, and some ap-

peared to be possible. Nothing jumped out as a probable and the problem was put aside for a couple of years. In 2010 the Wall was re-visited and progress may have been made at last. One of the candidates from before was aged 14 and living in Brooklyn, N.Y., with a family named Ward.² What I had missed the first time was that (1) the Ward family came from England and (2) Sarah was not listed as doing labor but going to school instead. If the Wards were her employers, would they send her to school? What if the elder Wards were her *grandparents*?

I started to research the Wards to determine when they had arrived in the United States and found an entry for an arrival of the ship *Thomas*, origin London, England, on June 13, 1833.³ There are 13 family members and 5 seem to appear in the 1850 census. Of note are two females, Mary Ward, 19, and Sarah Ward, 15, who are both equally likely to be the mother of Sarah. This would fulfill the English mother of Sarah White, so the next brick walls are to find the Canadian father and to determine how Andrew and Sarah could have met. It is satisfying to see that there is a Sarah in the Ward family and of an age that she could be the mother.

Lessons Learned: Re-examine old data for new insights.

¹Stevens Point Daily Journal, Stevens Point, Wisconsin, April 24, 1911, p. 1, Ancestry.com record

²1850 US Census, Brooklyn Ward 8, Kings, New York, Roll M432_519, p. 28A, Image 491

³1833 Ship Manifest, Serial M237, Roll M237_19, line 30, number 378, p. 2 and continuing onto line 1, p. 3

Case 3: Who is the family of James (Jay) R. Garner?

Family lore suggested that Emma Chapman, age 14 and living in Douglas, Arizona, married a Jay Garner and moved to California, gave birth to my wife's grandmother, then was divorced, later giving up her daughter Emma Louise Garner (Louise) to her aunt Pearl for adoption. The first part of this research focused on getting this story correct.

Census information from 1910¹ and 1900² showed that Emma Chapman was 14 in 1910, and by the time she was married on September 14, 1911,³ she was actually 16, though she claimed to be 18. Her marriage record shows that she was married to James R. Garner, and witnesses were Joseph Garner and Emma's aunt Pearl. The California Birth Index⁴ lists the birth place for Emma L. Garner as San Bernardino County, California. The 1920 census⁵ shows that Louise was living with Pearl's family, and in the 1930 census⁶ she had now been adopted by Pearl's family, with an indication that her true father was born in California. Most of the story appears to be correct. So who was this love 'em and leave 'em Garner?

On a trip last year to California to see our daughter in college, we visited San Bernardino, California, the county where Louise had purportedly been born. Purportedly, because Louise in later life had been unable to find a copy of her birth certificate. We were more fortunate. We visited the county courthouse and searched through several sets of records, and finally, in a somewhat obscure set of records, we found the information to obtain her birth record. The clerk was able to provide us an official birth certificate⁷ showing Louise had been born in Highland, California, on June 22, 1912, that the father was James Richard Garner, born in SC,

and the mother was Emma Louise Chapman, born in Texas. Being in Southern California and remembering that 1930 census, I initially wondered if the SC meant Southern California but decided it really meant South Carolina.

I next searched the 1910 census for Highland⁸ to see if I could find James Garner and suddenly found 10 people named Garner born in South Carolina and Texas, including Jay R. living with his parents. Jay was 18 years old, born in South Carolina, but they had moved to California less than 10 years previously. In the 1900 US census⁹ for Comanche County, Texas, he was listed as James Garner, age 9, born in September of 1891. His parents were William V. and Eula Garner^{8,9}. His paternal grandparents were Richard and Frances Garner.⁹ But why did they divorce so suddenly? Whose family pressured them, the Garners or the Chapmans? After each brick wall, more seem to appear!

Lessons Learned: Look up original data at location; not all records are online.

¹1910 US Census, Douglas City, Cochise, Arizona, Roll: T624_38, p. 29A, ED 19, Image 1208, FHL Film 1374051

²1900 US Census, JP 7, Comanche, Texas, Roll: T623_1623, p. 11A, ED 36

³Marriage record, Book 1, p. 507, Cochise County Courthouse, Bisbee, Arizona

⁴California Birth Index, 1905 – 1995, Sacramento, California; see also <http://www.sfgenealogy.net/php/vitals/cabiindex.php>

⁵1920 US Census, El Paso, El Paso, Texas, Roll: T625_1799, p. 11B, ED 64, Image 261

⁶1930 US Census, El Paso City, El Paso, Texas, Roll: 2329, p. 3B, ED 71, Image 426.0

⁷Birth certificate for Emma Louise Garner, local number 333, San Bernardino County, California, June 22, 1912

⁸1910 US Census, Highland, San Bernardino, California, Roll: T624_94, p. 10A, ED 98, Image 474, FHL Film 1374107

⁹1900 US Census, JP 1, Grayson, Texas, Roll: T623_1639, pgs. 12A & 12B, ED 84

What's in a Name: Disbrowe/Desborough/ Disbery or Disbury

By Brian Disbury

Brian Disbury, a member of the British Isles Special Interest Group of the Arizona State Genealogical Society, has been researching his ancestors since 1994.

