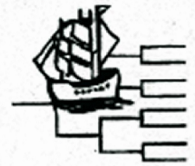


The Tracers



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

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Webmaster/Information Tech:

Kent Akselsen

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

from the area? Think again! Even if you don't have any ancestors in the area where you live, you can contribute to the local society by helping transcribe records, give speaking ideas for the meetings, or even bring cookies. Remember, someone where you DID have ancestors may be thinking the same thing. Why should I contribute? Wouldn't you love it if they helped transcribe records you needed in your research?

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

So get out there! Support your local society.

Tips From The Pros

Support your Local Society

1. *by Jana Sloan Broglin, CG*

Support your local society. The title may be a bit of a take-off on the old movie, "Support Your Local Sheriff," but the meaning is basically the same. Support. Do you support your local genealogical society? Been meaning to go to a meeting but haven't? Don't have any ancestors

The Year Was 1872

1. [The year was 1872, and in the U.S., it was an election year.](#) In a landslide victory, President Ulysses S. Grant won a second

term, defeating Horace Greeley, carrying 286 electoral votes to his forty-two. In that election, votes were cast by several women, including one [Susan B. Anthony](#). The suffragette was later arrested and in 1873, after her trial, she is fined \$100--a fine which she would never pay.

Also that year, for the first time, a woman was nominated for President of the United States. [Victoria Woodhull](#), who grew up amidst a traveling family that sold patent medicines and fortune-telling, was nominated by the Equal Rights party, with Frederick Douglass nominated as her running mate--a nomination he later declined. Victoria and her sister, Tennessee, had with the help of Cornelius Vanderbilt, become the first women to found a banking and brokerage firm on Wall Street. From there, she and Tennie began publication of "Woodhull and Claflin's Weekly," which tackled many of the issues that interested them such as labor rights and women's suffrage. It was her advocacy for "free love" that earned her the contempt of many, and amidst attacks on her person, "Woodhull and Claflin's Weekly" published a story revealing an affair between the highly respected Rev. Henry Ward Beecher and his best friend's wife, along with another scandalous expose. The story landed Victoria in jail on election day for libel and for sending obscene materials through the mail, a violation of the Comstock Act.

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

In the northwest, attempts to force a group of Modoc Indians to return to a reservation in Oregon resulted in the

[Modoc War \(1872-73\)](#). Following sieges of the Modoc who were near Tule Lake, California, the group was eventually split and sent to reservations in Oregon and Oklahoma.

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

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

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

1. From Sherry Irvine, CG, FSA Scot

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

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

A successful search could also depend upon

the date when the record was made. This is true of wills. The date of probate is more significant and may have been years after the date of death.

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

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

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

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

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

The STRANGER

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

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

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

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

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

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

My Dad didn't permit the liberal use of alcohol. But the stranger encouraged us to try it on a regular basis. He made cigarettes look cool, cigars manly and pipes distinguished. He talked

freely (much too freely!) about sex. His comments were sometimes blatant, sometimes suggestive, and generally embarrassing.

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

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

.....

We just call him, "TV."

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

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

**AN
INTERESTING LITTLE NOTE**

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

Starting Pre-1850 Cencus Searching

1. by *Michael John Neill*

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

General Suggestions for Pre-1850 Census

Searching

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

Consider all reasonable matches when performing searches. Don't assume the first "close" match is the right person or family. Use adequately broad search parameters (consider also performing separate wildcard and Soundex searches) to make certain that all reasonable matches to the desired person have been returned. You may want to include adjacent states if necessary.

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

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

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

Pay special attention to female heads of household.

From Your Editor

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

My Email address is rfield22@verizon.net. You could E-Mail it to me or bring it to our meeting. Thanks