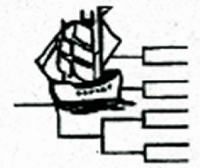




The Tracers



Volume 12 Number 1

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

OFFICERS

President: Scott L. Peeler Jr.
Vice President: Sue Bogard
Secretary: Maxine Strohmeier
Treasurer: Linda Soloski
Directors: Noreta Wells
Bob Rooke
Dot Smith

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Library: Dot Smelt
Historian: Dot Smelt
Membership: Sandra Troublefield
Newsletter: Ralph Field
Publicity: Noreta Wells
Webmaster/Information Tech:
Kent Akselsen

baghs@yahoo.com
<http://www.baghs.org>

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Dear Members,

Things keep moving along with our society. We are gaining new members at a steady pace and are planning programs for upcoming meetings.

I would like to thank all the officers and members who do so much to keep our organization working efficiently. There are so many who make contributions that are essential to our success. A very special thanks to Gus for coming early and setting up our meeting room. We also appreciate those who provide refreshments for each meeting. Noreta maintains a sign-up list and would welcome your

volunteering for one of our monthly meetings not already covered.

We are always looking for interesting programs and encourage you to provide names of anyone you thing might be available for a program in the future. We also would like for you to suggest topics that you would like to see covered.

Plans have not yet been finalized for our trip to the Africana Studies Project at USF. As soon as that is scheduled we will let you know and hope you can attend this additional event sponsored by our society. Many of you were present when Toni Carrier gave her excellent program on the project several months ago.

Please be sure to sign in whenever you are at the genealogical research room at the Bloomingdale Library as it is very important to provide information of how many patrons use the facility. I also want to thank those who have volunteered their time to be at the library to help visitors and new members in their research.

We have had several members who have had some health problems and want to wish each one a speedy recovery.

Best wishes as you continue your research.

Scott L. Peeler, Jr.

How Do I Know I Have the Right Family?

by Michael John Neill

(Taken from *Ancestry Weekly Journal*)

When families migrate from one area to another, it can be hard to determine if you have really located the same group of individuals. The difficulty is compounded if the last name and first names are relatively common. It's important to be certain that the "true" family has been located and that one has not mixed up families with similar names. Male cousins bearing the same first and last name are particularly easy to confuse.

One quick way to track families in the post-1850 era is through population census schedules. The listing of all household members facilitates the matching process, and every-name indexes make the use of these records much easier than before, especially when the residence is not known. However, the first close match on the list of results is not necessarily the correct family. All matches to the search terms should be analyzed and eliminated based upon what is known about the family. What appears to be the "right" entry must be compared in light of other records to determine if there really is consistency.

On the other hand, searches of databases must not be overly strict, as this can sometimes eliminate potential matches. I generally perform a variety of searches for individuals I am seeking, including some using Soundex and wildcard functionality. Sometimes it is easy to determine if the correct person has been found (the person has an unusual name, the person is living in the right location, names, ages, and birthplaces of family members match up, etc.). Other times it is not possible to make a definitive decision that the desired person has been located. When families are eliminated, the researcher should keep notes as to why these families were stricken from consideration.

Generally speaking, when searching online

census databases it is helpful to track the type of search that is being performed as it is being performed. Key elements in this tracking are:

The first and last names that were put in the search box

Whether a Soundex option was used

Whether a search was performed with wildcards

What year of birth was used (and what range of years)

What birthplace was used

Reasons for tracking the search include:

It is impossible to effectively modify an unsuccessful search when one is not certain how one searched originally or how one searched last week.

Searching the same static database in the same way will typically produce the same results.

It is impossible to remember each combination of search techniques that was applied. The "correct" combination will always be overlooked. It's Murphy's Law applied to genealogy.

One quick and easy way to track your online searches is to make a spreadsheet with column headings for the various search boxes for the database being searched. This spreadsheet can be printed and written on while searching or those who are adept at toggling between computer windows can fill out their chart as they search. Personally, I prefer to fill out my chart of searches before I search, making certain no combination of terms was eliminated. Then I can use the chart to make certain I have conducted all the desired searches.

Genealogy Libraries in the Area.