My family research began in 1994 with an indenture for a Sparks Desborough as a cordwainer (shoemaker) being presented to me by a previously unknown cousin in Findhorn, Scotland. His father was John Desborough, so how did a descendent of a Desborough become a Disbury?

John Desberry and Charlotte Sparks were married in Dry Drayton, Cambridgeshire, January 13, 1795. However, a note, “Desborough,” was written against John’s name in the margin of the church register. The four children James, Mary Ann, Sparks, and John were therefore all baptized as Desboroughs.

James Disbery (born in Dry Drayton in 1795) left home early, for whatever reason, and married Sophia Woods July 27, 1823, at St. George Hanover Square, London. Disbery descendents of James were living in Canada, and there are descendents in Northants and Kent. Several emigrated to Australia, and I have made contact with families in both England and Australia.

Sparks and John, however, both married within a few weeks of each other in October 1831 in Cambridge, changing their names to Disbury NOT Disbery. Their children, naturally, had the new name. My grandfather was Albert Edward Disbury, son of William and grandson of Sparks.

A James Desborough died in Greenwich, Kent, on April 4, 1877. He was a prosperous shopkeeper, an Anglican of the Parish of St. Paul’s, Deptford, aged 82 – all applicable to James Disbery. No death record can be found for James Disbery, so why revert to his baptized name of Desborough when he entered the workhouse—seeking absolution?

Mary Ann Sophia, James’s son, and James’s eldest daughter from Plymouth were living with him at 7 Francis Street, St. Paul’s, Deptford, at the time of the 1871 census to help in the shop, as James’s wife Sophia had died in 1867. His health was probably already failing. He did not pay his taxes in April 1875, so he was staying somewhere else until admitted to the Greenwich Union Workhouse on April 19, 1876, as “Destitute.” On January 31, 1877, he was transferred to the infirmary, was returned to the workhouse on February 12, 1877, but back to the infirmary on March 18. He died April 4 at the age of 82.

A lonely, very sad ending for a man who had founded a very large family of successful descendents in very difficult economic times in the 1800s.

A Thank You to Education Committee Members

By Sharon Scott

For the last four years, it has been my honor to serve on the Education Committee either as a member or as the chair. Now that we’ve held our last meeting, I find myself dealing with the mixed emotions of sorrow and pride. Along with every other member, I mourn the loss of our wonderful organization. ASGS has been the premier society in Arizona since it came into existence over forty years ago, and putting it to bed is simply heartbreaking for all of us.

However, as sad as I am at the passing of the Society, I find myself filled with pride at having been part of a dedicated group of individuals who carried on the tradition of excellence in educating our members. The Education Committee continually strived to “raise the bar” in the programs, workshops, and seminars we provided to our fellow members. We did our best to present an interesting mix of history, skill building, and new technologies to enhance the members’ genealogical research capabilities. I am incredibly proud of the high quality of our presentations and the professional performance of our presenters.

Please join me in thanking the members of the Education Committee who worked so hard on your behalf. They are: Paul Duffey, Roger Long, Mary Minor, Clyda Murray, Arwen Newman, Barbara Salyer, Ann Stephens, and Amy Urman. Thank you all for a job well done.

Other Genealogy Associations

Green Valley Genealogical Society

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~azgvgs/> Meetings 3rd Thursday monthly (Oct-Apr)

Pima County Genealogy Club

First meeting 16 July 2011, 1 pm Murphy-Wilmot Branch Library. For more information, contact Barbara Salyer bsalyer@mindspring.com

SaddleBrooke Genealogy Club

<http://www.sb-genealogy.org/> Meetings 1st Thursday monthly

Sun City Vistoso Genealogical Society

<http://scvgs.org/> Meetings 2nd Tuesday monthly (Oct-May)

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Thanks for the Memories

By Marcia Lindley

I became a member of ASGS in June 1979. Until a few months before that, I hadn't even known such organizations existed. And if I had, I probably wouldn't have appreciated the value an organization like ASGS could have. That appreciation came instead with my many years of membership.

Back then, we'd have maybe 150 people at meetings, and we had lots of programs, workshops, and seminars. Some were great, some were better than others, and some weren't all that informative. But I nearly always got something useful out of attending. I'd hear about records I hadn't known were available, I'd get a tip on where or how to look for something, or I'd get an idea about researching from hearing about other people's triumphs.

Every summer, we'd have a three-day extravaganza at the University of Arizona Student Union with 500 or more attendees from all over Arizona and neighboring states. Those seminars presented classes all day long on every subject conceivable. We could listen to nationally known speakers, regional researchers, or local people with good research knowledge and skills.

Since this was before the computer and Internet age, people needed to buy books and supplies and charts so there would be vendors galore at those seminars, and we'd have to struggle to stay within our budgets while wanting to buy something at every vendor's booth. We'd have to choose between what we considered to be really important and what we thought just looked interesting or maybe helpful. Then we'd stagger home with all our loot, determined once again to make some breakthroughs and try our newly learned tactics to find our elusive ancestors.

After being a member for a number of years, I finally volunteered for something, feeling the urge to give back some of what I'd gained during that time. It seemed like a simple thing – I volunteered to proofread *The Copper State Bulletin*. Raising my hand at that meeting to say I'd be interested in doing that, though, took me on a whole different path in the Society.

Although I served as a proofreader for seven or eight years, I hadn't been proofreader very many months before someone on the Nominating Committee called to recruit me to

run for a seat on the board as a Director at Large. The next election, I was recruited to run for Vice President. And after only about a year in that position, I suddenly found I was President.

But you know what? Even though I spent many long hours serving as President, I found the task incredibly rewarding. I worked with great people on the board and with great committee chairs. I worked with enthusiastic and diligent volunteers, and I enjoyed meetings at which useful and fun activities were planned. And then throughout each year I got to attend the useful and fun activities we'd carefully planned.

One of those fun activities was research trips. I think we had thirty or thirty-five people on our first trip to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, a number of whom I hadn't known before. Fewer people were able to go to the Allen County Public Library in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, but those of us who went had a wonderful time diving into its impressive genealogy collection. I was privileged to participate in several more trips to Salt Lake but missed the trips to the National Archives and to the New England Historic Genealogical Library in Boston.

Those trips created some stimulating camaraderie among the travelers. I remember how we'd check up on how other attendees were doing when we'd run into them at the library, in the hotel, or at a restaurant. We'd know who other participants were by the distinctive name tags they'd wear. And on a couple of trips, we'd know who the trip participants were because they'd be wearing ASGS T-shirts we'd sold to raise money. We'd wave and smile at our fellow travelers when we ran into them even if we didn't really know them. We'd cheer when someone breathlessly called out from a microfilm reader cubicle, "I found him!" And we'd share tips with each other about what we'd learned from a librarian, another library patron, or a record we'd found.

Volunteering again after I retired got me back into genealogy. I hadn't really worked on it for quite a while, but once I got involved in the Society again, I realized just how much the Internet has changed genealogy research. I was delighted to learn new skills on doing Internet research from the great programs, workshops, and seminars the Society continued to present.

Serving as Treasurer gave me a different perspective on being a board member. But, once again, I served with great people, connected with old friends, and met new, hard-working volunteers. I've enjoyed helping plan new interesting and fun activities. After I got my arm twisted to present some programs myself, I discovered how much a person can learn from figuring out what and how to tell other people about a subject, and I am grateful to have learned something about making PowerPoint presentations.

Joining the Society didn't instantly make me a terrific genealogical researcher, but over the years, I've learned an awful lot that's really helped me get better and better. And I've made some good friends and enjoyed some wonderful events and activities. I hope as well that I've helped contribute some to the genealogical community. It's been a great ride. Thanks for the memories, everybody.

About ASGS

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Copper Filings Staff: Arwen Newman, Sharon Scott, Marcia Lindley

ASGS Mission Statement

The mission of the Arizona State Genealogical Society, founded in 1965 in Tucson, Arizona, is to help its members acquire knowledge about the resources, techniques and ethical standards needed for researching, documenting, preserving and presenting their family history.

Members received a subscription to *Copper Filings*, access to members-only forums, email list and surname database, and discounts on ASGS events.

General Meetings

Held on the second Tuesday of the month from October through May of each year at 3182 N. Swan Road, Tucson, Arizona. (Last meeting held May 10, 2011.)

Membership/Subscription Information

Membership in the Society was open to all persons interested in genealogy and the Society's purposes. Any person who desired to become a member completed an application blank and presented it to the Registrar with the required dues. Annual dues were \$22 a year, individual; \$11, family member. Membership applications are no longer accepted.

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News Items and Articles

Members were encouraged to submit anything they felt would be interesting to other members. Submission deadlines were June 15, September 15, January 2, and March 15. By submitting work, authors granted permission to ASGS to edit and print their work. When approved by the editor, submissions were included as space was available. Email is preferred at: editor@azsgs.org.



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