By: Sue Bogard

Here is a list of Genealogy Libraries in a days trip from here:

Bloomington Regional, Genealogy Room
Valrico, Florida

John F. Germany Library

900 No. Ashley Drive, Tampa, Florida 33602

SouthShore Regional Library

15816 Beth Shields Way and 19th Avenue

Ruskin, Florida

Ph: 273-3652

Universisty of South Florida

4202 E. Fowler Avenue

Tampa, Florida

Ph: 813-974-2011

East Hillsborough Historical Society

605 North Collins Street

Plant City, Florida

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

4806 Bell Shoals Road

Valrico, Florida 33594

813-684-2049

Imperial Polk Genealogical Society

The Marie Graves Memorial Library and Research Center

120 Contractors Way

Lakeland, Florida

Hrs. 1-4 pm M-F and 4th Sat. morn 9-12

Polk County Historical & Genealogy Library

100 E. Main Street

Bartow, Florida 33830

Hrs. Tues-Sat. 9-5

Ph: 863-534-4380

Family History Center

5850 Lakeland Highlands Road

Lakeland, Florida

Ph: 863-709-0800

Largo Library

351 East Bay Drive

Largo, Florida 33770

827-587-6778

University of Central Florida

P.O. Box 162666

Orlando, Florida 32816

407-823-2564

Orlando Public Library

Genealogy Dept.

101 E. Central Blvd (downtown Orlando)

Family History Center

45 E. Par Avenue

Orlando, Florida

407-876-8135

Before visiting these libraries call to check the hours. And most have their genealogy books catalog online. So you can see if the books you would like to see are there.

Our speaker for **February** was **Clyde Chamberlin**. His presentation was "Unusual Gravestones". Reports were that it was very interesting.

March meeting speaker is **Melissa Riley** of the Library Staff speaking on "Finding Your Female Ancestors"

April meeting is **Gay Harlowe** of Lakeland speaking on "Women in the Revolution" including a display of Revolutionary War objects.

THOSE PESKY WORDS

When great-grandfather was leaving a country permanently to settle in another, he was an **EMIGRANT**. While in the process of leaving, he was **EMIGRATING**. When he arrived at the new location where he intended to settle, he was an **IMMIGRANT** and when we speak of his coming to the new place, he was **IMMIGRATING**. Should his journey have been because of war, political unrest or other oppressions, his leaving one country for another made him an **EMIGRE**. If there was a little gypsy in his soul and he moved from one place to another without settling, he was **MIGRATING**.

Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Libraries
900 N. Ashley Dr., Tampa, FL 33602-3704 813-
273-3652
hcplc.org

Rotating Microfilm

@ Bloomingdale Regional Library

November 2006 – January 2007

MFM Census New York 1930 Census

January 2007 – March 2007

MFM 1.15.5 Philadelphia Passenger Lists, 1883-1945

MFM 1.17 Index Philadelphia Passenger Lists, 1883-1948

March 2007 – May 2007

MFM 76 Index to War of 1812 soldiers

MFM 82 Index to Patriot War from New York

MFM 83 Index to Patriot War from Michigan

MFM 86 Index to Mexican War Soldiers

MFM 90 Index to Union Colored Troops in the Civil War

May 2007 – July 2007

MFM Census Ohio 1930 Census

MFM Census Pennsylvania 1930 Census

July 2007 – September 2007

MFM 1.8.1 Boston Passenger Lists, 1820-1891

MFM 1.9 Index Boston Passenger Lists, 1848-1891

September 2007 – November 2007

MFM 1.17.1 Baltimore Passenger Lists, 1820-1891

MFM 1.17.2 Baltimore Passenger Lists, 1891-1909

MFM 1.19 Index Baltimore Passenger Lists, 1820-1897

MFM 1.20 Index Baltimore Passenger Lists, 1897-ere.

November 2007 – January 2008

MFM 1.15.4 Philadelphia Passenger Lists, 1800-1882

MFM 1.15.5 Philadelphia Passenger Lists, 1883-1945

MFM 1.16 Index Philadelphia Passenger Lists, 1800-1906

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MFM 1.2 *Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Libraries*

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MFM 1.15.5 Philadelphia Passenger Lists, 1883-1945

MFM 1.16 Index Philadelphia Passenger Lists, 1800-1906

November 2007 – January 2008

MFM 1.32 Index New England Naturalization

MFM 1.33 Index Massachusetts Naturalization

MFM 1.38 Index Eastern District of Pennsylvania Naturalization

MFM 1.39 Index Maryland Naturalization

MFM 1.40 Naturalization Records of the Southeast District Courts

* The microfilm listed is temporarily located at the above mentioned location on these dates